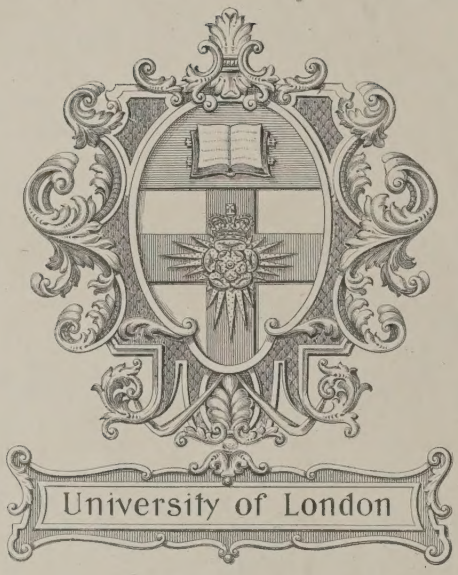
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FROM

COMMISSIONERS:

TWENTY-NINE VOLUMES.

—*(2.)*—

AGRICULTURE
(EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN).

Session

8 *February* —— 10 *August* 1870.

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[c. 70.] Third Report of the Commissioners on the Employment of Children, Young Persons, and Women in Agriculture, with Appendix. Parts I. and II. - - - - - - p. 1

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COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

THIRD REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS,

WITH

APPENDIX PART I. AND PART II.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

1. WE, the Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to inquire into the Employment of Children, Young Persons, and Women in Agriculture, "for the purpose "of ascertaining to what extent, and with what modifications, the principles of the "Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of such employment, and especially "with a view to the better education of such children," humbly submit to Your Majesty this Third Report of our Proceedings in execution of Your Majesty's Commission.

2. This Report is confined to Wales.

3. We regret to have lost the services of the Honourable Edward Stanhope as one of our Assistant Commissioners, the duties of the Commission having occupied more of his time than he was able conveniently to give to them. To supply his place we proposed to the Secretary of State to reappoint Mr. Robert Boyle, whose Report on Somersetshire is included in our Second Report. The consent of the Secretary of State having been obtained, Mr. Boyle commenced his duties on the 1st of October 1869.

4. The Assistant Commissioners have presented to us their Reports on the counties assigned to them; namely, the Honourable Edwin B. Portman on the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon; Mr. Norman on the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint; Mr. Culley on the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen; Mr. Henry Tremenheere on Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, and Mr. Boyle on Monmouthshire and Radnorshire.

5. The course of proceeding of all the Assistant Commissioners was, as before, to select, under the best local advice, certain districts in each county that might be considered typical, to make their inquiries as minute as possible in those districts, and to invite opinions and information, by their circulars of inquiry and other means, from the portions of the county exterior to those districts.

6. In considering the question of education in Wales, and the material and social condition of the agricultural labouring class as affecting it, the two leading peculiarities of the Principality have to be borne in mind, the large proportion of the total area occupied by elevated hill and mountain land, and the language.

Area of Wales.

7. Of the total area of 4,734,487 statute acres in Wales, including Monmouthshire, there were in 1868 according to the Agricultural Returns presented to Parliament for that year by the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, of heath and mountain land 2,503,646, or upwards of one half; in "permanent pastures," including the extensive sheep runs on the hills, there were 1,415,327 acres; leaving only 1,888,117 acres under cultivation in corn, green crops, bare for fallow, and grass, under rotation; namely, in corn 547,573, in green crops 128,292, in bare fallow 83,720, and in grass, &c. under rotation 328,232 acres.

Area under cultivation.

Population.

8. According to the census of 1861 the total labouring population of all ages engaged in agriculture, including persons engaged about animals, in the Principality was 187,612, of whom 128,874 were males, and 58,738, or nearly one half, were females.

9. Of males under 20 years of age so employed there were 26,655, and of females 9,451.

Distribution of.

10. The arable land of the vallies, and the tracts of rich loam by the sea, are occupied for the most part in small farms, ranging from under 20 to about 80 acres, farms of a larger size, from 100 to 300 or 400 acres, being comparatively rare. In many instances these farms have sheep-runs on the adjoining hills.

11. On the hills there are extensive sheep-runs, the occupiers being often rather shepherds than farmers; and both on the hills and in the vallies, there is a numerous class of small freeholders cultivating their own lands by the aid of their families.

12. These freeholds appear to have originated from three causes; 1, in squatters building upon the wastes and taking in small portions of land; 2, in the custom once very prevalent of granting building leases for long terms of years, and leases for lives of unimproved lands; 3, in the sales of Crown lands.

13. The large proportion of the total acreage of the country that is occupied with sheep-runs, and in breeding and dairying, and the small proportion in tillage, accounts to a great extent for the small proportionate number of persons engaged in agricultural labour. This proportion is still further reduced by the fact that, the holdings being generally small, a great deal of the required work is done by the farmers and their families without any hired labour.

14. The small holdings have also another marked effect, namely, that as the farmer is often of the same grade as, or very little above that of the labourer, the habit is still very common of boarding and lodging the labourers in farm service, both male and female, children and adults, or providing food for the adult labourers on the working days.

15. Thence it happens that the agricultural labourer, as understood in England, namely, as "a man providing his own food and that of his family, dependent altogether on the "wages he receives from his employer," is comparatively rare over a large part of Wales (O 7, Q. 28).

16. The money value of the labourers earnings in the cases where they are hired by the year, and boarded and lodged, and in the cases where the farmer provides food for his men only on working days, is investigated by the Assistant-Commissioners, and more particularly by Mr. Culley (O. 20-26), who places the value of the earnings (including all ordinary allowances) at the command of any able-bodied labourer in his district at 11*s.* to 13*s.* a week in South Pembrokeshire, at 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in North Pembrokeshire; at 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in West Carmarthenshire; and at 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week in East Carmarthenshire. Mr. Culley adds, that in the typical district which he selected for minute investigation (the Narberth union, comprising a portion of both counties), he thinks that the value of the earnings of an ordinary farm labourer "is seldom less "than an average of 11*s.* a week, and seldom more than 12*s.*" The rate of remuneration appears to be about the same in Cardiganshire (P. 16-19), also in Montgomeryshire for those hired by the year (P. 34).

17. Considering that the lower rates stated above are usually for inferior workmen, and considering also the thrifty habits of the people, these rates of earnings, especially when viewed in the light of the past, cannot but be taken as satisfactory. The portion of them paid in money is about double what was paid 20 or 25 years ago. From the commencement of the South Wales Railway, a great change for the better took place in the condition of the labouring class in that part of Wales. From 3*s.* to 4*s.* a week and their food, the money wages have risen since that time to 6*s.* and 7*s.*, and the improvement has extended over the larger portion of the south-western part of Wales. Employment on the railway works not only immediately affected the labour market in a thinly populated district, but when it was completed, by affording easy access to the coal mines and iron and copper works of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, which could formerly be reached only on foot, it produced a considerable migration to those counties (O. 9–12). In Carnarvon, Pembroke, and Flint, wages are from 12*s.* to 14*s.*, and occasionally 15*s.*; by the year, 18*l.* to 24*l.*, with board and lodging (N. 14).

18. But still greater has been the effect of the demand for labour in mines, iron and copper works, and quarries in the southern, eastern, and northern portions of Wales. Throughout the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor on the south and east, and in Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, and the other counties in North Wales, the rates of wages are as follows: in Montgomeryshire, 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and 12*s.* to 14*s.* in winter (P. 34); in Merionethshire, 12*s.* to 15*s.* (P. 47); in Anglesea, 11*s.* to 12*s.* (N. 14); in parts of Monmouth and Radnor, 13*s.* to 14*s.* (Q. 10, 11, 28); in Glamorgan and Brecon, 12*s.* to 15*s.* (M. 7).

19. Notwithstanding the greatly improved rate of wages in the western parts of South Wales, and the high rates prevailing in the eastern and northern portions of the principality, elementary education in Wales appears, excepting in a few localities, to be making but slow progress.

20. The causes operating to impede it are as follows: First, the language. Although the opening of the whole of Wales by railways has, without doubt, greatly stimulated the desire of the Welsh people to learn English (O. 10, 56, N. 25), the knowledge they obtain of it through the elementary schools is, in the interior of the country, seldom more than of the most imperfect and mechanical kind (N. 18, P. 54–56).

Along the border counties and the sea the greater admixture of English people, which is causing the line of demarcation between the languages to advance onward more rapidly, also gives greater facilities to the children to acquire sufficient English for colloquial purposes (O. 56, Q. 7, N. 25); but in all parts of the country where Welsh is spoken, a great portion of the child's time at school is necessarily devoted to learning English. "The children in Wales have to begin by learning a foreign "language, which in most cases they are entirely ignorant of up to the time of attending "school" (N. 25). Doubtless, in some of the best inspected schools in the principality this difficulty is overcome by good teaching, and the natural intelligence of the Welsh enables them in many cases to obtain quickly a very creditable degree of proficiency, as noticed by the Rev. S. Pryce, Her Majesty's Inspector of Church of England Schools, in his Report for the year 1868 on Mid Wales (page 164). "Practically," Mr. Pryce states, "the Welsh language is not much of a grievance in a school, if there "is a good and efficient teacher at the head of it."

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21. In some localities where the circumstances are favourable, either from the stimulus to learn English being strongly felt, or from the schools being very good, or the influence of employers zealously exerted in favour of education, the school attendance, though irregular, yet being prolonged up to the age of 13, produces satisfactory results. In such cases, the children before leaving school may be able to pass in the 4th Standard, or have acquired the first four simple rules of arithmetic, and can write a letter (m. 46, n. 17, 26, 30, 34, O. 43). But as so many schools are still in the hands of untrained masters, often with the very limited mental powers that can be commanded by the poor salaries they receive—not exceeding in many cases 10*s.* or 11*s.* a week (P. 53, O. 50, 51)—and as the children on their return to their homes in the evening hear nothing spoken but Welsh, and naturally speak nothing else themselves, it can be no matter of surprise that in the interior of the country "very few young farm servants, male or female, are to be "found able to speak or understand English if they have left school before 13" (P. 54).

22. But in the interior of the country the great mass of the children leave school much before the age of 13, and their attendance up to the time of their leaving school is generally irregular.

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23. In the more English districts on the eastern and northern frontiers of Wales, and by the sea, although wages are high, the apathy or comparative indifference of the parents operates, as is so often found in England, to cause irregularities of attendance, and the early withdrawal of the children from school. Notwithstanding, therefore, that the stimulus arising from the fact that the railways have brought the high wages of the coal and iron districts within easy reach—a stimulus more felt in the counties nearest to those districts than in the remoter ones—there is still a large portion of the agricultural labouring population in the interior of Wales, among whom not only the knowledge of English for colloquial purposes, but a sufficient acquaintance with it for the purposes of self-instruction, is making way very slowly, while in the east of Wales the same sacrifice of the children to the apathy of the parents is found as has been exhibited in so many portions of England.

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24. In the interior of the country the great cause which leads to the early withdrawal of the children from school is the early age at which they enter farm service.

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25. The motives which induce the parents to send their children so young into farm service are the poverty of the large class of very small farmers, and of the small freeholders and leaseholders as well as the independent labourers. All these are glad to get their children as soon as they can into farm service, not only because they are then off their hands, but because the children then have the advantage of a better diet than they can have at home, to the great benefit of their physical growth and strength.

26. The above facts are clearly illustrated in the following counties:

27. In Cardiganshire "landed property is much subdivided, and the farmers in general "are small." "The county contains a great number of small freeholders, who cultivate "their own land, aided by their families, rarely employing hired labour" (P. 20). "Boys "go to school at from 9 to 12 years of age." * * * "On many farms boys are found "useful at 10 years of age, and they are employed for eight months of the year for six-"pence a day, and are boarded in the farmhouses" (P. 14, 15). The diet of the smaller class of farmers and of day agricultural labourers is inferior to that of farm servants. "Unfortunately the poverty of many parents is such as to make it a matter of the greatest "importance to get their children off their hands at as early an age as possible, and it "has certainly been found that, physically, boys often make great and rapid progress "after they leave home and its privations for the comparative abundance of a farmhouse" (P. 14).

28. This custom of hiring children into farm service so young, operates "to almost "entirely neutralize any benefit which they may have previously derived from their "education. When once in service, "only in very rare instances is any portion of their "time given to self-improvement" (P. 14).

29. In addition to farms in the valleys, there are the hill farms. In them "the children "of the small farmers or shepherds are employed for many months in the year tending "cattle and sheep," * * * "very young children are habitually employed for perhaps "half the year in tending cattle and sheep," and during the remaining months, "even "when there is a school within reasonable distance from home, which is not often the "case, it is seldom taken advantage of" (P. 12, 22).

30. The farm boys above adverted to (s. 27) who are "engaged at 10 years of "age and employed for eight months in the year, return home for the four winter "months, during which they generally attend school," but it is probable that such partial attendance "would be barely sufficient to enable them to keep up the little that "had been acquired before their engagement on a farm" (P. 15).

31. In the Welsh portion of Montgomeryshire the same facts prevail. Children "leave home and enter service at ages varying from 9 to 13" (P. 32). These children are not alone the children of the small farmers, and of the small freeholders who are numerous in that part of Montgomeryshire, and who "generally seek employment as day labourers, "supplementing their small earnings by the wages thus earned," but the children also of the well paid labourers in agriculture, whose wages are high in that part of the country, "being affected by the demand for labour at the quarries and mines." A good day "agricultural labourer can there earn from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and from 13*s.* to 14*s.* in winter." The excuse of the poverty of the parents, therefore, which is made in Cardiganshire and elsewhere, for sending children so young as 10 to farm service, "will scarcely apply to Montgomeryshire, where the general rate of wages is compara-"tively high" (P. 32, 35).

32. Of Merionethshire a very large portion is "wholly devoted to the rearing and "grazing of black cattle. Sheep farms occupy another large portion of it. In the small "portion of the country where the land is under tillage boys enter farm service from 13 "to 14 years of age." * * * "Girls generally at 9 years of age," "but they are "seldom put to any out door work until they are 11." On the hill farms, which are "generally small and pastoral, a great many young boys are employed in looking after "the sheep and tending cattle, these being the principal occupations on most of the high "lying farms. Farmers there employ their own children for these purposes from a very "early age." (P. 40–44.) In Merionethshire, as in Cardiganshire, notwithstanding the general desire for education "among the farmers as a class," and the hope frequently expressed by them "that as a living language Welsh would soon become extinct," as they "feel its inconveniences daily," "the low rate of wages tells heavily against the parent "when he has several children of an age to send to school. With wages at 7*s.* or 8*s.* a "week it cannot be supposed that a parent with a family can willingly make a sacrifice "of even a penny a week for each child's schooling. In the majority of cases where "there is default on the part of the parent, poverty is the true cause, and an improve-"ment in his condition as a labourer the appropriate remedy." (P. 54–58.)

33. In Monmouthshire and Radnorshire the facts are the same. In the hill districts, which are principally Welsh, there is a great wish among the farmers that their children should be educated "to the extent of being able to read and write," and the children will often go great distances to a good school for that purpose. But in the English districts, if the wages are low or little personal influence exercised over the parents to urge them to send their children to school, or there is a demand for children's labour at an early age, as in the arable districts near the sea, the school attendance is either neglected or desultory. "In poor parishes a good many children are kept away from school because "of the penny." (Q. 40.) "Girls leave school at 9 and 11, and get regular work "if they can, generally farmhouse work," (Q. 39.), and in the arable districts boys "go "as young as eight to keep cows," sometimes "as early as seven to work in the fields" at potato setting and picking, apple picking, and other occupations. But in these two counties it is found that as a rule, "boys' labour, as required by the farmers on the arable "land, need clash very little with the school." Where employed by their parents, both on small and large holdings, they are, as in the counties above noticed, taken to work at a very early age (Q. 42).

34. The same facts appear in Mr. Portman's report on Glamorganshire and Brecon. Even in the vale of Glamorgan, where wages range from 12*s.* to 16*s.* a week, and in some localities from 15*s.* to 20*s.* (m 1, 6), there are found, in several portions of

it, localities where, either from employment being less regular or the farms small, boys are taken into service at 10 or 11 years of age in consequence of the necessities of the parents (P. 3), "through charitable motives in order to assist the father." (m. 1.) "The "small farmers (in Cardiff union) are very badly off, and cannot afford to pay for their "children's schooling; they are obliged to employ them on the farm." (* *) "The "boys go into service for regular work about 11 years of age, and are sometimes employed "bird-keeping and driving cattle as young as nine years." (m. 20.)

35. In the district of Bridgend "there is a great deal of occasional work going on at "various times of the year, in which the moderate employment of children under ten "adds very much to the resources of the family, and the temptation is no doubt great "to the parents to keep them away from school at such times, and thus to prevent all "progress in their education" (m. 37). Still more in the parishes which run up into or extend over the hills in the northern portion of the country,—a district of small farms and sheep-runs,—the habit prevails, as in the other hill districts, of sending the boys to farm service at or about the age of ten, or otherwise employing them at a very early age. In a parish of this kind very little labour is employed by the farmers, who for the most part cultivate their small holdings by themselves and their children, with perhaps one or two boys living in service in the houses. In another such parish a labourer's wife said, "I have four children, and I cannot afford to lose the small earnings of the children "by sending them to school. My boy of ten years old goes to work in the fields. I "know it is a good thing to have learning, but still the sixpences are a great help" (m. 13, 78).

36. The same circumstances exist in the county of Brecon. Around Brecon "boys "of ten years old are used with the cattle; they live in the farmhouses, and get board and "lodging, and either clothes or 2*l.* a year" (m. 50). "Boys are employed from eight years "upwards, *i.e.*, as soon as they are old enough to watch cattle or disturb crows; the "latter they do in the spring and autumn, the former in the summer. This occupies "but a small portion of their number. After 10 years of age they get hired by the "small farmers, and have constant employment" (m. 51). "There are schools in every "parish, but they are not well attended. The small farmers are less educated than the "labourers, and they are too poor to dispense with the labour of their children on their "farms" (m. 55, 58, 59, 65, 78). In the hill district around Builth, a country of small farms and sheep-runs, "though many of the parishes are well supplied with schools, the "poverty of the parents prevents in many instances their being taken advantage of" (m. 80, 81). "Again, in the hill districts of Carmarthenshire, boys are employed on the "hill farms looking after cattle and sheep at the same early age, and begin to be "employed in the valley farms at 11 or 12" (O. 27, 28).

Localities where education is making satisfactory progress.

37. The localities in the purely Welsh districts, where education is said to be making satisfactory progress, appear to be few. Mr. Culley is able to say of a portion of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen where the vicinity and easy access to the coal, and iron, and copper works have given a great stimulus to the knowledge of English since the country has been penetrated by railways, that if his attention had been confined to that portion of those counties, the growing appreciation of education among the peasants for themselves and their children is so great that, "he would have been inclined "to think that nothing more was needed than to establish efficient schools." (O 54.) In the same manner it appears that in the Crickhowell valley, the neighbourhood of the great iron works on the hills has shewn to the "thrifty and independent Welshman" that education means "high wages," and consequently "the parents are quite awake to "the advantages of education, and will make a sacrifice to send their children to a good "school" (m. 71); an influence which is felt as far off from the iron works as Hay (m. 77).

Where it is not.

38. But it is otherwise in other portions of Wales, along its frontier and by the sea, where the English element prevails, or is intermixed with the Welsh. On this subject, Mr. Culley says:

"If, however, my report had reference only or chiefly to the English quarter of the counties (little England beyond Wales), I fear that I could not have spoken so hopefully. In that district, at least in some parts of it, there is more temptation to keep children from school, as for instance in the colliery districts, when boys and girls, after they reach 10 years of age, can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day separating culm (the dust or small of anthracite coal) from earth at the pit mouths. (Appendix B, 35 b., 41 a., 41 b.) There is also a large proportion of arable land in that district, and therefore a greater demand for youthful labour. Whatever the cause may be, I saw much stronger evidence of a desire to educate their children amongst the Welsh proper than amongst the inhabitants of the English quarter." (O. 55.)

39. Mr. Culley refers to the following evidence on this point:

On the other hand the Rev. John Phelps, vicar of Carew (in the English quarter), says (App. B. 29.):

"All the children may attend school by paying 1*d.* weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

40. In the "English districts" in Monmouthshire and Radnorshire the poverty or the indifference of the parents produces the same effects (Q. 39, 40).

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41. Wages are uniformly high in consequence of the neighbourhood of collieries, iron and other works, and quarries in the vale of Glamorgan and Neath, as above mentioned (s. 34); in parts of Brecon (m. 49, 58, 68); in a part of Montgomeryshire (P. 32); in the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint (N. 14); and in the four last-mentioned counties especially, there is the same general desire among the parents that has been noticed elsewhere, to have their children taught English because they are aware that a knowledge of the English language is indispensable for their advancement, whatever may be the path of life which they select (N. 18). Yet in all these portions of Wales, and even in the four last-mentioned counties where the result of school attendance is, on the whole, "tolerably satisfactory, and certainly more satisfactory than "the result attained in most districts in England" with which Mr. Norman is acquainted (N. 26), there are, nevertheless, frequent complaints of the indifference of the parents as one of the causes of the defective state of education where it is defective. (N. 27, P. 32).

42. This is illustrated by the following evidence:—

"The Reverend J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, who had been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools in Anglesea, told me that he thought the instruction given was tolerably satisfactory, and added—

"There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents." (n. Evid. 6.)

43. Miss Smith, mistress at a small school near Carnarvon, says:—

"The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent children learning to read, write, and cipher, if they would attend regularly at other times." (n. Evid. 11.)

44. The Rev. J. W. Ellis, rector of Llanelhaiarn, near Pwllheli, Carnarvonshire, says:—

"The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them to earn wages." (n. Evid. 12.)

45. Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says:—

"There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them." (n. Evid. 18.)

46. Mr. J. D. Jones, who was schoolmaster of the British School, Ruthin, in Denbighshire, for 14 years, says:—

"There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of labourers." (n. Evid. 38.)

47. Mr. Beverley, who was schoolmaster at Eglwas, Fach, in Denbighshire, for 30 years, says:—

"There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children learning the 'three R's' satisfactorily." (n. Evid. 22.)

48. Again, in the neighbourhood of Carnarvon, where Mr. Owen Jones, land agent, states the wages of a man hired by the week, at 15*s.* a week, and where a good labourer hired by the year gets "about 20*l.* a year, and his board and lodging," that gentleman adds as follows:—

"I don't think the state of education at present is satisfactory; there are not enough schools, and the children are taken away too young. There are an immense number of children now growing up without the power of reading and writing. There is no agricultural work which really interferes with the education. The main obstacle to education is the indifference of the parents. Education never will be satisfactory as long as it is left to the option of the parents whether they send their children to school or not.

"It is very desirable that a law should be passed requiring a certain amount of education as a condition of employment" (n. 9). (See also n. 16, 22, 29, 31.)

49. In the vale of Glamorganshire, the vale of Neath, and in parts of Brecon, the rate of wages is raised by the demand for labour in the seaport towns as well as in the hills; "most of the young men, the best workers, go away to the works in the hills" (m. 30); "our lads go off to the works or to Cardiff" (m. 28). In several parishes in this district the irregularity of attendance of the children is attributed to the indifference of the parents, or "the carelessness of the young as to whether they are educated or not" (m. 15, 30, 31, 33, 36). "Advantage is not taken of the schools. I do not think that early labour "is the hindrance, but rather neglect on the part of the parents, who are themselves "uneducated and do not care sufficiently for the welfare of their children" (m. 45).

50. The facts above detailed are in entire accordance with those recorded by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools.

51. The Rev. B. J. Binns in his report on Church of England Schools in South Wales, for 1870, makes the following remarks on the irregularity of school attendance, and the early age at which children are removed from schools :—

"Education is also hindered to a great extent in this district by the irregularity of school attendance. Notwithstanding the efforts which have been made, still the fact remains that less than two thirds of the total number of scholars actually present on the days of inspection had completed the moderate number of 200 attendances during last year. There is, however, still ample room for improvement, after making all due allowances for sickness, &c. In the case of those who do not fulfil so easy a requirement as that which now suffices to procure the insertion of their names on the examination schedule, even the best instruction fails of producing any marked or permanent effects. They pass through our schools comparatively unheeded; they are unable to keep pace with the rest of the class; they scarcely ever acquire those habits of diligence and application which are so essential to real progress, and a great part of the lessons they learn, from not being fully comprehended, is in a manner lost and useless." . . . . . .

"The third impediment to the progress of education is the early age at which children are removed from school, in order to commence a life of labour. Even the rural districts are not exempt from the charge of prematurely employing them in various kinds of work ill suited to their age and strength."

"Owing to the inducement of high wages men are constantly leaving the farm for the foundry or coal mine, and such emigrations have caused in many places a positive scarcity of full grown labourers."

"The Rev. R. Lewis, a diocesan inspector in Carmarthenshire, in reporting upon the decrease of scholars in the schools he visited, says, "I believe that this decrease in the numbers is attributable in a great measure to the scarcity of labour prevalent in the neighbourhood, which has resulted in the employment of younger children than formerly in agricultural and domestic work. In proof of this I have observed that the maximum age of children attending the above schools has been reduced in the course of the last 12 months by at least one year." (*ibid.*)

Pressure of some kind wanted.

52. It appears therefore, from the circumstances enumerated, that both in the purely Welsh, and in the mixed Welsh and English portions of the principality, pressure of some kind is wanted to secure to the children the benefits of a sound and effectual elementary education. In the Welsh districts it has been shown that it is the poverty of the parents on the one hand, and on the other the demand for cheap labour, which leads to the children being deprived of the proper amount of education. The parents are naturally anxious to get their children off their hands at the earliest possible age, and to place them in farm service, where the children also benefit by the better food than they could obtain at home; and the small farmers in the vales are glad to have them at a little more than the cost of their board and lodging. In the English districts, where poverty is not the excuse, it is the indifference of the parents. Some pressure is required to conduce to better progress before the child enters farm service or goes permanently to work, and also to induce them to keep up and extend what they may have already learnt after they have entered upon farm service or permanent work.

And will b applied by the Bill no before Par liament.

53. The kinds of pressure suggested in the evidence embrace every variety that has been before presented for consideration by witnesses in our previous reports (m. 21, 30, 37, 44, 48, 53, 54, 58, 59, 69; n. 1, 4, 9, 39, p. 17, 23). As the question of enforcing a due amount of school attendance has been submitted to the judgment of Parliament by the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Honourable W. E. Forster, no further remark upon the subject is called for by us in this place.

Another obstacle is the insufficient number and bad distribution of schools.

54. The insufficient number and the bad distribution of good schools in the principality is another very widely prevailing cause of the defective state of education where it is defective. This subject is thus noticed by Mr. Culley: "There is, however, another "cause affecting injuriously the attendance of young children, which is the distance "many of them have to walk, owing as much to a bad distribution as to an absolute "want of schools" (O. 46). Instances are given of this defective supply and distribution of schools in his district, and the principal causes are pointed out, namely, first, the religious difficulty, which appears to him to be working unmixed evil by keeping alive two poverty-stricken schools "when one well supported one would do much better work than both" (O. 49), and secondly, the pecuniary difficulty in certain localities where funds cannot be raised for school houses or for the payment of a sufficient salary to ensure good teachers (O. 50–52). The same facts are prominently mentioned by all the other Assistant Commissioners. (M. 35, N. 27, P. 51–3.)

55. The facts as they exist throughout Mid-Wales, in the counties of Montgomery, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Radnor, and the border counties, are given in the following summary by the Rev. J. Pryce, Her Majesty's Inspector of Church of England Schools, in his report to the Committee of Council on Education on Mid-Wales, for the year 1868. In those counties there were in that year annual grant schools 123, schools under simple inspection 49; there were at the same time 112 parishes in those same

counties with a population over 400, in which there were no Government schools. Of the 40 schools under simple inspection Mr. Pryce states that he "found the order and "instruction in these schools low and unsatisfactory, with very few exceptions" (pp. 171-174), while the character of such schools as exist in the parishes where there is no Government school is, he thinks, "a grade or two lower than that in simple inspection schools" (p. 176). Mr. Bowstead in his report for the same year on British and other Protestant schools, not connected with the Church of England, in the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Glamorgan and Gloucester (quoting from the Parliamentary paper No. 114, of the session of 1868), shows that "out of nearly 800 enumerated "places in his district there are scarcely 300 which possess aided schools, while 500 "have no schools at all that avail themselves of the Parliamentary grant; and Mr. "Bowstead sees reason to believe that the few schools that exist in those localities are "generally, though not invariably, of the least efficient class" (p. 278). It is highly satisfactory to observe that the Bill on Elementary Education recently presented to Parliament proposes to deal effectually with this state of things, wherever found throughout the country.

56. But the establishment of schools, however efficient and well-situated with reference to the population, cannot alone be depended upon to secure the desired progress in elementary education. The indifference of uneducated parents, the demand for children's labour by employers and parents, and the strong inducement weighing upon parents to send their children to farm service at an early age, have been above shown in detail to make the counteracting force of a legal requirement necessary to prevent the sacrifice of the child's highest interests. The case described in the parish of Lantile-Veffry is shown throughout the evidence to be very common that although "every encouragement is "given to the parents to send their children to school," they generally allow the children to do as they like, "being themselves indifferent about education" (o. Appendix B. 43). In that parish there are two Church of England and one Dissenting school (*ibid.*); and the state of the case is well described in reference to another parish, where, though the means of education are generally taken advantage of, "yet the benefits of education, in "too many cases, are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration "to be derived from child labour" (o. Appendix B. 44). The vales of Glamorgan and Neath are very fairly supplied with good schools (M. 34), yet the numerous suggestions made by persons of position and intelligence in those districts in favour of some kind of pressure to be placed by law upon both parents and employers, in order to secure a due amount of school attendance, testify to the general feeling in regard to the need for it (M. 39).

57. But schools will be of little avail to effect the ultimate object of education,—not only a higher intelligence but purer morals,—as long as the great blot remains upon the state of civilization in Wales, which has been long noticed and often commented upon, but upon which public opinion appears hitherto to have exercised little corrective power—the state of the cottage accommodation. Some of the principal landowners in Wales have indeed expended large sums in providing proper cottages both as regards accommodation and number on their estates; and the Assistant Commissioners record the fact that improvement is in progress in many properties in their respective districts. But the proportion of those localities where the cottages are very defective in accommodation, and insufficient in number for the wants of the rural population is evidently very great throughout Wales.

58. In the 35 parishes in the counties of Pembroke and Carnarvon, the cottages in 24 are described by competent witnesses as either "*bad*, or *poor*, or *not good;* in 10 parishes they are said to be *fair* or *tolerably good*, or *improving;*" in one parish they are described as "good" (O. 57). Their general character is thus given by Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent "to the Earl of Cawdor, who has not only recently built improved cottages, but has also "published a book on cottage plans." (O. 65.)

"The state of cottages throughout the country (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen) is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultual interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, or convenience of the occupants; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy walls and floors, the former often of earth; frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor, and two upper rooms. Overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door." (O. 58.)

59. This description is confirmed by unexceptionable witnesses as regards other portions of those counties. (O. 58–62.)

60. Of Cardiganshire it is remarked that the great blot upon this county is the condition of its cottages. (P. 24.)

61. In Montgomeryshire, amidst much that is still defective, especially in the villages, where speculators have built cottages "without reference to the health, decency, or convenience of the future inmates," and in the hills where squatters have erected their "hovels," there are, as in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, good proofs of a better state of things on large estates.

62. In the same report it is observed,—

"Where cottages, as is still often the case, are built on lease, the landlord now generally insists on adopting a plan of his own, in which proper arrangements are made for comfort and decency. This is especially the case on the property of Earl Vane, and these, as well as those built at his own cost, leave nothing to be desired. I have pleasure also in recording the liberal spirit in which this great social want has been met by another of the great landed proprietors of the principality, namely, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., the cottages on whose estates in Montgomeryshire are in a very satisfactory condition, the greater number of them having four rooms" (P. 37–9).

63. Of Merionethshire it is said that the remarks "made on the deplorable want of proper cottages in Cardiganshire apply with full force" to that county. (P. 48.)

64. Of North Wales Mr. Norman states that he had "never seen in England as many bad cottages" as he saw in North Wales. They are described as "very generally insufficient" in accommodation, especially as regards the sleeping apartments. Mr. Norman observes that in North Wales the great mass of the cottages belong to the landlords (N. 37). Nevertheless, although he saw "some good cottages on the estate of Mr. "Hughes, at Kinmel, and of Lord Penrhyn at Bangor," good cottages appeared to him "to be less numerous in Wales, and to be increasing at a slower rate than in any part of "England" with which he is acquainted. (N. 38.)

65. In Monmouthshire one cause of the prevalence of an inferior class of cottages is the large number that have been built by "squatters" and which are either freehold or held at a nominal rent. Of the latter class there are said to be "more than 800 on the Duke of Beaufort's estates alone" (Q. 43). But the worst cottages which Mr. Boyle saw in Monmouthshire, next to some of those of the poorer cottagers (of "squatters"), were those on the outskirts of the smaller towns, inhabited by "agricultural labourers." Unhappily "in this county," Mr. Boyle adds, "it has been for a long time not the habit "for landed proprietors to build cottages, and consequently in such towns as Usk and "Caerleon there is a large agricultural population going out in many instances long "distances (three, four, and five miles) to work." (Q. 46.)

The same thing exists, Mr. Boyle says, "over most of the county." (*ibid.*)

66. Radnorshire, Glamorgan, and Brecon are the only counties in Wales in which the Assistant Commissioners remarked general and satisfactory signs of progress and improvement in the supply of good cottages.

Immorali traced pa to the ov crowding cottages.

67. The results of the generally insufficient accommodation in the cottages are overcrowding and the consequent want of privacy; while "the system of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, haylofts, &c." is produced also by the want of cottages in sufficient numbers for the population. To the overcrowding, and to the prevalent habit of thus domiciling the male servants on farms as above described, "entirely removed from the control of the master" (O. 39), are traced the immorality so generally imputed to the labouring classes in Wales. Two other special causes are named as greatly encouraging immorality—the habit of hiring male and female servants at hiring fairs without inquiry as to character, and the excessive liberty allowed to them in farm service. (O. 39, P. 11.)

68. On these subjects a letter was addressed by Sir James J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell, "to the freeholders and small farmers of the county of "Carmarthen," in which, "after urging upon farmers to adopt a system of characters "for their hired servants, male and female," those gentlemen say,—

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which at present much unnecessary license is given in farm houses." (O. 39.)

69. It is not to employment in agriculture, but to the above-mentioned causes that the "laxity of morals among the female peasantry of Wales is attributed, which is unhappily "notorious" (P. 11). "The inveterate system of night courting" is said to have "destroyed all delicacy of character" (*ibid.*). The same remarks are made in reference to

Radnorshire (Q. 27) as above in reference to the western counties of South Wales. It appears doubtful whether North Wales shares in this character to its full extent (N. 35, note), but the common opinion that marriage cancels previous immorality appears to prevail as widely in North as in South Wales (*ibid.*).

70. An opinion is common in some districts "that the want of decent dwellings is "driving away the rural population to an extent which injuriously affects the agricultural "interest" (O. 61, Q. 46). But of the two causes which are said to be tempting the peasantry in a portion of Wales at least to leave the rural districts—better accommodation and high wages—Mr. Culley's observations in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen incline him to attribute that movement chiefly to the latter cause (O. 64). Nevertheless, that it is both the interest and duty of the owners of the land to provide adequate and proper cottage accommodation is nowhere a matter of doubt. "If it be "the landlord's duty," as Mr. Culley expresses himself, "to see that there is a good "school within a reasonable distance of the cottages on his estate, it is far more his duty "to see that those cottages are not such as to make it impossible to teach in that "school anything better than reading, writing and cyphering" (O. 64). As nearly all the cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen belong to the landlords, it is more evidently their duty to make every endeavour in their power to give their labourers dwellings in which the ordinary decencies of life may be observed, "I say," Mr. Culley adds, "every endeavour in their power, as in many districts it is too evident that the "great cottage difficulty is the poverty of the land-owning class, the possessors of "heavily burdened estates" (O. 74, P. 26) who, in the present state of the law, are unable adequately to discharge the duties of ownership either to the labourers on their estates or to the public. It may be anticipated that the measure about to be introduced into Parliament for facilitating the transfer of land will redress this great evil; for, so far as it may tend to convert nominal into real ownership, it will lead at once to an amelioration, in most important particulars, of the condition of the agricultural labouring class, and will consequently give a great stimulus to the progress of education and intelligence among the rising and future generations.

The owners of heavily burdened estates unable to provide good cottages.

71. Mr. Culley notices "that the women in the part of South Wales visited by him "(portions of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen) are much better housewives "than the women of the south midland counties of England." He bears testimony "in "favour of the Welsh labourers' wives that, except in the north of England or in Scotland, "he never saw such a general endeavour to make a poor dwelling look it's best." "Nor," he adds, "should I fail to say for the husbands, that although they earn lower wages "and receive less aid from their childrens' earnings than their fellows in any of the "southern English counties which I have visited, their thrifty habits allow their houses "to show signs of comfort and well-to-doism which might put to shame their better paid "brethren." (O. 63.)

Favourable characteristics in Welsh cottages.

72. "As compared with the Berkshire labourer," Mr. Culley describes the agricultural labourer in that part of Wales as "thrifty and sober; his thrift induces him to live on "cheaper and coarser food, and his sobriety is a savings bank; but I take it that both "thrift and sobriety are aided by the way in which his wages are paid." (O. 38.)

Thrift and sobriety of labourers.

73. Mr. Culley goes very fully into the manner in which the earnings of the farm servants and independent labourers are paid, and the total value of their receipts in kind and in money, including cottage and garden, and cow allotments, which are common, and potato ground (O. 14–26, 70–2). He shows that since railways have penetrated the country, wages have risen from one-third to one-half as much again as they were 25 years ago (O. 9). This has given the labourer the means of improving his diet, and of therefore adding to his working power. The consequence of the low diet of 25 years ago was that piecework could not be done cheaper in Wales, notwithstanding the then low rate of wages, "than in the east of England" (O. 12). Now, on the contrary, Mr. Culley finds that in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire where wages "have gone up to some-"thing like an average (all told) of 12*s.* a week, such agricultural piecework as the "Welsh understand, as for instance, mowing corn and hay," is cheaper than in any English county with which Mr. Culley is acquainted (*ibid.*). The change has been beneficial to all parties. During the very time that wages have been almost doubled, "Welsh farming has improved." The farmer also, as the ratepayer, is receiving a reward for feeding his labourers better. In the opinion of the medical officer of the Narberth Union, since the change of food the "labourer is now able to resist the "influence of weather, and when he is struck down by disease, there is far greater

Total value of earnings.

Improvement in diet.

Results beneficial both to labourer and employer.

" rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so that he is able soon to resume " work " (O. 12, 13) The improvement in the efficiency of the labourer, where he has had the advantage of a more nourishing diet, is noticed in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire (P. 17, 36). The effect upon the agricultural labourers of North Wales of the superior quality of their diet, appears to be shown in their being " a muscular and " robust race, capable of undergoing great labour." (N. 17.)

74. The report of Dr. Edward Smith on the food of the poorer labouring classes, in the 6th Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Privy Council (1864), gives the nutritive value of the foods in the separate dietaries " calculated upon the amount of " carbon and nitrogen contained in them (p. 218); from which the following results " are shown in regard to the dietaries of the labourers in agriculture in North Wales, " South Wales, and the average of England." Nutritive value of food of Welsh labourer.

" Carbon and nitrogen contained in the food for each computed adult in—

	Carbon grains.	Nitrogen grains.
Anglesea - - - -	60,784	2,521
North Wales - - - -	45,613	1,765
South Wales - - - -	38,675	1,806
England - - - - -	40,673	1,594

(P. 236, 271.)

" Potatoes, oatmeal in various forms, and barely bread or cake are still the staple form of food in many parts of South Wales. Oatmeal, prepared in various forms peculiar to Wales (p. 273), forms a somewhat larger proportion of the food of the peasantry in North than in South Wales, but in the former is united with a greater variety of nourishing articles of food. In Scotland there is a general belief that it is a stronger food than wheaten flour, and more sustaining under the pressure of severe labour (p. 278). The quantity consumed per adult probably influences the conclusion. This is estimated at 7 lbs. weekly, when conjoined with other farinaceous food; and when it was the sole breadstuff eaten the quantity allowed to each man was 17½ lbs. per week, and for women one-half or two-thirds of that quantity." (p. 277.)

75. In Wales the average quantity of oatmeal consumed by each computed adult was only three quarters of a pound weekly. In England Dr. Smith found that there is no impression in the minds of the farm labourers that it is better food than wheaten flour (p. 240); and his conclusion, " from very extended inquiry amongst this class," is, that " the universal adoption of white flour at the present day is based upon principles of " sound economy, both as regards the cost of food and the nutriment which the young " and old members of a family can derive from it. It is not, as some persons still " assert, a prejudice either in reference to the use of the one kind or the avoidance of the " other."

76. Dr. Smith drew the following general conclusions from his inquiry into the conditions of nourishment of the farm labourers in Wales.

" 1. The inhabitants of Anglesea and North Wales are well fed, and spend their money economically.
" 2. They eat a large quantity of breadstuffs and milk, with a moderate quantity of sugars and fats, and a small quantity of meat.
" 3. Cheese is eaten largely in South Wales, and with bread is there the staff of life.
" 4. The average income and expenditure for food are good.
" 5. In all respects the families in the Isle of Anglesea occupy the highest scale.
" 6. South Wales is inferior in nearly all respects to the other divisions; inferior in personal qualities, health, income, kind of food, and quantity of food. It is superior in the amount of cheese obtained, and in the greater economy in the use of foods.
" 7. South Wales is remarkable also for the very small quantity of meat and separated fats eaten, and for the many families who never obtain them, and proves that much health and strength may be obtained by a dietary of breadstuffs, milk, and cheese. I have been exceedingly struck with the healthy appearance of those who most rarely eat meat or bacon.
" 8. It is to be regretted that the use of tea and coffee is increasing in the poor districts of South Wales, where, as a whole, the amount of nutriment obtained is not more than sufficient to maintain health, and where, therefore, there is no room for spending money upon luxuries." (P. 274.)

77. It would appear that notwithstanding the improvement in the dietary of the rural labourers of South Wales, as compared with 20 or 25 years ago, as already pointed out, much remains still to be done to bring up the working powers of the South Wales population generally to a satisfactory standard, and consequently to improve their capacity to perform their duties in the education of their children, the disposition to which, in proportion to their means, seems to have been greatly quickened of late years.

78. The system of small farms (of from 10 to 50 acres), in its bearing upon the best interests of the occupier, his children, and the community at large, receives much illustration in the evidence relating to it in Wales. There can be no doubt that in System of small farms.

Wales, as in England, according to the evidence in our previous Reports (1st Report, pp. 57–64; 2nd Report, pp. 115–16), the small farmer lives harder, employs his children earlier, and gives them less education than the ordinary agricultural labourer. And in regard to the result of small farms on the produce of the land, the evidence entirely confirms the opinion expressed by Mr. Culley in a former Report, that "it is impossible "for agriculture to make any decided advance in a district where the holdings are so "small as to make it unprofitable for the occupier to employ the ordinary mechanical "aids which increase the produce of a farm at the same time that they lessen the cost "of production." (O. 67.)

Advantages and disadvantages of.

79. The small farmers are unquestionably "a very industrious race, and they impart their industrious habits to their children" (O. 69), and although they both work harder than the ordinary agricultural labourer, and are able to command less of the necessary comforts of life, they naturally much prefer their position to that of the labourers, on account of its independence (N. 16), and the price at which they value their independence must be set off against the certainly better living of the labourer in South Wales (O. 68, P. 45–47). In some parts of the country landowners may prefer to allow this system to continue (P. 33), but the general tendency with regard to it is thus expressed by Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor:—

"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales, are the want of capital and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend on. Landlords ought, by degrees, to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small homesteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise; *if they do not, the country must remain as at present, very little advanced from a state of nature as regards farming.*" (O. 67. Note).

Importance of supply of milk to labourer's family.

Different modes of giving him that advantage.

80. But with the gradual disappearance of the small farms, which economical causes cannot fail to cause to continue, it is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the class that will have thus changed their position that, for the sake of their children in particular, one advantage which they derived from their small occupations should in some form be preserved to them. The abundance of milk as an article of diet, and the occupation afforded by the dairy to the females of his family, are very valuable elements in the condition of the small farmer. If arrangements are adopted by which when he becomes dependent on daily wages as an agricultural labourer he can keep a cow, he would, according to the best opinions, if in constant employ, have no reason to regret the change (O. 70). The modes adopted in different parts of the kingdom are various. The "cow-gates" in Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Rutland are thus described by Mr. Stanhope in our 2nd Report (p. 27):—

177. In the western counties, and in Rutland, a few landowners are accustomed to let to some of their labourers two or three acres of land, in order to enable them to keep a cow. In Cheshire a modification of this plan is found in the "ley," or run for a cow, assigned at a small rent in some villages to those labourers who desire it. The inquiries which I made into this system (and especially on the estate of Sir Baldwyn Leighton in Shropshire, who has adopted it for many years), lead me to form a very favourable estimate of the inducement to thrifty habits, and of the comfort it afforded. "A "good cow will at least produce 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week in summer from butter, besides affording milk for the "family." In another case the value of a cow to a family is estimated at 12*l.* a year upon an average, although in one favourable instance it amounted to 18*l.* (Evid. 216.) The whole character of the labouring population was said to be raised, and providence before marriage, in order to obtain this additional comfort, was very much increased by it. "But there is a caution," says one writer on the subject, "to be observed. Thrift and savings must in every case *precede* the grant of land, or the most "fatal consequences may ensue. Idle labourers will endeavour to subsist on their cow and their wife's "labour, the district will become over populated for the demand for labour, wages will fall, and the "people will starve, as in Ireland; and the occasional loss of a cow, where there is no previous saving, "will bring ruin to the cottage home." On the Loton estate (Sir B. Leighton's) this caution is always observed, and to this may be attributed its success there. The holdings are never let to any man who cannot produce a savings' bank book, and show that he has saved enough to occupy this amount of land. The result has been that almost all the labourers have a savings' bank book, and for every cottage with land attached which becomes vacant there are many applications. (Evid. 138.) One family, which had lost four cows in seven years, had still 10*l.* in the savings' bank. I would call your particular attention to the details of my visit to this estate.

178. The chief objection urged to the system is the amount of time for which the care of a cow withdraws a labourer from his ordinary employment. In almost all the cases brought under my notice this amounted to three weeks or a month (Evid. 188); and though employers in Shropshire and Staffordshire are divided in opinion as to the necessity for this, and also as to the extent to which it interferes with a man's efficiency, in most counties such an amount of absence would at once stamp a labourer as irregular. Besides this, the occupiers of such plots neglect the education of their children far more than ordinary labourers, especially where they send their cow out into the lanes,

or keep (as they often do) a small donkey cart. Bad farming too is the rule on all such occupations, and great care is needed to prevent any part from being ploughed up, because the whole object is not to create small farmers, but to encourage thrifty and efficient farm labourers.

"179. A modification of this system which is common in Scotland, was observed by me in Cheshire, and on Mr. Dudgeon's farm in Sussex, and is that of giving regular labourers keep for a cow during the year, the animal being looked after by the regular herdsman of the farm. This appeared to me to comprise all the advantages of the system already noticed with none of its drawbacks. It is an equal encouragement to saving, and involves no loss of time to the labourer, no employment of his children, and requires no supervision. It renders unnecessary the subdivision of the grass land into very small fields, and the loss of space and the expense of fencing thereby caused. The gradual extension of such a plan to a limited number of deserving labourers in every parish, where it is possible, would be of the greatest value."

81. The system of "cow allotments" is also thus described by Mr. Culley in his account of Derbyshire in our second Report (p. 115):

"66. The 'Derbyshire neck' is certainly much less prevalent in the county than it used to be, and from whatever cause the malady settled itself in that district, there can be little doubt that the number of persons attacked by it is diminishing pretty much in the same ratio as the power of obtaining more nutritious diet increases.

"67. The introduction of Mr. Wrench's and Mr. Vawdrey's evidence leads me to discuss here the provision of milk, and what I may call the cow-allotment system, because I am unwilling to weaken the effect of their evidence by allowing any other subject to intervene.

"I believe it would be impossible to over-estimate the value of such a provision of milk as is within the reach of the families of most of the Derbyshire labourers. There are features too in the manner in which it is sometimes obtained, which tend to show how the condition of the labourer and his family may be improved without the danger of making him above doing his duty in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call him.

"68. Many labourers in the north of Derbyshire rent with their cottage six or eight acres of grass land with a shippon attached, and are thus enabled to keep two cows during both summer and winter. Others rent a smaller quantity of grass land which they mow, and graze their cows during summer in one of their master's fields, or more commonly in the nearest nobleman or gentleman's park. Others again, who live near a park where they can enjoy this privilege, and who have no cow of their own, borrow one from a farmer and so get her milk during the summer months at a cost of from 3*l.* to 4*l.*

"69. Some further examples of the evidence I received on this subject will perhaps explain the milk system better, and show how, in the opinion of persons who know both, a labourer with his cow-allotment compares with a small farmer. * * *

"76. Such are the opinions of gentlemen who have every reason for understanding the position of the labourer and small farmer in North Derbyshire. I have not myself the smallest doubt that a regular labourer with 14*s.* a week and a grass allotment sufficient to keep two cows, is in a better position pecuniarily than the small farmer; and all the evidence I have received on this subject in Derbyshire, and have since received in South Wales, goes to show that he treats his family fully as well, *i.e.*, that he sends his children more regularly to school, and does not send them to work so early.

"The amount of savings too necessary to become the possessor of a couple of cows and occupier of from 6 to 10 acres is within reach of 10 times as many labourers, perhaps 100 times as many, as the amount which would be required to stock a farm which would maintain him with equal comfort as a farmer.

"Here then lies the secret of the comfort of many of the labourers homes in North Derbyshire. The father brings in 14*s.* or 15*s.* a week, and the mother finds work enough at home in managing her cows and house, and looking after her husband's and her children's clothes; and when their turn comes the children go out to work with frames much stronger than those of their own age who have lacked one of the first necessaries of early life, and with the advantage of an industrial training which is certain to be of use to them in after life.

"An allotment or garden is of the very greatest possible benefit to a labourer as long as it does not interfere with his legitimate employment, but a cultivated allotment very soon reaches that limit. The work to be done on such an allotment is chiefly man's work, whereas the management of the cow allotment may be left almost entirely to the woman.

"The great difficulty in the way of introducing such a system in the southern counties, at least for those labourers who live near gentlemen's parks, is the ignorance of the women of the management of cows and dairy produce, a difficulty which might, however, be gradually overcome.

"77. In South Derbyshire there is no such reason for the gradually diminishing number of cows kept by labourers. Formerly many cows were kept in the lanes in summer, and fed in the winter on grains purchased from the Burton breweries. During the last few years the grazing of cows about the roads has very properly been put an end to, but no provision has been made for the cows of labourers who had long enjoyed that privilege.

"78. I have dwelt on what I consider the advantages of the cow-allotment system as against small farms, because unless we are altogether to abandon our approaches to free trade in land as in other things, it is impossible to resist the tendency to increase farms to such a size as to make it profitable to use on them all the means which reduce the cost of labour and add to the value of the produce."

82. Whichever may be the plan found most suitable to the habits and intelligence of the labourer, and the nature of the soil,—whether that of letting two to four acres of land to the labourer as soon as he has saved money enough to buy a cow, as in Rutlandshire and the other counties above named, or allowing the labourer to pay for the keep of a cow during the year "the animal being looked after by the regular herdsman of the farm,"

as in the cases mentioned by Mr. Stanhope,—there cannot be a doubt that the extension of such plans to deserving labourers, where possible, would be of the highest value.

Female labour no legislation required.

83. On the subject of female labour on farms and its moral results the evidence in Wales very nearly corresponds with that which we found to be the case in England. On dairy farms female labour is largely and suitably employed. On arable farms they are employed in all kinds of farm work. But it does not appear that field labour proper is chargeable with producing immorality in a sufficient degree to call for legislation. There is also apparent in Wales, as in England, an increasing indisposition to the employment among the females themselves, where the resources of the head of the family are enough to permit of its being dispensed with. (O. 33–4, P. 10.)

84. In a part of Carmarthenshire the rise in men's wages is stated as a probable cause for the diminution of female labour (O. 34). In Cardiganshire the employment of females has "considerably dimininished within the last 25 years" (P. 10), "not more than one-half of what it was;" several farmers expressed themselves as considering the employment of females in field labour "as both economically false and morally wrong." Mr. Portman has also been led to an opinion adverse on moral and economical grounds to the employment of female labour in the fields (M. 29). In Montgomeryshire the employment of women in agriculture is described as "very rare both in the "Welsh and English portions of the county (P. 31). The general rate of wages in "that county is comparatively high" (P. 32). In North Wales the extent to which women are employed in agriculture is said to be "on the whole insignificant" (N. 19). Their employment is diminishing in Monmouthshire and Radnorshire (Q. 11), and also in Glamorgan and Brecon. (M. 25–30.)

85. In Merionethshire the employment of women in agriculture is common, but they are engaged as "domestic servants" with the understanding that they are to assist in out-door work on the farm (P. 42). In all these counties where girls are employed they go into farm service at the same early age as boys, namely, from 9 to 12 or 13 years of age (P. 32, 44, 64), to the detriment, as has been shown (ss. 24–31), of their opportunities for education.

Retrospect on general bearing of our inquiries.

86. In concluding this report on Wales we cannot refrain from casting a retrospect on the general bearing of our inquiries, as embodied in our two reports on England and in this report, on the condition and prospects of the agricultural labourer.

87. In the most highly farmed districts of the country, and in the other portions within the influence of the demand for labour in counties of mining or manufacturing industry, the earnings of the agricultural labourer in regular employ have been shown to be on a very satisfactory scale.

88. Great progress is being made in all parts of the kingdom in the improvement of the labourer's cottage home; and where his dwelling, in size and accommodation, admits of due attention to the decencies and comforts of life; where he has a good garden attached or near to his cottage; where either by the privilege of "a cowgate" or any other arrangement he has a sufficient supply of milk for himself and his family; where, in default of a garden, he has a suitable allotment or potato ground; and where he is in regular employ at good wages, his material condition is better than that of a small farmer, and he has the means, and there is no moral obstacle to prevent his having the disposition, to dispense with the premature labour of his children to an extent to give them the opportunity of laying the foundation of a sufficient elementary education.

89. Where the demand for his labour is less; where he is not in regular employ; where his dwelling is crowded and comfortless; where he has none of the encouragements to thrift and sobriety held out by the hope of being able to keep a cow, and to raise a good supply of vegetables from a plot of land, or to keep a pig, and from these sources to obtain a more varied, a more agreeable, and a more nourishing diet for himself and his family, his own physical and moral qualities will be depressed, and this depression will be manifested in his indifference to, or his neglect of, the education and moral training of his children.

Average condition of Welsh labourers better than those of

90. It would appear that the average condition of the agricultural labourer in Wales is superior to what is met with in many of the southern counties of England, though not equal to the state of things in the northern and eastern districts. The desire for education is very general, and where the schools are efficiently conducted, the children are often kept at school to a later age than is common in many parts of England. The

Welsh labourers are generally quite aware that a knowledge of the English language is necessary to the advancement of their children, but there seems some danger of the same error being committed in Wales, that for a time prevailed in Scotland, in attempting to teach English to children who speak nothing but Welsh at home, by teachers who know nothing of Welsh.

southern English counties. General desire of Welsh labourers to learn English. Normal schools necessary to train Welsh teachers to teach English.

91. The effect of this error is, as was exemplified in Scotland among the Gælic population, that the children may learn to read English with perfect fluency and intonation, and yet be unable to converse in it, or even to understand a single sentence of what they read. (Education Commission (Scotland) 1866. Report on the Hebrides, pp. 112–113.) Mr. Fearon, the Privy Council inspector, says in his Report for 1867–8 on Welsh schools, "I often meet with children in rural localities who can read the Welsh Testament "well, and who know many verses of it and several Welsh hymns by heart, totally "unable to give the English equivalent for the commonest English nouns and adjectives. "It cannot be expected that the reading of such children should be anything but "mechanical."

92. A foreign language can only be learnt, except by residence in a country where it is spoken, through the language native to the learner; and hence the foundation of a Normal School for the special training of Welsh teachers is in our opinion the most certain method of removing the obstacle to Welsh civilization, which is created by the prevalence of the Welsh language.

93. By the Parliamentary return of 1868, which we have referred to above (s. 55), it was shown that in the counties of Montgomery, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Radnor alone, there were no less than 112 parishes, each with a population exceeding 400, in which there were no schools of any description recognized by Government; and we have also referred to the fact noticed by Mr. Bowstead, the Privy Council Inspector, in his report for the same year, that in his district, which includes the counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Glamorgan, and Gloucester, there are at least 250 centres of instruction remaining to be brought into connexion with the public provision for elementary education; "and it must not be supposed" Mr. Bowstead states, "that this "can be accomplished by 250 schools, as many of these places are large ones, and "require more than a single school."

94. In many of these districts trained native teachers, speaking both Welsh and English, are for the reason above given, the only description of teacher fitted to cope with the difficulties of teaching English to Welsh children. To supply these teachers, there are only the Church of England Normal Schools at Carnarvon and Carmarthen, and that belonging to the British and Foreign School Society at Bangor. By the last report on these schools, published in the Minutes of the Committee of Council, which was in 1866–67, it appeared that there were only seven students in the Carnarvon College, and six in the Carmarthen in the second year of training, *i.e.* fitted to undertake schools at the ensuing Christmas. It is not stated how many of them are Welsh, but there is a later report by Mr. Fearon, Privy Council Inspector of British Schools on the Bangor Normal School for 1868–69, by which it appears that there were 12 second year students at that time in the college, of whom seven only spoke Welsh.

95. It is perfectly obvious that some vigorous efforts are required to increase the number of Welsh-speaking Normal students, or it will be quite impracticable to supply the great deficiency of educational appliances in Wales. The difficulties in the way of making education universal or compulsory in Wales will, in many localities, not come from any indisposition of the people to send their children to school, but from the paucity of trained teachers required to supply efficient instruction in the numerous educational gaps that now exist in the principality.

All this we humbly certify to Your Majesty.

Given under our hands and seals this 28th day of March 1870.

HUGH SEYMOUR TREMENHEERE.
EDWARD CARLETON TUFNELL.

2, Victoria Street, Westminster.

APPENDIX.

PART I. TO THIRD REPORT.

REPORTS

FROM

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

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REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

REPORT on GLAMORGANSHIRE and BRECONSHIRE, by the Hon. E. B. PORTMAN.

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To HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I REGRET that I have been unable, in consequence of the serious illness of my father, to complete at an earlier date the report on the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon, which I have now the honour to submit to you, and which will, I trust, reach you soon enough to be of some service to you in reporting the result of the inquiries which we have been carrying on under your instructions in Wales.

GLAMORGAN.

GLAMORGAN. M.

2. The districts of Glamorganshire which were pointed out to me as being mainly agricultural were (1), the Vale of Glamorgan, lying between Cardiff on the east and a point some few miles to the west of Bridgend on the west, and bounded on the north by the hills and mineral district; and (2), Gower, a district lying to the west and south-west of Swansea. I therefore commenced my inquiries in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, and visited most of the principal villages in the Vale, and some on the borders of the mineral districts. I attended a meeting of the Cowbridge Farmers' Club at which the leading agriculturists were present. I also visited Gower and the Vale of Neath.

Vale of Glamorgan.

3. In the Vale of Glamorgan the farms are of a fair size, and the class of occupiers is superior to that in many other parts of my district, and there is a considerable labouring population, which is supplemented in time of need at a cheap rate by the Irish living in Cardiff and in some of the villages to which they have gone in search of work and where they have in many instances settled.

4. In Peterston, which is near the hills, the farms are said to be small, averaging 50 or 60 acres, "and the farmers are for the most part men who have risen from the position of labourers. The sons "of such farmers work as labourers when grown up and married" (Evid. No. 8).

At Wenvoe many of the farms are very small, and similar evidence is given by Eagleton, the relieving officer of St. Nicholas, a district of the Cardiff union (No. 20) as to the holdings in his district.

5. Archdeacon Blosse, of Bridgend, at the western extremity of the Vale of Glamorgan, told me that he knew instances of men taking farms on a capital of 2*l.* an acre, of a sufficient size to afford employment for themselves and their families, these men having commenced life as labourers. It was also stated at a meeting of the Bridgend Board of Guardians, that the agricultural labourers very frequently became occupiers of land.

6. On the other hand, in the southern part of the Vale, the farms are larger, and that district was fairly represented at the Cowbridge Farmers' Club meeting by men of capital and position.

Wages.

7. The wages in this portion of my district are high, 12*s.* a week appears to be the lowest pay for an ordinary agricultural labourer. Mr. Akers, a large farmer, and Mr. Goddard, a land-agent (Nos. 6 and 7), put the wages at 12*s.* to 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week. At Llantrissant, where a large portion of the population is engaged in mining, wages in agriculture are for men 16*s.*, for a woman 9*s.*, and for a child 6*s.* a week. Mr. Eagleton (No. 20) gives them as 12*s.* and a house, up to 15*s.* for a man, 1*s.* a day for a woman, for boys in bird-keeping 3*s.* a week and food, for boys in service at 12 years old 2*l.* a year, board and lodging, with an annual increase; at 18 years of age from 14*l.* to 18*l.* a year. Rev. Parry Thomas (No. 20) states that the wages vary in winter and summer, being 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in the former, and 12*s.* to 15*s.* in the latter season, and in some cases with wheat at a fixed price.

Privileges.

8. We again come across "*privileges*" in addition to money payments; they are (1), daily board in the farmhouse; (2), house-rent free and potato ground; (3), right of buying butter and cheese at a fixed price, also, in some cases, corn. Mrs. Howard (No. 16), a labourer's wife says, that the wages of a regular man are per week 13*s.*, a lb. of butter at 1*s.*, and cheese at 6*d.* a lb., the rent of the cottage when attached to the farm being reckoned at 1*s.* a week. Mr. Jenkins, farmer at Penmark (No. 28), gives the wages at 11*s.* and 12*s.* a week and a house, and the privilege of buying wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, one lb. of butter a week at 1*s.*, and cheese at 6*d.* a lb.

At Bridgend wages were said to be 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week (No. 32) for ordinary labourers, and Davies (No. 35, a stock-keeper, stated that he got 18*s.* a week, garden stuff from the farmer, and butter at a fixed price, "when there is any to spare." He also said that an ordinary labourer's pay was 15*s.* a week. M.

9. In Gower the farms are, as a rule, very small, and the difference between the labourer and the farmer is very slight. A farm labouring class scarcely exists; there are many men holding a few acres with their cottage, perhaps keeping a cow or two, and working only occasionally for other farmers. In this portion of the county there is a district of mountain common, which is devoted to sheep runs, the right of running sheep is attached to the lowland farms, the number of sheep being defined, and there being no exclusive right to any given number of acres on the common, but merely the joint right of pasturage. The people here are also employed in quarrying and in the oyster fisheries, and the small farmers, when not using their horse and cart for the purposes of the farm, are able to add to their income by "hauling" at the quarries. Gower.

The evidence of Mr. Clark, Mr. Beynon, and Mr. H. Evans (Nos. 40, 41, and 42), gives as good an idea of the state of this part of Glamorgan as can be obtained; they are themselves the representatives of the three different classes of occupiers, one farming largely and employing labour, another with a smaller farm employing a yearly farm servant and an occasional woman for pulling turnips, and for the rest of the work of the farm depending on his children; the third holding 50 acres, working the farm by himself and children, and employing extra labour at harvest time only.

10. In the Vale of Neath, again, the farms are for the most part small, and there are large tracts of sheep run on the hills let at 1*s.* to 2*s.* an acre. Here also the small farmers use their carts for hauling at the pits. I found two exceptionally large farms, one on the Gnoll estate of 1,000 acres, and another at Ynysarwed; in the latter, however, there was a large proportion of hill land. Vale of Neath.

11. In the Vale of Neath men's wages are 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week, with sometimes a house rent free, the demand for labour in the coal and other works being very great.

Women when employed in the fields usually get 1*s.* a day, children 6*d.* a day, sometimes with food besides.

Breconshire.

12. Before proceeding to discuss generally those points of the inquiry which refer equally to the two counties, I will put shortly before you the general condition of the agricultural classes in the county of Brecon, and the wages earned by the labourer. Breconshire.

In the neighbourhood of Brecon the farms are for the most part small, and the farmhouse contains not unfrequently all who regularly work upon the farm. The Rev. G. Williams (53) says, "This is a "thinly populated neighbourhood; on the hills on either side of the valley in which I live there are "wide commons; houses are few and far between. Many of the cottages are bad and overcrowded, "and indeed many of the farmhouses, especially in the hilly districts, have not sufficient accommodation "for decency."

13. The Rev. D. Parry (No. 54) of Devynock, a parish whose population is 1,798 to an acreage of 28,884, including extensive mountains, says that the majority of the labourers are farm servants living in their masters' houses. At Llywell, near Trecastle, still the same district, Rev. L. Price says, "The farmers of this district and parish, being chiefly small tenant farmers, do not employ labourers "but occasionally, as they are able, by the assistance of their children, and in some cases by that of a "man servant and female servants, to do the work necessary to be done on their farms during the "season."

The district above mentioned is under the mountain range on the western side of the county where there are some considerable flocks of sheep running on the hills. The valleys are narrow and dotted with numerous cottages and small homesteads well whitewashed, which present to the eye a very pleasant and clean appearance.

14. The farms in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Brecon, and on the north side, vary in size from 50 to 300 and 400 acres. The same may be said of the Llangorse district of the Brecon union.

15. The Valley of the Usk presents the same features; a few large and many small farmers, and a considerable tract of sheep run on the hill tops, and, with a few exceptions, not much labour employed by the farmers in addition to that of their own children.

16. As to the general condition of the agriculturists in the Builth district I will quote the words of the Rev. R. L. Venables (No. 82), "The farmers being of the same class with the labourers and inter-"marrying with them, do most of their own work assisted by their children, and where necessary by "young persons of both sexes living in the house. They live very frugally, making their profits "chiefly by cattle and sheep, especially sheep. There are sheep walks of immense extent on the hills "in the hundred of Builth. There are singularly few cottages independant of land. There are "very few labourers not occupying land." Builth.

17. In the neighbourhood of Hay, which is situated at the junction of the counties of Hereford, Radnor, and Brecon, the evidence of two of the principal farmers (No. 75) shows that there is a thinly populated hill district principally devoted to sheep runs, which are attached to the farms, and that some farmhouses are worse than the cottages, *being often without any partition in the sleeping rooms, except a bit of drapery.*

In short, the county of Brecon is a mountainous one with narrow valleys, and, with perhaps the exception of the northern side of the town of Brecon, it is more a pastoral than an arable district.

18. The wages in the immediate vicinity of Brecon are for a man 12*s.* a week, and for a woman 1*s.* a day, or 6*d.* and food. In the Devynock district "for a man living at home 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week and board "at the farmer's house." Wages.

19. In the Llangorse district, Mr. Price, relieving officer (No. 57), says they are 11*s.* and a house, or 12*s.* and pay rent, or 7*s.* and 8*s.* a week and board in the farmhouse, while living at home.

20. Mr. Downes, of Llandetty (No. 58), says wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and house rent free,

M. food for a month in harvest, potatoes from half to one sack planted free of cost. I reckon it equal to 14*s.* a week through the year; women get 1*s.* a day.

21. At Cwmdû a man in constant employ gets 13*s.* a week and two to four pints of cider. Those living in the house get 15*l.* a year and board. Women get 1*s.* a day, or take stone picking by the load.

22. Mr. Andrew Doyle, who owns land at Llangenny near Crickhowell (No. 68), says the rate of wages for a regular man is 12*s.* a week, for a job-man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. The wages of boys living in the farmhouses vary according to age; from 11 to 14 years meat and from 3*l.* to 6*l.* a year. When boys of 12 to 15 years of age are employed in the fields they get 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day; women 1*s.* a day. *The earnings of a steady skilful labourer, such as a good hedger, would be about* 13*s. a week, not including cider, and* 20*s. for harvest.*

23. At Hay men receive 6*s.* and 7*s.* a week and board, and 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, including *privileges, e.g.*, house rent free, potato ground, wood, cider, and run of a pig. A woman gets 4*s.* a week for light work, and 1*s.* a day for machine work. A boy of 11 or 12 years of age gets 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. The lowest rate paid near Hay is 9*s.* a week.

24. In the Builth district wages for a man are 12*s.* a week, without maintenance; for a woman 6*s.* a week; for children 40*s.* a year and maintenance.

Employment of Women.

Employment of Women.

25. The employment of women in agricultural work in Glamorganshire is very trifling; in Brecon there is perhaps more of it.

They are, according to the evidence of Mr. Price (No. 1), employed in weeding and trimming turnips by the piece. Mr. Lloyd, of Dinas, near Brecon (No. 51), says they are employed about four months in the year, including hay and harvest, and in his opinion *they would like to be employed more.* On the other hand, Mr. Price, relieving officer of the Llangorse district, and Mr. Downes, of Llandetty (Nos. 57 and 58), say that it is difficult to obtain the services of women, and that they are averse to field work. This appears also to be the case in the Hay district (Evid. No. 75).

26. I have no doubt that a casual observer passing through this part of Wales would say, How can this be when I see so many females at work in the fields? The answer is that in the majroity of such instances the women are the wives and daughters of small farmers working on their own land, or sometimes female servants hired by the year and living in the farmhouses who are occasionally employed for out-door work.

Sheep-milking.

27. There is a special employment of women in this district to which I would call your attention, viz., that of sheep-milking. Ann Rees (No. 13), the wife of an agricultural labourer, says, "I have "taken sheep-milking for a farmer; it lasts from May to the end of August. I got one-seventh of the "produce, at first one makes an 8 lb. cheese per week, but the weight decreases. The cheese is "worth 8*d.* a lb." The ewes are milked every morning and evening.

The Rev. Hamner Morgan (No. 31) considers it a very unhealthy employment; many of his people complain of it as the cause of illness, especially of chronic rheumatism.

Effect of field work on women.

28. Let us now look once more at the opinions as to the effect of any field work on women. Mr. Gordon, of Tondû, thinks that the hours for married women should be so arranged as to admit of their giving attention to the family before leaving home in the morning, and of their leaving the field sufficiently early to prepare for the husband's return. "He had found that by letting them have a little "time in the evening, it generally resulted in their having happier houses" (No. 21).

The Rev. C. F. Wood, of Penmark (No. 21.), objects to the employment of women in the field, because their sense of propriety and delicacy thereby becomes blunted, and "we always find that the "woman who spends the most time in field work affords in proportion a less tidy and comfortable home "to her family."

Mr. John Garsed (No. 47), a large farmer who has paid much attention to the question of education for the agricultural labourer, considers the necessary exposure to inclement weather of those employed in turnip-cleaning is injurious to delicate children and *married women;* and he further says that young girls employed in the fields become totally unfitted for household work and to be mothers of families, their morals being decidedly lowered in tone by such work.

The Rev. H. Bevan (No. 69) is of opinion that field work makes women rough and coarse.

The Rev. H. Morgan (No. 31) gives similar testimony as to the evil effects of such work on females, married and unmarried.

Conclusion to be drawn from this evidence.

29. What conclusion is to be drawn from such evidence as the above, coming from the mouths of clergy and farmers? surely this, that field work is, to say the least of it, not a *good* thing for girls or for women. It is said, on the other hand, that field-workers are often very tidy in their homes. I am quite willing to grant it may be so, but I am sure that the *weight* of evidence which I have collected during the time I have been employed under this Commission goes to show that women are demoralised, so far as to be unfitted to a great degree for their proper domestic duties, by field work, and that their homes are less tidy and give less comfort to the husband than those of the women who do not work in the field.

Where men's wages are low you find women frequently compelled to work in the fields for the purpose of feeding and clothing the family, and experience shows that in these low-waged districts the homes of the labourers are ill-kept, let the cottage be as good as you like in structure. There is no time, no inclination, to keep things in good order when the heads of the family are at work all day in the field.

Arrangement of women's work.

Early return home, or piece-work.

30. If it must be that women are to work in the fields, then let the employers take the suggestion given in the speech of Mr. Gordon, of Tondû, and so arrange their hours for women, if employed by the day, as to admit of an early return to their homes, or, what would perhaps be better, let the work that can be done by women be given to them by the piece so that the industrious field worker may also be a tidy housewife.

Employment of Children.

M.

Employment of Children.

31. The employment of children in my district is not much before the age of 10 years, with the exception of bird-keeping and minding cattle, both of which occupations are considered suitable to boys of 8 years, sometimes even of 6 years (vide Evid. 25 & 26). One, James Austin (No. 25), went out bird-keeping at 6 years old; was out from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and got 6*d.* a day.

Bird-keeping not light work.

32. This "bird keeping" is always spoken of by employers of labour as if it was very light work. I very much doubt that position being a true one. What are the facts as a rule? That a child of 6 to 8 years of age is sent out into the fields at daylight in wet or fine weather; there to remain till dark marching up and down the field that requires protection (*i.e.*, if he does his duty to his employer). His food is rarely found for him by the farmer, in which case it might be more nourishing than the allowance from the family cupboard; his clothes are not of the best, and must be dried as best may be before use the next morning. It seems to me that such employment is real hard work, totally unfitted for boys of a tender age, and most likely to destroy their health and sow the seeds of many a complaint in after life. Let me ask the employers of labour why this work should not be done by old men? It seems to be the custom in the Llangorse district of the Brecon union (Evid. No. 57). Such a change might beneficially affect the rates.

Children are also occasionally employed for stone-picking for a few weeks in the year.

Suggestions as to limit of age.

33. On the question of placing restrictions by law on the age at which children should be employed in farm work, the Cowbridge Farmers' Club unanimously resolved that no person should be employed in agriculture under the age of 10 years, and that girls and unmarried women under 18 years of age should not be employed in agricultural labour.

The Bridgend Board of Guardians hesitated between 9 and 10 as the proper age.

The general opinion is that 10 years is the lowest age at which boys should begin work, and that, except for bird-keeping and a few occasional jobs, they are not of much service to the farmer before the age of 12. There does not appear to be any reason for supposing that in these counties any hardship would be inflicted on the labouring class by such a limit, except in occasional cases of large and young families, the rate of wages being higher than in many other districts I have visited.

Education.

Education, state of.

34. The state of education generally throughout my district can hardly be said to be entirely satisfactory, but great progress appears to have been made during the last few years, not only in regard to the number of good schools, but also in the increased desire manifested by the parents of the labouring classes to obtain for their children a fair amount of education.

Mr. Evan David, Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians (No. 2), is of opinion that the children of their working classes, more particularly of the native population, are not irregular in their attendance at school.

Mr. Garsed (No. 1), speaking of the Vale of Glamorgan, says the state of education is not what it ought to be, chiefly in consequence of neglect by the parents, sometimes from poverty, and in some instances from a want of schools, though *that cause is rapidly disappearing.*

Mr. Long (No. 45) thinks that parents do not value education sufficiently, while the Vicar of Resolven (No. 46), also in the Vale of Neath, says the school attendance in his parish is, under favourable circumstances, pretty regular, and that the Welsh are beginning to appreciate education, and are anxious to secure good teachers for the schools.

Mr. Probert (No. 50), formerly manager of a British school, testifies that the supply of schools near Brecon is good, and that the people are far more careful about their children's education than formerly, but he adds that in cases of large families the parents cannot afford to pay for the schooling.

35. The valleys of Breconshire are, as a rule, well supplied with schools, but on the mountains and among the sheep runs there is but little chance of schooling for the children, on account of the long distances to any school.

Irregular attendance, causes of.

36. Irregularity of attendance is as usual a common complaint on the part of school teachers, and is attributed to various causes: work in the fields, or potatoing in the cottage garden, the supposed necessity of the small earnings derived from occasional work, not unfrequently the need of the bigger child to take care of the little ones when mother is in the fields. The irregularity is greater after 9 years of age than before, and is far more marked amongst the small farmer class than in the case of the labourer.

Llanbeder school.

37. I cannot perhaps give a better instance of the educational state, past and present, of an outlying and extensive hill parish than that of Llanbeder, near Crickhowell, in Breconshire.

The evidence of the schoolmistress (No. 70) is as follows:—"I have been here 11 years. From "November to April in the first year I was here the average attendance was 4, and in summer no "children came for some time. The average attendance is now 28, and the highest number on the "books has been 56." She goes on to say that the distance to school is often very great, and that the little children cannot come when the older ones are at work as they cannot be trusted to go so far alone. This school is attended by the children of farmers and labourers. The boys seem to be absent from school from the end of March till November, and "the girls are quite as irregular in their "attendance as the boys; they work on their parents' farms, few farmers employing any labour besides "that of their own children."

This schoolmistress complains of the absence of any attempt to keep up learning at home, and thinks that 100 attendances in the year might be obtained, though she does not approve of a compulsory system.

38. As I have already shown from the evidenceof the Rev. R. L. Venables and others, the line of demarcation between the farmer and labourer in these districts of hill and narrow valley can hardly be discerned, and the cause of education must of necessity suffer as long as there is this urgent need of the work of all the members of the family on the farm, without regard to age, in consequence of the inability to hire labour.

M.

Application of principles of Factory Acts and other remedial measures.

39. I will now call your attention to some opinions on the question of the application of the principles of the Factory Acts to agricultural labour and other suggestions for the improvement of the system of education. Mr. Evan David, Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians (No. 2), is in favour of the non-employment of children under 14 years of age, unless they produce certificates obtained from duly authorized schoolmasters and others that they can read and write with facility, such certificates to be available for six months only. He goes on to say "These rudimentary acquirements "(of reading and writing) can be better attained and kept up by giving the parents of children a "pecuniary interest in the matter than by compelling children to a certain number of days yearly in "schools."

40. Rev. C. R. Knight (No. 37) is in favour of an enactment requiring the production of a certificate every six months, showing an amount of school attendance equal to 300 times in the year.

41. Mr. Tritton, schoolmaster at Llantrithyd, thinks 150 attendances could be obtained from boys of 13 and 14 years of age during the winter.

42. The Rev. C. Wood (No. 21) is in favour of a half-day system, the morning and evening attendance to be varied week by week.

43. Rev. C. Lewellen (No. 38) thinks education to be efficacious must be continuous, and does not approve of the application of the principles of the Factory Acts.

Success of certificates in coal pits.

44. The Rev. D. Griffiths, of Resolven, &c., in the Vale of Neath (No. 46), bears witness to the successful working of the certificate system in the coal pits, and desires its extension to agricultural labour.

45. Mr. Garsed (No. 48) is also in favour of the requirement of a certificate of school attendance during the six months previous to hiring, and wishes the penalty to be imposed on any person employing a boy without such certificate.

46. Mr. Glass (No. 44) sub-agent for a large estate in Glamorganshire, does not think farmers would appreciate such a certificate or *care to demand it* when the lads came to be hired.

Difficulties of organising system of certificates.

47. It may perhaps be not amiss to refer once more to the difficulties of organization of any such system of certificates in the rural districts. I have no doubt that if the production of the certificate were *really* insisted on by every employer of labour it would be a great incentive to the parents to take more heed for the education of their children, but the difficulty is to secure this end. I expressed an opinion in a former Report that register offices might be established in the market towns where the names of farm servants could be registered and characters from former masters obtained, and that at such offices, opposite the name of every male or female seeking employment, should be recorded the fact of the certificate of school attendance having been duly obtained, and I still believe that in theory the plan is good. Practically I do not believe the certificate system will work in agricultural districts. Great efforts have been made from time to time in Yorkshire to get rid of hiring fairs and substitute register offices, but with limited success. The evidence of a Hants farmer on the subject of certificates was not encouraging. Now we have an agent in Wales, well acquainted with the farmers, saying that they would not care to demand them; and if such is the case, I am quite sure that the difficulty of enforcing any such system will be enormous, unless the country is flooded with inspectors and informers.

Committee of Council Regulations as to grants in aid, need of revision.

48. I would again call your attention to the great benefit that would accrue to the cause of education in the rural districts from an alteration in the present regulations of the Committee of Council in the matter of grants in aid. I would refer you to Nos. 30, 32, 46, 53, in the appendix as further evidence of the desirability of grants being given for results after due inspection, and regardless of the question of the teacher being certificated or not. I will refrain from now adding to the remarks I have made in two former Reports on this subject, and can only hope that in the course of the discussion on the forthcoming Education Bill, this point will receive that consideration which in the opinion of so many workers in the cause of education in rural parishes it deserves.

Cottages.

Cottages.

49. The cottages are, as a rule, throughout my district fairly good, and are certainly very much more tidy and clean inside and outside than many it has been my fate to visit. There is a great and laudable devotion to *whitewash* on the part of the Welsh, which gives a most pleasing appearance of cleanliness.

There are, however, and there must be in every county, certain villages where the dwellings are bad. Looking through the evidence I find that at Peterston there is reason to complain, and that the cause is stated to be the absence of care on the part of the owner of the property. "No Irish property can "present more wretched consequences of absenteeism than this. The only consideration the parish "receives from the owners of property is the regular collection of rents" (Evid. No. 8).

Want of bedroom accommodation.

50. There is not always sufficient sleeping accommodation in the cottages; it is not so much the number of dwellers in the house that is objectionable as the want of privacy in the sleeping room; that room being frequently without partition or even a bit of drapery to separate the sexes, or the married from the unmarried. Hence comes, according to the evidence, much immorality. In the parish of St. Athan (No. 31) there are 11 cottages that have only *one room for all purposes*, and the cottages generally are there said to be crowded.

Rent.

51. The rent varies from 1*s.* a week to 3*l.* and 4*l.* a year, sometimes with rates to pay besides.

Gardens not cared for in Builth.

52. There is usually a garden attached to the cottage, but it is curious to note that in the hundred of Builth, according to the evidence of the Rev. R. L. Venables (No. 82), and of the Relieving Officer (No. 80), the people seem to take little pleasure or interest in their gardens, and in some instances do not even cultivate them.

M.

53. Many of the cottages are attached to the farms, and are then reckoned among "the privileges" at 1*s.* a week. It seems that the farmers are anxious for improved cottages, as to use the words of Mr. Wright (No. 1), *they "want to get respectable men to settle down in their farms,* and his experience was "that they left because they had not comfortable homes." Mr. Garsed, again (No. 47), says that the tenant would gladly pay a per-centage on the outlay for cottages, *as the workman would be located where he was wanted.*

Cottages attached to farms.

54. It is said that the savings banks are much used by the labourers, with whom cottage building is a most favourite investment, and judging by the rents paid for cottages in the outskirts of Bridgend, a good return is obtained for the outlay (vide Evid. No. 34). Archdeacon Blosse, who was at one time actuary for the savings bank there, knew many instances of labourers being worth 100*l.* and upwards. At Crickhowell, in Breconshire, we hear that very few farm lads are depositors, and not above 12 agricultural labourers (Evid. 72).

Savings.

55. Many of these men become the occupiers of small farms. In the hilly parts of Glamorganshire, in Gower, and throughout the greater part of Breconshire, the small occupiers abound. The evidence certainly tends to show that these small farms are by no means so desirable as many people are inclined to think. It may be that the existence of small holdings and the consequent possibility of possession on some future day is an incentive to the labourer to be prudent, and to endeavour to raise himself to the rank of a farmer; when he has done so let us look at his condition, as shown in these counties. He commences with a capital of 1*l.* or 2*l.* per acre. His house is often far worse than a labourer's cottage, there is but little privacy and little regard for decency in the arrangement of the sleeping accommodation. He lives from hand to mouth; he is too poor to pay for any labour, and is consequently obliged to keep all his children at home as soon as their little hands can do any work at all; and so neglects their education. A bad season comes, and he is forced to mortgage his crops; he gradually gets into the hands of the village attorney. If he has a freehold it passes to the man of capital: if he only holds a lease the land becomes impoverished, and is returned to the owner in a thoroughly bad state. And during the bad time, if it comes, he is in this respect worse off than the labourer, that he does not get parish relief or the benefit of medical aid in case of sickness.

Small farms not an unmixed good.

This is a state of things that is very common, and I have alluded to it in order to show that the existence of small holdings is not an unmixed good; on the other hand, there is no doubt that many individuals have risen and have prospered in consequence of being able to "get a bit of land" when they had saved "a bit of money." But looking at the class from an educational point of view I should say that it is decidedly a bar to progress, and I should not advocate an extension of the system, believing, as I do, that a labourer earning good wages, with a sufficient garden attached to his cottage, the opportunity of renting an allotment and of obtaining a paddock or a run for a cow or two, is far better off than these hand-to-mouth farmers who rear their children in ignorance, and is moreover a more valuable member of the body politic.

56. There is only one other point to which I need allude, and that is the existence of hiring fairs in these counties; and I do so for the purpose of calling your attention to some portions of the evidence in reference to them. Mr. Glass (No. 44) says that men and women are hired in open street at Neath, and that register offices do not exist.

Hiring fairs.

The Rev. G. Williams (No. 53) says "The hiring or mop fairs are a fruitful source of evil; as a rule, all farm servants are hired at these fairs; even if the servants intend to keep their places they go to the fair and are hired afresh. I believe these fairs have a very demoralising effect in many ways, and *it would be a great benefit to the country if they could be abolished.*"

Mr. Smith, relieving officer, Devynock (No. 55) says the lads and girls stand in the open air to be hired; if not hired the first day they go home and can return the next day, or on any following Saturday. He had not observed much evil resulting from these fairs.

Mr. D. Downes (No. 58) says "I should prefer the fairs being done away with, and a character given "to the servants from their former places. Register offices might be substitued for the present "system."

These hirings are in May and November, and fairs are held at Brecon, Crickhowell, Hay, Builth, Trecastle, and Neath, and doubtless at other towns of which I did not hear. Another complaint is that at the time of these fairs the homes of the labourers are very much overcrowded, and it seems that here, as well as in Yorkshire and other counties, there is a desire to get rid of this system as being the cause of much evil and immorality.

56. I beg now to express my thanks to all those in my district, who either gave or enabled me to obtain the desired information, for their kindness and assistance, and I would, at the same time, tender to you my very best thanks for the uniform kindness I have received at your hands during the period of my connexion with the Commission, and assure you that it is with deep regret that I find myself compelled by circumstances to relinquish my share in the work in Scotland.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
EDWIN B. PORTMAN.

Bryanston,
February 8, 1870.

REPORT by Mr. F. H. NORMAN on ANGLESEA, CARNARVON, DENBIGH, and FLINT.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

N. 1. I have now the honour of submitting to you my Report upon the employment of women, young persons, and children in agriculture in the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint, which I visited in obedience to your instructions during portions of the months of September and October last.

Report applies to peculiarities only. 2. When I received your instructions to examine into the condition of the agricultural population in these counties, I understood it to be your wish that my report upon them should be limited to those points in which I might find upon inquiry that the condition of the agricultural population resident there differed from the condition of the agricultural population in the English counties, on which I had already reported.

3. I have carefully borne these instructions in mind, and have found that the points in which the Welsh counties assigned to me differ from the English counties which I had previously visited are points in which the contrast is rather in favour of the Welsh counties; so that, if it should be thought undesirable to apply the Factory Acts to those engaged in agriculture in the English counties upon which I have already reported, it would in my opinion be still less desirable to apply them to the Welsh counties to which this report refers.

4. This being the general result of my inquiries, I have thought it sufficient to have but a small body of evidence printed, and hope to be able to compress the observations I have to make upon that evidence into a very short Report.

General condition of district. 5. The general condition of these counties as regards acreage and the numbers of labourers, both male and female, employed in agriculture may be gathered from the following Table:—

County.	Acres.	Population.		Labourers employed in Agriculture.							
				1851.				1861.			
				Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
		1851.	1861.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.	In-door Farm Servants.	Out-door Labourers.
Anglesea	193,453	57,327	54,609	1,793	1,999	1,169	25	961	2,006	196	26
Carnarvon	370,273	87,870	95,694	3,034	3,440	1,957	62	2,725	3,668	479	54
Denbigh	386,052	92,583	100,778	3,442	5,184	2,300	73	2,257	5,942	1,211	59
Flint	184,905	68,156	69,737	763	1,067	502	10	695	883	134	19
Total	1,134,683	305,936	320,818	9,032	11,690	5,928	170	6,638	12,499	2,020	158

Shepherds not included in this table.

6. It appears from this Table that these counties are very thinly populated. The counties of Carnarvon and Denbigh contain about one inhabitant to every 4 acres; Anglesea, about one to every 3½ acres; and Flint, rather more than one to every 3 acres. One of the most thinly populated counties in England is Herefordshire, which contains about one inhabitant to every 4⅓ acres. Between the years 1851 and 1861 the population increased in all the counties except Anglesea, the only county in which there is not a large population of miners or quarrymen. The number of in-door farm servants, both male and female,

decreased in every county, and the total number of out-door male farm labourers increased, and of females decreased. N.

7. The total area of these counties is very large, but it must be recollected that extensive tracts of them consist of barren rock or mountain, and that the extent actually under cultivation is but little more than half the total area; this will appear from the following Table which I have extracted from the Agricultural Returns of Great Britain for 1868. This Table shows that the total acreage of crops of all kinds, bare fallow, and grass, in these four counties is about equal to that of Shropshire (660,240 acres), and considerably less than that of Wiltshire (710,908 acres):— Large districts uncultivated.

County.	Total Acreage.	Total Acreage under all kinds of Crops, Bare Fallow, and Grass.	Per-centage of Corn Crops to Total Acreage under all kinds of Crops, Bare Fallow, and Grass.
Anglesea - -	193,453	137,721	24·3
Carnarvon -	370,273	172,632	14·7
Denbigh - -	386,052	239,076	29·0
Flint - -	184,905	116,535	31·7
Total - -	1,134,683	665,964	

8. Before proceeding to the details of this Report, it will be convenient to refer to a few of the peculiar features which these counties respectively exhibit.

The county of Anglesea consists of low undulating table-land, somewhat dreary and uninteresting in appearance. There is a considerable extent of bog and marsh in the island, but except on the shores of the Menai Straits it contains scarcely any wood, and there are but few hedges or fences between the fields. From the nature of its position it is exposed to the full fury of the storms which sweep across the Atlantic, and although the mountains of Carnarvonshire attract most of the rain, the storms of wind which rush across the island of Anglesea are very severe, and the vegetation in consequence bears a somewhat stunted and dwarfed appearance. The climate is well suited to the breeding of cattle; it favours the growth of root crops, but of the corn crops grown about two-thirds consist of oats. Peculiar features of Anglesea.

9. The county of Carnarvon is distinguished rather for its mineral than for its agricultural products; it consists mainly of barren mountains which are useless except as sheep walks, and which leave but a small portion of the whole county to be devoted to tillage. This portion consists of a belt of low land which separates the mountains from the sea, the lower portions of the valleys, and that part of the county which lies to the west of the Carnarvon and Tremadoc Railway, and which is called Lleyn. Carnarvonshire.

The great bulk of the population of this county is dependent upon its mineral productions for a livelihood; these consist of slate quarries at Llanberris and in the neighbourhood of Bangor, and stone quarries at Penmaen Mawr, near Conway. I was told that the slate quarries belonging to Lord Penrhyn in the neighbourhood of Bangor provide subsistence for a population numbering nearly 11,000. The other quarries in the county are also very extensive. The employment of so much labour in the quarries must, of course, have a considerable indirect effect upon the supply of agricultural labour. Occupation can always be obtained in the quarries by almost any number of superfluous labourers for whom work in the fields cannot be found.

In consequence of the mountainous character of this county and of the severity of its climate but little corn is grown. It appears from the agricultural returns that the per-centage of corn crops to the total acreage under all kinds of crops amount to only 14·7 (the average for the whole of England being 32·5), and of this the greater part is oats. The mountains are let in extensive tracts as sheep walks, in some cases to individual farmers, and in other cases the right of pasturage in a particular district is let as appurtenant to a certain number of farms; but under any circumstances the labour to be done in the mountains is insignificant and the population residing in the mountains very small.

10. The portion of Denbighshire best adapted for agricultural purposes is the Vale of Clwyd, which consists of a considerable extent of very fertile land, and is chiefly celebrated for the production of cheese and butter. Between this valley and the borders of Carnarvonshire lies a mountainous district of considerable elevation, but less lofty than the mountains of Carnarvonshire. The whole of this district is devoted to agriculture. In that part of Denbighshire situated in the neighbourhood of Wrexham and Ruabon an extensive coal field exists, which has attracted a large mining population. The proportion of corn grown, though considerably larger than that of either Anglesea or Carnarvonshire, is less than the general average of England; and of that which is grown, oats forms the principal crop. Denbighshire.

11. Flintshire presents features more similar to those of England than any other county I visited in Wales. The only mountains of any importance are the Clwydian Hills, which for a considerable distance separate Flintshire from Denbighshire. The amount of coal produced in this county, although not nearly equal to that produced in Denbighshire, is, considering the acreage and population of the county, very large. In addition to coal, lead is found in considerable quantities. The climate is less severe than that of the other three counties I have before described, and in it alone the production of wheat exceeds that of any other corn crop. Flintshire.

The hundred of Maelor, which is separated from the rest of Flintshire by a portion of Denbighshire, differs from the other parts of the county in containing no minerals, but forms a rich agricultural district. It contains many dairy farms, and produces cheese of a fine quality.

12. The size of the farms is, as a general rule, smaller in Wales than in any English county I have visited. According to the agricultural returns for 1868, the average extent of the land held by each occupier was, in Anglesea 40 acres, in Carnarvonshire 34, in Denbighshire 42, and in Flintshire 30; for Size of farms.

N.

England the average was 60. A few large farms are to be found in every county; but the consolidation of small farms is not going on as rapidly as appears to be the case in England. In fact, as a general rule, on the death of a tenant, no matter how small the farm is, the landlord permits another member of the family of the deceased tenant (should the family contain a suitable person) to continue in occupation of the farm. I was told by a large landowner that he had a tenant whose family had occupied a farm of about 50 acres for 200 years, without ever having had a lease. The labour on the small farms is generally done by the farmer and his family, in some cases without any hired labour; occasionally the labour is hired for the summer months only (Evid. 32).

Labour employed.

Mode and period of hiring.

13. Where labourers are employed for hire they are usually hired by the year in May and November, and are provided with board and lodging by the farmers. Where extra men are employed they are hired by the week, and are generally fed by the farmer, but they sleep at home. As a general rule the larger farmers hire more men by the week and board and lodge fewer than the smaller farmers.

Wages.

14. The ordinary wages for a man who is hired by the week are, in Anglesea 11*s.* or 12*s.* (Evid. 3, 6, 7), in Carnarvonshire and Denbighshire and Flintshire 12*s.* to 14*s* (Evid. 13, 19, 20, 23, 27, 30, 32), and occasionally in the neighbourhood of the mines and quarries of Carnarvonshire and Flintshire as much as 15*s.* (Evid. 9, 39). The men who are hired by the year and boarded get from 18*l.* to 24*l.* a year besides their board and lodging (Evid. 6, 9, 12, 30, 32). In one instance I found as much as 30*l.* a year being paid; but this was quite exceptional (Evid. 13). A less efficient man gets about 16*l.* or 18*l.* a year. If a labourer is married and sleeps in his own cottage he receives about 7*s.* a week and his board.

Extra harvest men.

During the harvest week it is customary to make a fresh bargain each week with the extra men that are hired. As instances of the amount paid for this work I may mention the following cases:— Mr. J. Dawson, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, Talacre, says, "Last harvest my wages amounted to 14*s.*, "15*s.*, 17*s.*, 17*s.*, and 13*s.* 6*d.* a week for the five harvest weeks, besides 5*s.* a week extra for 'meat,' "which some of the farmers allow, but I prefer to pay in money." (Evid. 41.) And David Davies, foreman to Mr. Sandbach, at Llangerniew, in Denbighshire, says,—

"This year one week the wages were 1*l.* 1*s.* and the meat, and 18*s.*, 16*s.*, 12*s.*, and 9*s.*, for the other weeks. They have not been as high as that for 20 years. The farmers and labourers fix the amount between, and then cry it out in the street. They don't earn any extra money by piece-work at other times of the year, except for special operations, such as draining." (Evid. 25.)

No clear line of separation between farmers and labourers.

15. In one point the condition of the agricultural labourer in Wales is different from that of the same class in England. In England there is a clear and well-defined line between the labourer and the farmer. In Wales this line is almost absent. In most parts of England the chance of the labourer becoming a farmer is very remote. In Wales, not only is the probability of this change taking place very great, but in many cases the labourer actually is a small farmer.

Mr. R. Lloyd Edwards, of Nanhoran, Carnarvonshire, who farms 320 acres of his own land, told me that all his labourers were farmers, and that he always let land, varying from six to about 15 acres, with his cottages. He adds, "the occupiers generally keep one or two cows, grow a little "corn and potatoes; they occasionally have to leave their work for a day to work on their own land, "but not often enough to destroy their usefulness as farm labourers. The ploughing on these small "holdings is done either by men who go about making a living by letting out ploughs and horses, or "else two men, each of whom keeps a horse, join together and plough one another's land. A regular "labourer ought not to have more than two or three acres of land. They can keep a cow and pig "on that. The smallest amount of land which a farmer can live and do well upon is 40 or 50 acres." (Evid. 13, *see too* Evid. 14 and 32.)

Condition of the small farmers.

16. The opinion that men who farm less than 40 or 50 acres are worse off than labourers is very generally entertained. When their pecuniary condition is critically examined it may be so, but there can be no question that the small farmers very much prefer their position to that of labourers, on account of its independence. As stated by Mr. Tench, "In comparing their condition with that of "labourers, the fact that they are under less control must be taken into consideration, and the price "at which they value this independence must be set off against the possibly rather better living of "the labourer." (Evid. 42.)

Food.

17. In physical appearance the Welsh will compare favourably with the English, or at any rate with the inhabitants of the counties with which I am acquainted (I am not acquainted with the North of England). They are a muscular and robust race, and capable of undergoing great labour. This is probably due, in a great measure, to the superior quality of their diet, when compared with that of the English labourer. This appears clear from the Report of Dr. Edward Smith on the food of the poorer labouring classes, published in the Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council. Dr. Smith says (pages 267–271), that he found wheaten flour used by all whom he examined in Anglesea and North Wales; in almost all cases it was white flour of moderate quality, but in a few cases it was brown, from the presence of sharps, and not from the large husks or bran; oatmeal was used, but to a rather less, and barley to a very small extent. Potatoes and green vegetables are universally consumed; the average quantity consumed in Anglesea was found by Dr. Smith to be 16½ lbs., and in North Wales it was 4 lbs. per adult weekly. Meat or bacon was eaten to a small extent by every family in Anglesea and North Wales. The amount consumed per adult weekly was found to be 10¾ oz. in Anglesea, and 15¼ in North Wales. Only a small portion (2½ oz. per adult weekly) was butchers' meat, and the remainder was found to be either bacon, or meat killed in winter, and salted for use in the following summer. The one article in which the Welsh compares most favourably with the English diet is that of milk. Milk was found by Dr. Smith "to be used in every case in Anglesea "and North Wales; 83 per cent. of families examined obtained buttermilk, 53 per cent. skim milk, "6 per cent. new milk." Buttermilk is usually supplied by all farmers to their labourers. A labourer frequently has the privilege of taking home some to his family, or, if he cannot do this, and does not possess a cow himself, he can, as a general rule, purchase it at a very low price from some neighbour who does keep a cow. The general result of this diet was found by Dr. Smith to be "that the quantity of "carbon and nitrogen contained in the food of each computed adult was, in Anglesea, 60,784 grains of

"carbon 2,521 grains of nitrogen; and in North Wales, 45,613 grains of carbon and 1,765 grains of "nitrogen weekly." The quantity consumed by an average agricultural labourer in England is 40,673 grains of carbon and 1,594 grains of nitrogen. I endeavoured to ascertain whether this nutritious diet produced a corresponding increase in the powers of work among Welshmen as compared to Englishmen. I found that it was impossible to get satisfactory information upon this point, owing to my inability to find any standard of work, common to both English and Welsh, by which to measure their respective powers. N.

18. I found that in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire the Welsh language is universally spoken by all persons of full age. It is quite the exception to find anybody over the age of 25 or 30 who can speak English. The population under that age have been brought up since education has been improved; but of these many who profess to speak English can only do so mechanically, and are quite incapable of carrying on a sustained conversation in that language. Language. Welsh generally spoken.

In Denbighshire the English language is more generally understood, while in Flintshire there appear to be few persons who cannot speak it. I may add that there is a very general desire among parents at present to have their children taught English, because they are aware that a knowledge of the English language is indispensable for their advancement, whatever may be the path of life which they select. Increased desire to learn English.

19. Women and girls are certainly employed less in these counties than in any county which I have visited in England. They are employed a little to feed the pigs or to milk, besides the ordinary occupation of planting and getting up potatoes, weeding, stone-picking, and a little haymaking; but I am inclined to think that even in these occupations they are less employed in these counties than is usual in England. Employment of women and girls.

In support of this point I may refer to the following evidence:—

The Rev. D. Rowlands, a native of Anglesea, and a gentleman thoroughly well acquainted with North Wales, says,—

"Women are not employed at all in agriculture in North Wales, except very occasionally in hay and corn harvest." (Evid. 1.)

Mr. John Williams, of Treffos, and the Rev. J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, Anglesea, say,—

"Women are employed very slightly in planting potatoes, and a little in the hay and corn harvest." (Evid. 6.)

The Rev. J. W. Ellis, of Llanaelhaiarn, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"Women are scarcely ever employed except for domestic purposes. They generally feed the pigs, milk, plant potatoes, and make hay." (Evid. 12.)

The Venerable Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"Women are not employed in agricultural labour. It is difficult to get women to weed gardens or to raise potatoes." (Evid. 18.)

Mr. W. M. Clarke, agent to Mr. Hughes, of Kinmel, says,—

"Very few women have been employed in out-of-door work during the last 15 or 20 years, but they were more extensively employed formerly. The turnips were formerly weeded and hay made chiefly by women, but it is not so now." (Evid. 23.)

Mr. H. R. Hughes, of Ystrad, Denbigh, says,—

"Women are a good deal employed at certain times of the year. In spring they are employed in weeding, and occasionally in some other small job, as assisting to thrash or sow. They are also employed in setting and raising potatoes, and in hay and harvest. There is very little for them to do after the potatoes are raised. They occasionally assist to thrash during winter, but do nothing else." (Evid. 27.)

Mr. J. Scott Bankes, of Loughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire, says,—

"There is no regular employment for women; in fact the women are hardly ever employed by the farmers at all." (Evid. 39.)

Mr. J. Dawson, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, at Talacre, Flintshire, says,—

"Just here no women are employed, but towards Rhyl on one side, and Holywell on the other, some of the farmers do employ some few occasionally; never in winter." (Evid. 41.)

The evidence here quoted, all of which proceeds from reliable witnesses residing in the various parts of the district assigned to me, is, I think, quite sufficient to prove that the extent to which women are employed in agriculture is on the whole insignificant. I at one time entertained an impression that the wives and daughters of the small farmers worked to a greater extent than that above described, but on examination this impression appeared to be without foundation.

20. The ordinary wage for a woman when she does work is 1*s.* a day. (Evid. 27, 40, 41.) Women's wages.

21. I have stated in my former Reports that I do not consider that the field work performed by women in England is necessarily the cause of physical injury to them. There is nothing peculiar in the nature of the field work upon which women are employed in Wales as compared with England; it follows, therefore, from the diminished extent to which they are employed that they are less likely to be injured by the work they do in the former country than in the latter. Effect of field work on women.

It was never suggested to me that the field work done by women in Wales is ever the cause of physical injury to them.

22. Boys are not generally employed continuously until they are old enough to obtain places in farm-houses. This age generally varies from 12 to 15 (Evid. 1, 6, 9, 12, 13, 21, 23, 25, 32, 42); from that age upwards they assist generally in all the operations of the farm. Little boys and sometimes girls are occasionally employed for a few weeks in thinning turnips, in planting or gathering potatoes, or collecting stones. (Evid. 3, 6, 41.) Employment of boys.

N. At Llangerniew, in Denbighshire, there is so great a demand for young children to weed turnips during the months of June and July that the school holydays are fixed during these months, in order to permit the children to go to work; but at no other place did I find them so generally employed for this purpose.

Not employed to drive plough.

23. It is the universal practice to plough with two horses and reins, so that ploughboys are not required; nor are young boys ever employed with horses. The occupation therefore which, according to my experience, gives more employment to young boys in England than any other, does not exist in Wales.

Private gangs.

24. I met with one or two instances of private gangs of women and children being employed; thus on Sir R. Bulkeley's home farm, and on three or four other large farms in the neighbourhood of Beaumaris, private gangs are employed in the summer months to collect weeds, spread manure, single and hoe turnips, and cut thistles (Evid. 7), or sometimes a man will contract to thin turnips, and bring some children to assist him (Evid. 6); but this mode of employing labour is uncommon, and does not appear to me to require to be regulated by law. The observations I have made upon the employment of private gangs in my former reports will apply equally to the private gangs employed in my district of Wales.

Difficulty of comparing education in Wales and England.

25. There is some difficulty in comparing the state of education amongst the Welsh population with that among the English. The main object which the parents of Welsh children have in view in sending them to school is to have them taught English. The children, therefore, in Wales have to begin by learning a foreign language, which in most cases they are totally ignorant of up to the time of attending school. The Welsh language is only used in the schools for the purpose of teaching the children English, and the use of it is discontinued after the children can understand English. The facility with which the Welsh children acquire the English language has often been pointed out to me as a remarkable proof of the intelligence of the Welsh. I met with one school-master in a remote parish in Denbighshire who told me he could scarcely speak Welsh; his wife, however, who taught the lower classes, could speak it well. (Evid. 26.)

Age of leaving school, and proficiency.

26. As a general rule the children remain at school in the counties to which this Report refers up to an age varying between 12 and 14 (Evid. 15, 17, 22, 26, 29, 37, 38). In two cases the age was placed as low as from 10 to 12 (Evid. 1, 34). Those who attend regularly can generally pass the fourth standard when they leave (Evid. 17, 26, and 37), but some only the third. This result is tolerably satisfactory and certainly more satisfactory than the result attained in most of the districts in England with which I am acquainted.*

School accommodation sometimes insufficient.

27. It must not, however, be supposed that the whole population attain the proficiency here described. Districts were pointed out to me where the school accommodation was insufficient (Evid. 1), and complaints were frequently made of the indifference of the parents (Evid. 1, 3, 5, 9, 31). To these causes the defective state of education (where it is defective) is mainly due. The observations and recommendations which I have made in my last Report as to the measures which should be adopted for the purpose of encouraging the building of schools and the supply of teachers will apply to the counties to which this Report refers, as well as to the counties for which they were originally intended. (Second Report, I., sections 82–89.).†

* As one test of the state of education in these counties, I subjoin a Table showing the proportion of persons who on their marriage signed the register with marks. These figures are compiled from the 13th Annual Report of the Registrar General (Abstract for 1867).

County.	Total Number of Persons Married.	Number of Persons who Signed by Mark.			Per-centage of Persons who Signed by Mark to Total Married.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
Anglesea - -	416	56	97	153	·36
Carnarvon - -	1,594	207	339	546	·34
Denbigh - -	1,594	308	359	667	·41
Flint - - -	486	106	111	217	·44
England - -	358,308	37,879	51,606	89,485	·24

† Although it is impossible to estimate accurately the sufficiency of the school accommodation, the information recently collected by the National Society is very valuable upon this point. I have extracted the following tables from the "Statistics of Church "of England Schools for the Poor in England and Wales, for the year 1866 and 1867."

Parishes (in Counties) without Schools, but supplied with Education in adjoining parishes.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	3	3	3	5	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	6	7	1	0	0	1	0
Denbigh - - -	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Parishes (with Populations) destitute either of separate or convenient adjoining Schools.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	0	0	4	2	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
Denbigh - - -	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

See next page.

N.

28. On one point, however, the recommendations I made with reference to English schools are not applicable to Wales. In my last report I recommended that it should be made illegal to employ children under 14 years of age in agriculture unless they produced certificates to show that they had acquired a certain amount of education. If this system were applied to Wales the age below which the obtaining of a certificate is made the condition of employment must be higher than 14.

Certificates of proficiency.

If this system applied to Wales, age should be over 14.

So few boys are employed under the age of 14 that there would be no inducement to obtain the certificate unless the prohibition were extended to a higher age than that.

29. The insufficiency of the education usually obtained by English children is generally due to the unwillingness of the parents to forego the addition to the family income resulting from the child's labour; this cause is absent in the districts which I visited in Wales. As this point is one of considerable importance for the purpose of this Commission, I will quote some opinions of school teachers and school managers to fortify my statement.

Early labour no obstacle to education.

The Rev. J. Williams, rector of Llanfairynghornwy, who had been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools in Anglesea, told me that he thought the instruction given was tolerably satisfactory, and added,—

"There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents." (Evid. 6.)

Miss Smith, mistress at a small rural school near Carnarvon, says,—

"The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent children learning to read, write, and cipher if they would attend regularly at other times." (Evid. 11.)

The Rev. J. W. Ellis, rector of Llanaelhaiarn, near Pwlheli, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them now to earn wages." (Evid. 12.)

Archdeacon Evans, of Llanllechid, Carnarvonshire, says,—

"There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them." (Evid. 18).

Mr. J. D. Jones, who was schoolmaster of the British school, Ruthin, in Denbighshire, for 14 years, says,—

"There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of labourers." (Evid. 38.)

Mr. Beverley, who was schoolmaster at Eglwas Fach, in Denbighshire, for 30 years, says,—

"There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children's learning the three 'R's' satisfactorily." (Evid. 22.)

PARISHES (with Populations) having only Dames' Schools.

County.	Parishes with Populations under 100.	Parishes with Populations between 100 and 300.	Parishes with Populations between 300 and 500.	Parishes with Populations between 500 and 1,000.	Parishes with Populations between 1,000 and 3,000.	Parishes with Populations between 3,000 and 5,000.	Parishes with Populations above 5,000.
Anglesea - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Carnarvon - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Denbigh - - -	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Flint - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NIGHT SCHOOLS in COUNTIES.

County.	Number of Night Schools, *i.e.*, Institutions.	Number of Night-school Scholars on Registers.	Average Number of Night-school Scholars in attendance.
Anglesea - -	5	120	84
Carnarvon -	9	372	253
Denbigh - -	16	481	307
Flint - -	6	249	149

Counties Proper.	Number of Parishes and Districts in each County.	Population at Census 1861.	Population in December 1866, as estimated by the Registrar-General	Number of Week-day Schools, *i.e.*, Institutions.			Number of Scholars on Registers.				Average number of Week-day Scholars in attendance.				Number of Scholars under instruction in Day and Night Schools in 1866.	Per-centage on Population of 1866 (as estimated by the Registrar-General) of such Average Number.	Church of England, Dames' Schools, and Scholars in them, not included in previous columns.	
				Receiving Annual State Grants.	Not receiving Annual State Grants.	Total.	In Schools annually aided by the State.		In Schools not annually aided by the State.		In Schools annually aided by the State.		In Schools not annually aided by the State.				No. of Dames' Schools.	Average No. of Scholars in attendance.
							Day Schools.	Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.	In Day Schools.	In Night Schools.				
Anglesea	78	54,639	55,107	22	29	51	2,192	64	1,195	53	1,581	43	710	11	2,475	4·6, or 1 in 21·3	1	42
Carnarvon	80	95,691	100,195	31	23	57	5,283	340	1,381	71	4,357	220	918	33	5,528	5·5, or 1 in 18·1	0	0
Denbigh	79	100,778	105,804	37	25	62	5,337	329	2,200	152	3,798	190	1,623	117	5,728	5·4, or 1 in 18·4	4	88
Flint -	52	69,737	70,660	36	13	49	5,088	171	1,950	78	3,859	104	1,386	45	5,004	7·2, or 1 in 13·8	0	0

These tables only take into account the schools in connexion with the National Society. Besides these there are many other schools in North Wales. I learn from the Report of the Bangor Training College for 1869 that there are the following British Schools in these counties, viz:—18 in Anglesea, 22 in Carnarvonshire, 13 in Denbighshire, and 9 in Flintshire. If these are added to the National Schools it seems clear that the supply of school accommodation must be tolerably satisfactory.

N.

30. I feel sure that the opinions expressed in the evidence here quoted may be taken to be fair specimens of the opinions which are generally entertained by those best qualified to judge on the points referred to; and the conclusion at which I have arrived on this point is, that in no part of the counties to which the report refers are children employed in agriculture to such an extent as to prevent their acquiring a satisfactory elementary education.

Large number of dissenters in Wales.

Children of dissenters sent to National schools.

31. There is one point in which the condition of Wales is essentially different from that of England, and a point too which it is most important to bear in mind in providing for the education of the children in Wales. I allude to the fact that a very large majority of the Welsh are Nonconformists. As a matter of fact, the Nonconformists always send their children to the National schools when there is no school for children professing their own creed within access, and, with scarcely any exception, permit them to be taught the Church Catechism. The teachers in the National school are generally careful not to instruct the children of dissenters in doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious belief of the parents. On this point the Rev. E. T. Watts remarks (Report on the Church of England Schools in Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, and Merioneth, printed in the Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1869, page 267):—"I know not of a single school in this district in which the "principle of the Conscience Clause is not practically recognized. My experience as a school manager "justifies the assertion that, as a rule, dissenters have little or no objection to the religious instruction "imparted to their children in National schools. Although it was a well-known fact in the parish of "which I was for some years the incumbent that any child might, upon the expressed wish of its "parents, be withdrawn from the religious instruction, the privilege, or whatever it might be called, "was not claimed in a single instance." At the same time I learnt that an idea prevails among Nonconformists that the clergy of the Established Church wish to bring them back to the church by means of the National schools, and that, in point of fact, the Nonconformists do object to the religious instruction given in the National schools. They make no formal complaint about it, because they prefer that their children should have an education accompanied with this religious instruction to their having no education at all.

Opinion of dissenters as to National schools.

Sunday schools.

Night schools.

32. The Sunday schools form a notable feature which should be remarked upon in reviewing of the educational condition of these counties. These exist in very great numbers, and are largely attended by both children and adults, in some cases by as many as from 30 or 40 per cent. of the population. Night schools are very scarce in rural districts; this is owing to the very scattered distribution of the population.

Cottages.

33. Although North Wales can compare favourably with England both as regards employment of women and children in agriculture and the state of education among the agricultural labourers, the comparison as regards the cottages is certainly in favour of England. On the whole I have never seen in England as many bad cottages as I saw in North Wales.

Number.

34. I do not think that the cottages are insufficient in number. If the accommodation in each cottage were improved, the agricultural population might probably be accommodated without difficulty. In the mining districts, however, a difficulty occurs from the amount of labour which is employed constantly varying; whenever a new mine is opened more cottage accommodation is wanted, and it is difficult always to regulate the supply to the demand.

Accommodation.

Description of cottages.

35. In accommodation, however, the cottages in North Wales appear to me to be very generally insufficient. Those in Anglesea and Carnarvon consist, as a general rule, of one room, about 18 or 20 feet long by 14 or 15 broad. This room is unceiled, and paved with stones, and is used both as a living and sleeping room. It is generally partially divided by two box beds (*i.e.*, four post beds boarded on three sides), which are placed nearly across the centre of the room, leaving only a narrow passage to connect the portions of the room which are used by day and by night respectively. (Evid. 6.) Although only one room, the cottages, with the furniture thus disposed, have the appearance of having two rooms, the backs of the beds being fitted with shelves, on which the household crockery, &c. is placed. In another class of cottages the portion of the room which is used as a sleeping apartment is separated from the rest by a thin wooden partition; and, in a third class, this portion is divided into an upper and a lower floor, access being obtained to the upper floor from that portion of the cottage which is used as a living room by means of a moveable ladder. Although greater decency is thus obtained, the ventilation is probably worse in the cottages last described than in those in which there is no partition. I was told by a medical man of great experience at Carnarvon that he had reason to believe that the want of privacy in these cottages led to great immorality.* The class of cottages next

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*The charge of excessive immorality is one which is frequently brought against the Welsh, but it is a charge which I think is hardly supported by the facts. The immorality of a people may be measured either (1), by comparing the number of children born out of wedlock with the total number of births; or (2), by ascertaining the proportion of children borne by spinsters and widows of a child-bearing age, which for purposes of comparison may be taken to be between 20 and 40.

If the first test be adopted, the comparison between England and North Wales will stand thus:—

Children born out of wedlock to every 100 births—

In England -	- 5·9
„ North Wales	- 7·9

Although this comparison is unfavourable to North Wales, there are seven counties in England (viz., Norfolk, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire (North Riding), Cumberland, and Westmorland), in which the proportion of children born out of wedlock is higher than it is in North Wales (13th Annual Report of Registrar General, Abstract for 1867).

If the second test be adopted the comparison will stand thus:—

	To every 100 Married Women aged 20–40, the proportional Number of Legitimate Births annually in 10 Years, 1851–60.	To every 100 Spinsters and Widows aged 20–40, the proportional Number of Illegitimate Births annually in the 10 Years, 1851–60.
England and Wales - -	35·02	3·30
Monmouthshire and Wales -	37·25	3·57

But these figures if looked at alone, would probably lead to an incorrect estimate of the actual amount of immorality. The number of children born must, I apprehend, depend to some extent on the healthiness of the population, and would probably be

above these, some few of which were to be found in Carnarvonshire, but which are more numerous in Denbighshire and Flintshire, always have one bedroom, and, in a few cases, two, and were generally built with an upper floor. The cottages are generally substantially built throughout North Wales, good building materials, slate and stone, being plentiful; but in some few districts, where building materials are less accessible than they generally are, the cottages are often not water-tight; for instance, in the district of Lleyn, which is rather out of reach of the slate quarries, the cottages were most of them thatched, and I saw many in this neighbourhood very much out of repair, and quite incapable of keeping out the weather. N.

36. The cottage rents vary from about 2*l.* to 5*l.* (Evid. 3, 6, 9, 12, 22, 27, 30, and 41.) They are very rarely accumulated in villages, and are always provided with gardens. I met with many instances of potato grounds being let by the farmers on systems substantially similar to those which exist in England. Rent.

37. It struck me that a smaller proportion of cottages in Wales belonged to squatters and speculators than in England; the great mass belonging to the landlords. The landlords sometimes retain them in their own hands, and sometimes let them with the farms. In principle I object to the system of giving the farmer absolute control over the dwellings of the labourers he employs, except perhaps in the case of a few of the principal men employed on a large farm. I have stated this in my previous reports, and have had no reason to change my opinions. The system, however, appears to me to be less objectionable in Wales than in England. There is less distinction between the labourer and farmer in Wales than in England, and the antagonism, which unfortunately too often exists in England between these two classes, is less common in Wales. Ownership.

38. The three room model cottages, which so many landlords have built in different parts of England, are rarely to be seen in Wales. I saw some good cottages on the estates of Mr. Hughes at Kinmel, and of Lord Penrhyn at Bangor; but good cottages appear to me to be less numerous in Wales, and to be increasing at a slower rate than in any part of England with which I am acquainted. I am not aware that cottage building is attended with any difficulties in Wales which do not exist in England, whereas, on the contrary, there can be no doubt that Wales has the advantage of possessing an abundance of building materials, which are too often wanting in England. Model cottages.

39. The conclusion then at which I arrive, with respect to the counties to which this Report refers, is that no legislation is required for the protection of juvenile or female labour in agriculture. Conclusion.

Children are not employed in agriculture to such an extent as to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory elementary education.

No doubt if it be thought desirable to legislate for the purpose of improving the education generally throughout the country, such legislation will be beneficial in Wales as well as in England, but it is no part of my duty to make suggestions as to the mode in which this can be done.

I have again to express my thanks for the courtesy and hospitality which I have universally met with among those to whom I have had to address myself in the course of my inquiries.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,

F. H. NORMAN.

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greater in North Wales, where the average annual rate of mortality from all causes to 1,000 persons living (1851–60) was 20, than in England generally, where the rate was 22. It is to be feared also that an opinion prevails in Wales (as in many parts of England), that a subsequent marriage cancels previous immorality, and however much this opinion may be disapproved of and deplored, it is hardly fair to compare the illegitimate births in counties where it prevails with the illegitimate births in counties where no similar sanction is given by public opinion to illicit intercourse.

I am indebted to W. Farr, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., of the Registrar-General's Office, for the figures given in this note.

REPORT by Mr. CULLEY on the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

O. 1. I have the honour of submitting to you the evidence which I received in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen on the mode of employment and general condition of the agricultural labouring class.

Mode of collecting evidence. 2. In collecting this evidence I adopted the same course as I have hitherto done, selecting one union for close examination, and paying short visits to others at the time I had appointed to meet their respective boards of guardians.

Narberth Union a typical district. 3. As a typical district I selected Narberth Union, which lies between the counties, and includes approximately about 80,000 acres in Pembrokeshire and 45,000 in Carmarthen. This union also fairly represents the mixed breeding, dairying, and tillage farming prevalent in the two counties, and depending (as far as they are not the result of climate) on geological formations, the most important of which are to be found in the union I am speaking of.

Little-England-beyond-Wales. 4. Narberth Union also contains a considerable section (upwards of 8,000) of the English or Flemish population, who inhabit a district round the south coast, which will be sufficiently indicated by drawing a line from St. David's Head on the west, through the town of Narberth, to the mouth of the river Taf on the east. This mixed colony of Saxons and Flemings is said to have settled itself on the coast of Pembrokeshire about the beginning of the 12th century. It is said that the Saxons were sent by Henry the First to teach the Flemings to speak English. Be that as it may, the inhabitants of "Little-England-beyond-Wales" speak English with a pronunciation much more like the northern than the southern English, and resemble the northerners more in appearance.

Separation of English and Welsh races. 5. As an instance of how completely apart the English and Welsh races have kept themselves, I may mention that I have visited two cottages within about 100 yards of each other, in one of which I was not understood, because I could only speak English, while in the other I should have been as little understood if I had spoken Welsh.

6. Narberth town, which I made my head-quarters for about three weeks, stands on the line of demarkation, and whenever I went northwards I was glad to avail myself of the kindly offered assistance of Mr. Wm. Philipps (a relieving officer of some 20 years' standing) as guide and interpreter.

Agricultural labourers living in their 7. Before considering more closely the evidence as it serves to exhibit the condition of the agricultural labouring class, it will be well to explain that the farm labourer, as he would be generally

understood in England, *i. e.* as a man providing his own food and that of his family, and dependent altogether on the wages he receives from his employer, is a comparatively small quantity in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen.

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own cottages and providing their own food, a comparatively small quantity in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen.

8. The farming of the two counties is, as I have said before, a mixed system of breeding, dairying, and tillage, about one-fifth of the total acreage being annually under the plough, and less than one-fourth subject to it. Nor is any great change likely to take place in this respect; neither the climate, which is very wet, especially in spring and autumn, nor the formation of the surface, which is very uneven, are suited to the cultivation of corn; while, on the other hand, the continual moisture and mild winters are very favourable to grass, and, in fact, except in favoured spots, such as Laugharne Marsh or the limestone district near Stackpole, if it was not that the moisture and mild winters are favourable to the growth of root crops, still less land would be under the plough, and still less labour would be required.*

Again, the number of labourers proper is still further reduced by the fact that holdings are generally small, and a great deal of the required work is done by the farmers and their families; some farms, indeed, are so small that the tenant does occasional work as a labourer for neighbouring farmers.

Of the labourers employed a large proportion are unmarried; men, women, and lads being hired by the year, and boarded and lodged in the farmhouse or on the premises. Women hired by the year to assist in the dairy and do general farm work sleep in the house, the hired men and lads more often in a loft over the stables, on clothes spread on clean straw in the body of a cart. (Appendix A., 3 and 25.)

As if to reduce the chances of a married labourer, who wishes to be independent and feed his family as well as himself, still further, it is a common custom for married men to receive their food from the farmers as part payment of wages.†

9. The great improvement which has taken place during the last 20 years in the position of the agricultural labouring class in South Wales being one of the most important features to which I have to draw your attention, before going into the question of what wages are worth now, I shall take the liberty of quoting two very competent authorities on the condition of the labourer, past and present.

The condition of the labouring class in South Wales greatly improved during the last 20 years.

In his prize report on the farming of South Wales (published in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal for 1849), Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., says:—

"The peasantry of West Wales are contented and thrifty. Their wages are not often more than 6*s.* in the upper and 7*s.* per week in the lower country. It is customary to board the labourers wholly or in part during harvest, giving them the same wages. They are neat and skilful in some of the minor branches of husbandry, but in general field work, where strength and exertion are required, they are much inferior to English labourers; indeed, a Lincolnshire workman at *half-a-crown* a day is not dearer than most Welsh labourers at *a shilling*. In support of this I may state that task work (which is seldom heard of here, *i. e.* in Wales) cannot be done cheaper in Wales than in the east of England. This is naturally the case. A man who consumes *wheaten bread* and *meat* must be in better working trim than the man who eats *barley cake* and a *little butter*, and until Welsh labourers are better fed they cannot be physically capable of sustaining with equal ease the fatigues of a hard day's work. Their principal diet is oat and barley-meal, moistened with water and made into cakes; these cakes are pressed very thin, and baked on an iron plank. Barley bread is made in large loaves, fermented with leaven."

Passing now from 1849 to 1869, Mr. William Philipps (relieving officer of Narberth Union), than whom no man understands better the position of the South Wales peasant, says in his evidence (Appendix A. 19):—

"The condition of the labouring class is much improved since my recollection both as to wages and position. The usual rate of wages for agricultural labourers about 25 years ago was from 3*s.* to 4*s.* weekly and their food; there were some privileges in addition, such as manure for setting potatoes and employment for the wives and any of the children who were able during haymaking and harvest, but in those days the children were badly clad, and if sickness came to the house the family were some time before recovering. Barley bread and potatoes were their chief food, and schooling was little thought of. I believe the turning point in the labourer's advanced condition was about the making of the South Wales Railway; the demand for labour and the offer of more wages induced many to accept the opportunity, and a large number of agricultural labourers were employed on the line. On the completion of the railway great advantages were opened for labourers to visit the coal mines in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, which they could formerly only reach on foot. Some return occasionally to their native homes, while large numbers with their families settle on the hills, and some emigrate to America and the colonies. Under these circumstances the present condition of the working class is much superior to what it was. The usual rate of wages are now 6*s.* per week and food and from 9*s.* to 12*s.* on their own finding. Wheaten bread is now almost universally used, but the present high price of butcher's meat is rather beyond their means . . . . Applications for relief by the able-bodied without being afflicted by sickness are very rare in these days, and under these circumstances, together with privileges of educating their children at a small charge, the present general condition of the labourer is much improved."

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* It may be well to state the following particulars for refererence:—

Agricultural statistics.

	Acres.
Total acreage of the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke	1,000,022
Total acreage accounted for in Agricultural Returns for 1868	651,533
In permanent grass	377,337
In cultivation (including artificial grasses which cover 83,921 acres)	274,196

Geological formations.

The northern and larger part of Pembrokeshire, and about three-fourths of Carmarthenshire, rest on beds of the upper and lower Silurian systems, presenting a very uneven and generally poor surface to the farmer.

In south Pembrokeshire there are alternate narrow strips (running east and west) of the Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous systems.

There is good land, where corn gives well, (a rare thing in South Wales) on the limestone, especially in the neighbourhood of Stackpole, and there is good corn land on the Old Red Sandstone in Laugharne Marsh and the Vale of the Towy.

† Mr. J. Lloyd, relieving officer of the north-west district of Carmarthen Union, says in his evidence (Appendix A. 35)—

"Very few labourers in my district find their own food. I hardly know their wages."

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How railways have affected the condition of the labouring class.

10. Many other witnesses, especially relieving officers, spoke of the great change for the better which has taken place in the condition of the labouring class during their recollection, and I have no doubt that Mr. William Philipps is right in dating this change for the better from the commencement of the South Wales Railway. Not only did the employment on the railway works immediately affect the labour market of a thinly populated district, but it also introduced the ill-paid and ill-fed Welsh labourer to a class of well-fed and abler workmen, and at the completion of the railway the higher wages of the coal mines and iron and copper works of Glamorganshire were put within comparatively easy reach of every one.*

11. The man who upon a diet of potatoes, oatmeal flummery, and barley cake was worth 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week to the farmer, became, when fed on wheaten bread and meat, worth 12*s.* a week to the railway contractor, and having tasted of the more generous diet which farm wages would not buy, he set the example of an exodus which has been going on to a remarkable extent of late years from the rural districts of South Wales. †

Effect of better wages and food.

12. But the Welsh farmers may take heart. As Mr. Sewell Read told them 20 years ago, and as the reports of this Commission have gone a long way towards proving, one man may be as well worth 15*s.* a week as another man is worth 7*s.*, and an ill-fed labourer, who is only worth 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week, may very easily on better food become worth 10*s.* or 12*s.* Mr. Sewell Read, speaking of 20 years ago, when farm labourers' wages in South Wales were from 6*s.* to 7*s.* a week, says,—"Piece-work cannot "be done cheaper in Wales than in the east of England." Now, when wages in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen have gone up to something like an average (all told) of 12*s.* a week, such piece-work as the Welsh understand, as, for instance, mowing corn and hay, as well as carpenters' and masons' work, is cheaper (according to the evidence which I received on the subject) than in any of the English counties which I have inspected.

13. Beyond the fact that Welsh farming has improved, though much remains to be done in this respect, during the very time that wages have been almost doubled, the farmer, as a ratepayer, or rather as *the* ratepayer, is receiving a reward for feeding his labourers better. Mr. T. G. Bush, Medical Officer of Narberth Union, in answer to my question, "Is the change of food, gradually taking place, for good "or for evil?" says (Appendix A. 16),—

"Most decidedly for good. I find that since the potatoe and porridge diet (which was up to the time of the outbreak of the potatoe disease the prevalent food of the agricultural labourer and cottager) has been to a great extent abandoned and replaced by bread, butter, and cheese; that the labourer is more able to resist the influences of weather, and when he is struck down by disease there is a far greater rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so that he is able soon to resume work. It may also be added that the board of guardians now give a larger amount of relief to the sick poor than was formerly the case."

Food, Wages, and Hiring.

Value of food and lodging as provided by the employer.

14. In order to arrive at the value of the wages of men who are boarded and lodged by their employer, or receive their food as part payment, as well as to compare their earnings with those of the smaller class who receive their wages altogether or chiefly in money, I shall take the board and lodging as generally worth 6*s.* a week, and the food as worth 8*d.* a day.

The nature of the lodging I have already described. I am allowing 1*s.* 4*d.* a week as the value of the bed on the floor of the hay loft. It will, however, immediately strike you that 8*d.* a day is a very low estimate for the cost of the food of a labouring man, when provided by his employer. In taking 8*d.* a day as the value of the food I am going beyond the value assigned to it by the majority of farmers themselves, and perhaps beyond the actual value in many cases. Whether my estimate is a proper one or not will best appear from an examination of the evidence as to the difference in money paid to men who find themselves, as compared with those who receive their food on working days from the farmer, as well as from an examination of what the food usually consists of.

15. In nearly every statement of the value of wages (and there are many) in the evidence, you will see that 9*s.* a week on their own finding is considered equal to 6*s.* on the farmer's finding; *i.e.*, if a man chooses to provide his own food the farmer only allows him 3*s.* a week more than if he (the farmer) fed him. Occasionally I found a farmer allowing 4*s.* a week difference, but this was usually an employer who provided better food than his neighbours, or who was anxious to induce his men to provide for themselves.‡

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* Mr. W. J. Rowe, relieving officer of Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20)—
"Our labourers are much better off than they used to be."
Mr. D. J. Vaughan, R. O., Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 23)—
"Wages have risen very much of late years; the young men leave the district a good deal."
Mr. Daniel Williams, R. O., Llandovery Union, says (Appendix A. 28)—
"Labourers are much better off than they used to be, simply because the labour market has been thinned by men going off to 'The Works' and emigrating to America."

† The Ven. Archdeacon Clark, says (Appendix A. 2)—
"The population is not excessive, perhaps the reverse; it is diminishing in the rural districts, and there is generally no lack of employment."
The Haverfordwest Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 13)—
"Our agricultural labouring class are diminishing in number."
Mr. J. J. Johnston, R. O., Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 22)—
"There is much less manual labour in the country than there used to be, and the men go off to the works or emigrate."
Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix A. 25)—
"Able-bodied men go off to the works in Glamorganshire, and leave the old men and lads to do the work here."
The Rev. D. Thomas, Rector of Pendine, speaking of female employment (Appendix B., 60), says—
"They are not easily found; they marry very young and off they go to Merthyr."

‡ Mr. W. Philipps, R. O., Narberth Union, says in a letter addressed to me—
"Three shillings per week is the sum always retained if the man has his food with the farmer."

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16. In taking the food as worth 8*d.* a day, I am therefore putting it as worth 2*d.* a day more than the generality of farmers would allow for it, but I think I am justified in doing so from the general impression which prevails that the labourer who receives 6*s.* a week and his food is better off than the man who receives 9*s.* on his own finding, and from the fact that large farmers who object to the system of feeding their men find it necessary to offer 4*s.* a week, or 8*d.* a day (for six working days), in lieu of food.

Evidence as to the nature of the food provided by employers.

17. After all, 8*d.* a day is one-third less than the labourers in any of the English counties which I have inspected would accept in exchange for food provided by their employers, and it becomes interesting to see how the character of the food justifies its being valued at so small a sum.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, thus describes the diet (Appendix A. 6):—

"Breakfast—A broth (made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes) and a piece of bacon or roof-beef, or milk and washbrew, or coffee and bread and butter. Dinner—The broth. Tea—Not usually given. Supper—The broth." *

Mr. Wm. Philipps, R. O., Narberth Union, thus described to me the food provided by farmers:—

"For breakfast—Broth and potatoes. For dinner—Milk-broth, or roof-beef, or bacon. For supper—More broth. Of course there is with each meal plenty of barley bread and cheese." †

Describing the food in *harvest*, Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthan Union, says (Appendix A. 25),—

"The dinner in harvest is milk and flummery, with cheese and butter. At 6 or 7 o'clock they have bacon, potatoes, and cabbage done in a pot, and rice pudding."

Mr. Thomas Davidson, an occupier in Narberth Union, gives the following evidence on this subject (Appendix B. 43 b):—

"The board of labourers in some farmhouses is broth for breakfast and dinner and supper, with bread and cheese, adding a little bacon for dinner of what the broth has been made. The better farmers give tea, bread, and butter for breakfast; meat, vegetables, and bread for dinner; and broth, with potatoes, bread, and cheese for supper."

Mr. Trotter, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, speaking of the food of the labourers in the English quarter (where wages are higher than in the greater part of the Welsh district), says (Appendix B. 30),—

"Their food chiefly consists of barley meal (sometimes mixed with flour) made into bread. They generally have for breakfast cold tea and bread; for dinner generally the same thing; for supper bacon and potatoes."

Causes of the cheapness of dietary.

18. Such are descriptions of the dietary which, at the consumers' own estimate, I shall, in calculating the value of wages, consider worth 8*d.* a day. It is cheaper than the dietary that would be accepted from an employer in almost any county in England, from the large proportion of potatoes, oat and barley meal, and cheap cheese that is used, as compared with wheaten flour and butchers' meat.

19. It must not, however, be imagined that the ordinary labourer who feeds himself spends so large a proportion of his wages on his own stomach. I was constantly told that the labourer was better fed on the farmer's finding than on his own; that when he received his food from the farmer the labourer himself was better off, while his family suffered; that, in fact, under this system too large a share of the wages is consumed in feeding the bread-winner.

Custom of giving food to married servants will probably gradually disappear.

20. Where cottages are not conveniently placed, the small farmer, who is content (as the small farmer in these counties is) to feed his labourers as well as he does himself, finds it very convenient to provide food on working days for his men; but as farms are increased in size and fall into the hands of men who are not content to feed with their servants, the custom of providing food for married labourers who live in their own cottages will gradually disappear, to the advantage, I think, of the labourers' families.

Wages of single men hired by the year.

21. In examining the value of labourers' earnings in different parts of my district I shall take first the case of single men who are hired by the year and boarded and lodged by the farmer. Such men when over 20 years of age receive from 12*l.* to 20*l.* in money. In the north of Pembrokeshire and west of Carmarthenshire they rarely receive more than 12*l.* or 13*l.* whereas in the north and east of Carmarthenshire they would command from 14*l.* to 15*l.*, and some receive as much as 20*l.* Taking therefore the board and lodging to be worth 6*s.* a week, the wages of this class vary (according to

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, and an occupier in the Union, says (Appendix A. 6)—

"Men's wages vary according to locality; when near a town or in a coal, lime, or manufacturing district, wages vary from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week; in the more rural parts they are 9*s.* a week or 1*s.* a day and food."

Mr. W. J. Rowe, R. O., Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20)—

"In the agricultural part of my district the wages of labourers are 6*s.* and meat, or from 9*s.* to 10*s.* without meat."

Mr. J. Thomas, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says—

"Men who keep themselves don't average more than 9*s.* a week; those that are fed by the farmer and sleep at home average 6*s.* a week."

Description of food used by labourers in South Wales.

* *The broth*, as Mr. Phillips says, is usually made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes, occasionally it is made with milk; when made with water and used for dinner or supper, a piece of bacon or dried ("roof") beef is boiled in it.

Washbrew or Flummery (which is a very common article of consumption when labourers provide their own food) resembles very closely what the Scotch call *Sowens*, and is made of oatmeal and water, the mixture, after being allowed to sour, is strained to remove the husks and then boiled till it thickens, when it looks like a cross between porridge and blanc-mange. Washbrew is generally eaten before it is perfectly cold with skim or butter milk.

Roof or dried beef is commonly the dried flesh of a cow which has failed to be of service for dairy purposes, by no means such agreeable food as a "*giddy* sheep sticked in time" which the Dorsetshire shepherd's wife described to my colleague, Mr. Stanhope.

† *The cheese is made* from skimmed milk, and is worth from 2*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb. A great deal of this cheese is consumed by the labourers of South Wales.

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locality and capability) from 10*s.* 6*d.* to something over 13*s.* 6*d.* a week. (Appendix A. 15, 25, 28; B. 34, 35 a).

Wages of men paid partly in money and partly in kind.

22. Taking now the large class of labourers (also hired by the year, though generally paid fortnightly,) who live in their own cottages and receive their food on working days from the farmer,—I found that the wages of this class varied from 5*s.* a week in the worst-paid district of Pembrokeshire, to 7*s.* 6*d.* a week on some farms which I visited in Carmarthenshire. Over the larger part of both counties 6*s.* a week and food is the ordinary wage. *Irrespective therefore of other perquisites or allowances*, which I shall take into account afterwards, this class, putting the value of the food at 8*d.* a day, receive a wage worth from 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* a week, according to locality, and are in the same position as to other allowances as the third class, who find their own food, and in the purely agricultural districts receive 9*s.* a week wages. (Appendix A. 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27; B. 43 a.)

23. Before assessing the value of the total earnings of these two classes, it will be necessary to glance at the allowances or perquisites which the labourers comprising them usually obtain. In the case of nearly all such farm servants their fuel (on an average 4 tons of culm per annum) is led free of charge, and a certain amount of potatoes (about 1 cwt.) are planted for them on the farmer's land and at his expense, save that for each load of dung supplied to the potato land the labourer or his wife must do a good day's work in harvest. In addition to these allowances, which prevail almost universally where the wage is 9*s.* a week, the labourer, if a good man, has a cottage and garden either rent-free or at a very small rent; and in several cases I found that the labourers were never charged above a certain price for the corn they used, however high the market price might be. Mr. R. D. Jenkens, a large occupier in St. Dogmell's parish, for instance, never raises the price of barley supplied to his servants above 4*s.* a bushel.*

24. Taking the leadage of fuel as worth 26*s.* a year, and the potato land (allowing for the drawback of service in harvest) as worth the same, and the rent-free cottage and garden as worth 52*s.* a year, the earnings of ordinary men of the 3rd class are raised to an average of 11*s.* a week for the year where the money wage is 9*s.* a week and to 12*s.* a week, where the money wage is 10*s.*, as in the neighbourhood of Carmarthen. In the same way the earnings of the 2nd class are raised, where these allowances are all given, as is commonly the case, unless others are substituted for them, to from 11*s.* to 13*s.* 6*d.* a week on an average for the year.

I do not mean to say that a free cottage, leadage of fuel, and potato land are always given in the case of men who receive 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week and their food, or 9*s.* or 10*s.* without food; but I say that they are the most common allowances, and that where a farmer cannot give a free cottage he either increases the wage in summer, or gives Sunday food or some other allowance of about equal value.†

Wages paid entirely in money very unusual.

25. Wages paid entirely in money are very unusual except in the neighbourhood of towns where the rate of wages is naturally higher than in the rural districts. In the east of Carmarthenshire I found wages paid only in money to vary from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week. In the neighbourhood of Tenby and Pembroke farm labourers paid entirely in money receive 12*s.* a week as a rule, and 15*s.* for about three months in summer. Quarrymen working by the piece in South Pembrokeshire expect to make at least 18*s.* a week.‡

Table showing the average earnings of agricultural labourers in different districts.

26. The following table will give a very fair idea of the value of the earnings (including all ordinary allowances) at the command of any able-bodied farm labourer in the respective districts:—

South Pembrokeshire	- -	11*s.* to 13*s.* per week.
North „	- - -	10*s.* to 12*s.* „
West Carmarthenshire	- -	10*s.* to 12*s.* „
East „	- - -	12*s.* to 14*s.* „

In Narberth Union, which I took as a typical district, I think the value of the earnings of an ordinary farm labourer are seldom worth less than an average of 11*s.* a week, and seldomer perhaps worth more than 12*s.*

Employment of boys in farm labour.

27. Boys under 13 years of age are very little employed in agriculture for wages in either county. My labour returns (Appendix C., Table A.) show that, excluding haytime and harvest, only one boy under 10 years of age was employed during three-quarters of the year on 5,169 acres, included in 18 farms. On the same acreage only three boys between 10 and 13 years of age are returned as employed permanently, and the proportion of boys and lads under 18 as compared with adult males is as one to six. As nearly one half (2,432) of these 5,169 acres are arable, the returns probably show a larger proportion of youthful as compared with adult labour than would be the case if the farms from which I received returns had contained only the proportion of arable land prevalent in the counties. On the other hand, as boys are said to be more employed by the small working farmers, my returns, which are from farms averaging nearly 300 acres, might appear to lessen the proportion of youthful labour.

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* Mr. R. D. Jenkens thus describes his manner of paying his labourers (Appendix B. 34)—

"I can speak of those in my own employment. I have some labourers who have 1*s.* a day on their own finding excepting during the harvest, when I give them all their food in addition; those men also have 3*s.* a day when cutting hay; they pay me 3*l.* a year each for their cottages, gardens, and a sufficient quantity of land to keep a cow each and sometimes rear a calf and to grow corn, but not sufficient corn to maintain their families. I allow my teams and men to cultivate their land for them, and to haul their fuel and manure free of expense for haulage. I also pay rates and tithes charged in respect of their holdings.

"To other labourers I give 8*s.* a week on their own finding with food during harvest time, and the same wages for cutting hay as the prior class referred to; they live on my farm. I charge them 1*l.* a year for a cottage and garden, but they have no land to keep a cow. I haul their fuel free of charge.

"To a third class I give 8*s.* a week from November to March, and 9*s.* from March to November, with the same regulations as to food during harvest, and also the same wage for cutting hay as the others; they do not live in my cottages, therefore pay rather a higher rent than mine do. I allow my labourers to plant potatoes on my land, giving them six or eight cart loads of my farm manure for which they, or rather their wives, give me a day's harvesting for each cart load of manure, no other charge made for the load; the women have their food when so harvesting."

Fuel used by labourers.

The *fuel* in ordinary use amongst the labourers and small farmers in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen is a mixture of the small or dust of anthracite coal and clay made up when damp into what are termed "balls." A fire of balls burns slowly, with very little smoke, but emits a certain amount of steam, which is unpleasant to the nostrils of a person unused to it. About four tons of small coal made up in this way will serve a labourer's family for 12 months.

† Mr. H. P. Goode, land agent, speaking of Slebech parish, in Narberth Union, says (Appendix B. 62a)—

"Wages are nearly uniform for all ages, 9*s.* a week, with cottage and garden rent free, their coals driven for them, and sundry other privileges, worth in all 12*s.* per week."

‡ Mr. V. Rees, an occupier in Llangunnor parish (Carmarthen Union), says (Appendix B. 65a)—

"Ordinary labourers I pay 12*s.* a week, and in haytime I have to give 15*s.*"

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28. The following evidence, while it confirms the impression which would be gained from the "labour returns," will show how little, as compared with southern English counties, boys under 13 are employed in farm labour in South Wales.

Evidence shows that no physical injury is done to children by the manner in which they are employed in agriculture.

The Narberth Board of Guardians, in answer to a question of mine, said (see Appendix A. 12):—

"Children under 13 years of age are very little employed. . . . . All widows requiring relief are allowed 1*s.* weekly for each child until it attains the age of 13, provided the child is kept at school."

The Haverfordwest Guardians said (Appendix A. 13):—

"Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals. . . . Children receiving parochial relief are allowed such relief, and payment for schooling, up to 14 years of age."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians said (Appendix A. 14):—

"Boys begin to be employed at about 12 years of age."

In Carmarthen Union widows receive relief for their children till they are 13.

The Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union said (Appendix A. 15):—

"Except on hill farms, looking after cattle or sheep, boys are not usually employed in farm labour in this union till they are 11 or 12 years of age."

The ploughboy system is very little practised in either of the counties, and where it is, no boy under 12 years of age is expected to draggle through sticky land at the side of a horse.

It is scarcely necessary to quote the medical evidence as given by Messrs. T. G. Bush, J. Hughes, and D. Lloyd, surgeons, to establish the soundness of the opinion of all witnesses whom I examined on the subject, *that there is nothing physically injurious to children in the manner of their employment in agriculture.**

Wages of boys.

29. Boys who are employed under 12 years of age receive very little beyond their food; I found, for instance, one boy of 10 employed herding cattle in Begelly parish (in the English quarter) who had, according to his father's account, 1*d.* a day and his victuals. This boy could neither read nor write.†

After they have reached 12, or more commonly 13 years of age, boys generally seek and obtain a yearly hiring, when they receive their board and lodging (such as I have described for hired men), and from 2*l.* to 3*l.* wages, some part of the wage frequently taking the shape of a pair of boots or old clothes. By the time a boy arrives at 16 years of age, his wage would ordinarily have risen to about 6*l.*

Employment and wages of girls.

30. Girls go out to service at about the same age as boys, *i.e.*, from 12 to 13 years of age. On dairy farms, besides the ordinary duties of domestic servants, they are expected to help the dairy-maid and look after cows, calves, and pigs. On arable farms they are also employed in setting potatoes, hoeing turnips, and assisting in harvest work. They begin at about the same wage as boys, but I did not find any instance of an efficient grown-up dairy-maid receiving a higher wage than 10*l.* On one farm which I visited, where three dairy-maids were kept, their wages were respectively, 4*l.*, 7*l.*, and 10*l.*

31. On almost all farms in South Wales there is a certain amount of dairy work, and the hours of work of the female servants are long. They are thus described by Mr. J. L. Phillips, chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, and a considerable occupier of land (Appendix A. 6):—

"Women get up at 5 a.m. to milk, &c., and continue till bedtime (9 p.m.) to serve in the general duties expected on a small farm."

32. On some arable farms girls of 13 or 14 years of age are employed during the turnip season at day wages, receiving from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Their hours of work usually vary from eight to nine hours; occasionally they are expected to work for 10 hours.

Employment of women in general farm work.

33. On dairy farms the field work of women is more or less confined to haytime, but on arable farms they are employed in all kinds of work, except such as is connected with the management of horses.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, whom I have quoted above, says (Appendix A. 6):—

"Women do all the work necessary on a farm in common with the men, except ploughing, carting, spading, and hard work generally considered too heavy and laborious for females."

The Haverfordwest Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 13):—

"Adult women (chiefly married) are employed in all kinds of farm work."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians say (Appendix A. 14):—

"On arable farms women (usually married) are employed in all light farm work; but female employment is more generally confined to harvest and haytime."

The Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union (in which there is a smaller proportion of arable land) say (Appendix A. 15),—

"Women are not much employed except in hay and corn harvest; they are much less employed than formerly."

Medical evidence.

* Mr. T. G. Bush, surgeon and M. O., Narberth Union, says—

"There is no taxing of the strength beyond the physical capability of the child."

Mr. John Hughes, surgeon, Carmarthen, says—

"I do not believe that either boys or girls are overworked."

Mr. D. Lloyd, surgeon and M. O. of Carmarthen Union, says—

"There is nothing injurious physically to the children of the agricultural labouring class in the manner of their employment."

† Mr. J. Lloyd, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says—

"Boys don't get wages much before they are 12 or 13, they get their food and some old clothes."

At the collieries in South Pembrokeshire boys (and girls) of 10 or 11 can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day (Appendix B. 35b, 41a, 41b).

In the barking season, in both counties, children from about 10 years of age assist their parents in piece-work (Appendix A. 2 and 4).

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34. The diminution in the employment of female labour in Llandovery Union is a probable consequence of the rise in men's wages, the rate of wages in that union being at least 1*s.* a week higher than, for example, in Narberth Union.

Labour returns show the proportion of married and unmarried women employed, and how the employment varies throughout the year.

35. The Labour Returns (Table B., Appendix C.), which exclude extra hands only employed in haytime and harvest, will give a very correct idea of how female employment varies throughout the year, and what proportion of the adult female labourers are married.

As far as females over 18 years of age are concerned the returns stand thus:

On 5,169 acres, about half of which are arable, there were employed during the 12 months preceding the time at which the returns were made,—

	Women employed.		
	Married.	Single.	Total.
Spring - - -	39	37	76
Summer - - -	45	46	91
Autumn - - -	42	44	86
Winter - - -	33	36	69

The number of married and single women (including girls over 18 hired to do general farm work) is about the same, and (exclusive of those who only assist in hay or harvest work) about 80 per cent. of the women who do field work in summer follow the same occupation in winter.

Wages of female workers.

36. For ordinary out-door work women usually receive 8*d.* a day, though in some parishes I found 10*d.* a day given all through the summer. Where food is given the money payment is dropped to 4*d.* or 6*d.*, according as the hours of work are 8 or 10. In haytime and harvest the 8*d.* becomes a shilling a day, or food is given, making the wage worth about 1*s.* 2*d.* In some of the eastern parishes women earn as much as 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in harvest; 8*d.* a day is however the usual payment which a woman receives for a day's work of eight or nine hours, according to the custom of the farm or parish. Where unmarried women work men's hours, *i.e.*, 10 hours a day, they commonly receive 6*d.* a day and their food.*

Earnings of married women.

37. As the wages women earn in harvest, except in the value of the food given, are very little higher than at ordinary times, and as a married woman has to give about a week's work to repay the potato manure allowed by the farmer, she can hardly be expected, say in Narberth Union, to bring to the family purse more than the produce of about 200 days in the year at 8*d.* a day, or 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the 12 months.

Earnings of a labourer and his wife in Narberth Union, and the use they make of them as compared with a Berkshire labourer and his wife.

38. As an example of how difficult it is to estimate what a labourer can or cannot do for his family, simply from knowing how much money he earns, take the case of a labourer and his wife in Narberth Union as compared with a similar couple in Wantage Union, in Berks, where the day-work wage for women is the same as in Narberth.

The Berkshire woman by extra harvest wages could, working the same number of days, earn at least 1*l.* more in the year than the Welsh, while her husband would earn an average of 2*s.* a week more for the year, and yet the Welsh woman and her husband would not only show you a much better furnished house but would be and are perfectly willing to do without the assistance of their children for two years longer than the Berkshire couple would be willing. It can hardly be said in this case that the better management is the result of better education. As compared with the Berkshire labourer the Welshman is thrifty and sober; his thrift induces him to live on cheaper and coarser food, and his sobriety is a savings' bank; but I take it that both thrift and sobriety are aided by the way in which his wages are paid.

Complaints of immorality amongst the hired servants.

39. I heard no complaint, as far as I remember, against field labour proper as leading to immorality amongst young women, but I was constantly hearing very serious complaints against the manner in which the young hired female servants are permitted to conduct themselves. I think it will be as well to allow one or two of the most important witnesses to speak for themselves on this subject.

Speaking of the girls who go out to service at farmhouses, Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor, says (Appendix A. 1),—

"It is too much the rule on the part of employers, I am sorry to say, to pay but little attention to the moral condition of these servant girls; they lose their characters to a deplorable extent, and become mothers at a very early age."

The Ven. the Archdeacon of St. David's (Appendix A. 2) says:—

"Bastardy is common, unchastity, in the youth of both sexes, the rule rather than the exception. This is greatly owing to the conditions under which the farm lads and servant girls are hired (at fairs without a character very commonly), and to the excessive liberty allowed them when in service."

* Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 6)—

"Women earn 6*d.*, 8*d.*, and 9*d.* a day, working from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. In harvest they make 10*d.*, 1*s.*, and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day."

Mr. J. Thomas, R. O., Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix A. 27)—

"Women working 10 hours a day commonly get 6*d.* a day and their food."

Mr. R. D. Jenkens, landowner and occupier in Cardigan Union, says (Appendix B. 34)—

"I pay girls and women 8*d.* a day on their own finding, excepting during harvest, when I give them their food."

Mr. V. Rees, occupier in Carmarthen Union, says (Appendix B. 65a)—

"I employ as many women as I can get, singling turnips and spreading manure, &c. I pay women 8*d.* in winter and 10*d.* in summer, and I give tea and beer in long days. They begin work at 8½ a.m., and work till 6 p.m., with an hour's interval."

The Rev. Wm. Owen, Baptist minister, after speaking of the evils arising from the want of accommodation in cottages, says (Appendix A. 3):— O.

"Hence with the custom of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, and hay-lofts, &c., entirely removed from the control of the master, from whence they prowl about in the night, about neighbours' houses, seeking and obtaining intercourse with the girls through the night, arise the many cases of bastardy which we hear of in the county."

Mr. Wm. Philipps, Relieving Officer, Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 20):—

"The rate of bastardy is, I believe, on the decrease; the cause of its being at the present rate is the great levity allowed to farm servants in spending nights together courting, not always from love or affection, but usually from an old custom of the country."

In a letter addressed by Sir James J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell, landowners, "to the "freeholders and tenant farmers of the county of Carmarthen," after urging upon farmers to adopt a system of characters for their hired servants, male and female, these gentlemen say:—

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which, at present, much unnecessary license is given in farmhouses."

What Mr. Philipps calls "an old custom of the country" will probably linger long before it disappears or takes some more decent shape; but I think there are signs that the "freeholders and "tenant farmers" of the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen are beginning to exercise more control over the conduct of their hired servants.

Schools and School Attendance.

40. Table C. (Appendix C.) shows the number of children under 13 years of age on the registers, as well as in average attendance at 29 out of the 34 schools in existence in Narberth Union at the time of my visit, and gives the names of those parishes (16 in number) in which no school is provided. I hoped to have been able to present a complete return of the school attendance in the union, but after waiting a considerable time I have failed to obtain a return in five cases.* School returns from Narberth Union.

Excluding from Table C. Crunwere, Llandissilio, Llanfalteg, Llangan, Monachlogddu, and Newmoat parishes, from which I have either received no return or an incomplete one, the attendance account stands thus:—that in an area of 101,897 acres containing 18,300 inhabitants, there are *in average attendance* at some elementary school:—

In summer - - - -	456	boys under 10.
	298	„ between 10 and 13.
	420	girls under 10.
	222	„ between 10 and 13.
Total children under 13 -	1,396	
In winter - - - -	445	boys under 10.
	333	„ between 10 and 13.
	379	girls under 10.
	277	„ between 10 and 13.
Total children under 13 -	1,434	

And that there are on the register of the same schools:—

In summer - - -	2,116 children under 13.
In winter - - -	2,109 children under 13.†

As there has been no attempt to separate the children of the agricultural labouring class from those of other classes in making the school returns from Narberth Union, the returns may be fairly taken to include 85 per cent. of all the children in the union under 13 years of age who are receiving education; they include, in fact, the children of the labourer and ordinary farmer, as well as those of the townspeople or villagers of a corresponding rank in life.

41. It would appear, therefore, that there is one child under 13 years of age *on the register* of some elementary school for every seven and one-third persons, and one *in average attendance* for every 11 persons, taking the mean between the summer and winter attendance. Proportion of children attending schools.

42. The following table will show how this attendance compares with that in Woburn Union in

* These five schools are—a small preparatory school at Crunwere, a Baptist school at Llandissilio, and the schools in Llanfalteg, Monachlogddu, and Newmoat parishes.

† To any one who knows the union, and examines the returns in Table C., it will be apparent that the above statement fairly represents the school attendance of children under 13 years of age. By excluding Crunwere and Llangan, the proportion of attendance to population gains a little, as the bulk of the children in these two parishes attend schools, such as Llanboidy, Amroth, and Tavernspite, for which the returns are given; on the other hand, the proportion loses about as much by excluding Monachlogddu and Newmoat; to exclude Llandissilio and Llanfalteg does not affect the proportion. Again, a few out-union children are brought into the return by the British school in Llanboidy and the National school in Slebech parish, while, on the other hand, there is a corresponding loss from one or two other parishes on the border of the union.

O. Bedfordshire, Woodstock Union in Oxfordshire, and Wantage Union in Berks, in which I dealt with school returns in the same manner :—

School attendance in Woburn Union, Beds, Woodstock Union, Oxon, Wantage Union, Berks, and Narberth Union compared.

Proportion of Children under 13 to Population.

	On the Register of some Elementary School.	In average Attendance at some Elementary School.
Woburn Union, Beds - - -	1 in 8½	1 in 11
Woodstock Union, Oxon - - -	1 in 7	1 in 9
Wantage Union, Berks - - -	1 in 7½	1 in 9
Narberth Union, South Wales - -	1 in 7⅓	1 in 11

While, therefore, taking all the children under 13, the proportion of such children on the register of some school in Narberth Union exceeds that in Woburn Union, (where straw-plaiting enters as a disturbing cause much more than agricultural labour), and is equal to the average of the more purely agricultural unions of Woodstock and Wantage, the average attendance falls to the level of Woburn Union, and shows that there is a much greater degree of irregularity in attendance on the part of the children in Narberth than in any of the unions with which I have compared it.

Causes of irregularity of attendance in Narberth Union.

43. The cause of this irregularity, which is the difficulty most complained of by school managers in South Wales, will be, to a certain extent, explained by examining the proportion of children under 10 years of age, as compared with those between 10 and 13. In Bedfordshire I found that there were four and a half times as many children under 10 as of children between 10 and 13 at school; in Bucks there were six times as many; in Oxfordshire and Berks about four times many; in Herts (where the proportion of girls to boys, in the case of children over 10, is very large) two and a half times as many ; in Narberth Union (which fairly represents the two counties I am dealing with) the children under 10 only outnumber those between 10 and 13 by one half. If we take the case of boys alone, the difference is still more striking. In the five English counties the boys under 10 are to those over 10 as nearly six to one; in Narberth Union they exceed them by less than one half. Some part therefore of the irregularity complained of is due to the fact, that the average age of children attending elementary schools in South Wales is much greater than in the South Midland district in England, and extends to a time when the English children would have altogether left school, whereas the Welsh keep up an attendance rendered irregular by occasional farm work.

44. To continue the analysis of these returns. The attendance of both boys and girls under 10 falls off in winter, as might be expected from the state of roads and weather and the distance some of the children have to go to school ; on the other hand, the attendance of both sexes when over 10 years of age increases in winter, the boys' by about 10, and the girls' by about 20 per cent., showing that a certain number of children between 10 and 13 years of age are free to attend school in winter, though prevented by other occupations from doing so in summer. That the winter increase for such girls considerably exceeds that of boys, shows that the services of girls between 10 and 13 are more in demand than those of boys of the same age; in point of fact, besides doing all the outside jobs which a boy of 11 or 12 can do, a girl of the same age is more handy to leave at home to look after the house and baby, while the mother is out at summer field work, and her education suffers accordingly.

45. That the Narberth Union school returns compare unfavourably with the English returns I have quoted for children under 10 seems to me to arise in some measure from the cause I pointed out when speaking of the school attendance in Derbyshire, viz. that as the school life goes on longer, there is not the same pressure for regular attendance when young.

Distribution of schools.

46. There is, however, another cause affecting injuriously the attendance of young children, which is, the distance many of them have to walk, owing as much to a bad distribution as to an absolute want of schools.

As far as this difficulty arises from a want of schools, the chief defaulting parishes in Narberth Union are :—

Cyffic,	with a population of	468,	and area of	4,556	acres.
Llanycefn	„ „	416	„	2,684	„
Llanglydwen	„ „	286	„	1,834	„
Llangolman	„ „	282	„	2,912	„
Pendine	„ „	204	„	900	„

The other 11 parishes which are without schools have populations varying from 191 to 40, and areas varying from 1,957 to 352 acres.

47. As to the supply and distribution of schools, the Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister of Narberth, speaking of North Pembrokeshire, which he knows well, says (Appendix A. 3) :—

"In many localities schools are very far from the children, two, three, or four miles perhaps. The schools are generally located near some church or chapel, without any regard to the distance of one school from another. According to the present system of Government aid, the most active of the religious bodies will get up a school in connexion (locally so) with their place of worship, which will be partly supported by Government aid, and we not unfrequently find three or four such schools within a radius of as many miles, while one or two would meet the requirements of the district if properly located."

"If a general educational system were adopted by Government, regard should be had to *distance* and *population*."

Church and dissenting schools.

48. Of the schools described in Table C. (Appendix C.) 17 are national, parochial, or endowed, and are managed by clergymen and landowners who are Churchmen, and 12 are British or private Baptist

schools, and are managed by Dissenters, the greater part of whom are Baptists, the latter schools receiving very little aid from Churchmen. G.

In some parishes, as for example, Cilmaenllwyd and Henllan-Amgoed, the educational field has been left entirely to the Dissenters; in others, such as Jeffreston, Maenclochog, Martletwy, and Slebech, it remains in the hands of Churchmen; in others, such as Amroth and Llandissilio, Church and Dissenting schools, all of them more or less poverty-stricken, keep up an unnecessary contest.

In large parishes, such as Llanboidy and Narberth, the fact that there are both Church and Dissenting schools I think tells favourably on education, though the National school in Llanboidy (the best school of any description which I visited in either Pembrokeshire or Carmarthen) is some five miles from the British school at Whitland in the same parish, and under the management of its chief supporter, Mr. Powell of Maesgwynne, provides an excellent education for children of all denominations.*

49. In the "well worked" parish of Lampeter Velfrey I saw no evil arising from the competition of Church and Dissenting schools, but in others, such as Amroth and Llandissilio, *the religious difficulty* appears to me to be working unmixed evil, by keeping alive two poverty-stricken schools, where one well supported would do much better work than both. I have no doubt also that the religious difficulty has had a good deal to do with the total absence of schools in some of the parishes I have before referred to. There is, however, another difficulty which education has to contend with in Narberth Union as compared with the districts in England which I have visited under your orders, and that is the little interest (with some notable exceptions) taken in the schools by those classes to whom elsewhere they owe their chief success. The religious difficulty.

50. Through the kindness of the Ven. Archdeacon Clark I obtained an account of the income and expenditure of several schools in the Archdeaconry of St. David's. As far as these refer to Narberth Union, you will find a statement of their position in my notes on schools in Appendix C., as well as a similar statement for other schools from information given by teachers and managers. Educational difficulty arising from want of funds.

As examples of what I mean by poverty-stricken, I would draw your attention to my notes on the schools in Amroth, Begelly, Llandissilio, Llangan, Ludchurch, Martletwy, and St. Issells parishes (*see* Nos. 71, 72, 73, 78, 79, 83, 84, 86, and 89). Men can no doubt live cheaper in South Wales than in the greater part of England, but living must be cheap indeed if you can expect to obtain the teaching power of an important parish at a salary, all told, of 10*s.* or 11*s.* a week. The total income of the Amroth National School was, for 1868—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Endowment	15	0	0
Subscriptions	8	4	6
School pence	5	8	9
Total	£28	13	3

The master's salary amounts to 21*l.*, with a cottage and small garden rent-free. In the same parish the teacher of the Baptist school receives only the children's pence, which last year amounted to 11*l.* 14*s.* This parish covers an area of 2,878 acres, and has 889 inhabitants, besides aiding in the education of Crunwere and St. Issells.

St. Issells' National School has about 150 children on the books, who are about equally divided between a master and mistress (in no way connected with each other). The master receives 26*l.*, and the mistress 12*l.* a year. The income of the school for 1868 was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Subscriptions	10	6	0
Endowment	15	0	0
School pence	16	8	0
Total	£41	14	0

The income of the Ludchurch (population, 264; acreage, 1,607) school amounted, according to the Archdeacon's return, to 9*l.* 11*s.*, including subscriptions and school pence; of this the master received 9*l.*

51. The master's salary, however, is only one, though the most important, of the signs of poverty. I confess I would like to see the face of a certificated English master of the usual stamp, if he was sent to exercise his talents in such buildings as the parochial schools of Begelly or Llandissilio. School-houses.

52. No wonder then that the Rev. W. D. Phillips, one of the Diocesan Inspectors of the district, says, in a letter addressed to me (*see* Appendix B. 35a),—

"In the 12 schools which come under my notice, I should pronounce four efficient, and doing really good work. The remainder certainly are the means of diffusing knowledge, but not to the extent or of the accuracy which is desirable. The causes are not far to seek, but to describe them would need not a letter, but a report of a somewhat elaborate character."

53. If there is to be any speedy remedy of such a state of things I cannot help thinking that an educational rate must form an important feature in it. Educational rate.

I have considered the adoption of a rating principle as it would apply to Narberth Union pretty closely, and the conclusion I have come to is this: that to work such a system cheaply, as well as efficiently, the first step would be to declare the Union an educational district, for the purpose of levying a district rate. As soon as this was done it would be the duty of an inspector, either appointed

* The following is a copy of the School Inspector's Report on Llanboidy National School, dated 8th May 1869:—"The order "in this school is excellent, the efficiency very superior. As regards management and instruction this is quite a model school." I am afraid there are not very many schools in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke of which an inspector could report as favourably (*see* Appendix C. 82). The number of children on the register of this school at the time of my visit was 190, of whom about 35 were over 13 years of age.—G. C. Llanboidy national school.

O. by the local authority (whose constitution would depend on the incidence of the rate) or by the Government, to survey the district, and determine the position, number, and character of the schools necessary to meet its educational wants, utilizing existing schools as far as possible (the promoters being compensated out of the district fund). All endowments for the promotion of elementary education I would carry to the credit of the common fund, applying them in reduction of the rate.

All such schools should, I think, receive a Government grant, in no case exceeding one-third of the expenses of the school, the remaining two-thirds being divided as nearly as possible between the school pence and rate. In some districts the parents would be perfectly willing to pay such a contribution as would amount to one-third of the expenses of the schools; in fact they now do so. In others, where low wages prevent them from doing so, the local rate, and not the State grant, should be increased.

An important use of a local authority would be to deal with the case of those children whose parents are altogether unable to contribute to their children's education, the contribution in such cases, as well as that of orphan children, being thrown upon the district rate.

If (as I hope may some day be the case) all rates were paid in equal shares by owners and occupiers, it would be a very simple beginning to such a scheme to declare Unions Educational Districts, and constitute a committee of the guardians, consisting of an equal number of owners and occupiers, the local authority.

I have dwelt somewhat longer on this subject than may perhaps seem necessary, because I am convinced that the first, if not the only thing required to promote education in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke is to establish efficient schools, and the cheapest as well as the speediest way of doing this would be by creating educational districts, and levying a district rate.

Desire to educate their children is rapidly spreading amongst the labouring class, and renders Governmental interference unnecessary except in providing schools.

54. The desire to educate their children is rapidly spreading amongst the labouring class in these two counties, and the extent to which youthful labour is employed in agriculture interferes so little with school attendance that I perfectly agree with the opinion expressed by almost every witness I examined on the subject, *that no restriction as to the age at which children should be permitted to be employed in farm labour is required, either to promote their education or to protect them from physical injury arising from the nature of their employment.*

If any legislative interference is needed, which I think is not the case, it should be either in the form of a direct compulsion on the parents to send their children to school, or of an educational certificate renewable yearly till the children reach 12 years of age.*

The following resolution of the Board of Guardians for Narberth Union is, I think, very much to the point:—

"That there is no need of restricting the labour of children employed in agriculture in this Union, inasmuch as children under 13 years of age are very little employed. Any pressure necessary for the sake of education should be put directly on the parents, amongst whom, however, there is a growing appreciation of the benefit of educating their children." †

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* The following are the opinions on this subject of some of those witnesses who are most interested in the cause of education:—
The Ven. the Archdeacon of St. David's says (Appendix A. 2)—

"No restriction as to age is required, there is no reason why boys should not attend school during the greater part of the year, if their parents would send them. . . . . The school attendance throughout the archdeaconry is generally good, where there are schools conveniently near."

The Rev. W. Owen, Baptist Minister (Appendix A. 3), asks only for—

"A more equally distributed means of education, free and unsectarian."

Mr. C. Bishop, Clerk of the Peace for the county of Carmarthen, says (Appendix A. 4)—

". . . . a limit, unless education be compulsory, would be injurious. In most parts of the county, except in remote localities, there are either National or British schools within reach, and the labouring classes are not indisposed to take advantage of them; still when the children are able to undertake employment and can obtain it, the parents will not lose the chance for the sake of schooling."

Mr. J. L. Phillips, Chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 6)—

"Generally advantage is taken of the means of instruction. Where three or four children of the same poor parents go to school, sometimes 2*d.* or 3*d.* head is felt a heavy charge on small wages. No shoes or clothes fit to go to school in is often the excuse to keep children at home."

Mr. W. D. H. Campbell Davys, Chairman of the Llandovery Board of Guardians, says (Appendix B. 69)—

"I think it is by no means desirable to interfere as both the children and their parents are *quite alive* to the importance of attending school."

The Rev. R. B. Jones, Vicar of Cilmaenllwyd, says (Appendix B. 37)—

"A good school would inevitably secure a good attendance."

The Rev. R. Lewis, Rector of Lampeter-Velfrey, and Rural Dean, in whose parish every encouragement is given to parents to send their children to school, says (Appendix B. 43)—

"The parents generally allow the children to do as they like, they are themselves indifferent about education. Where there is a popular master the children like going to school and have their own way. Early labour is not in my opinion a preventing cause."

Mr. W. R. H. Powell, of Maesgwynne (Appendix B. 44), speaking of Llanboidy National School, says—

"A good attendance, drawn from a radius of quite three miles, may be cited as proof that the means of education are generally taken advantage of, but the benefits of education in too many cases are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration to be derived from child labour. The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the school children should be made to speak English during play hours."

The Rev. T. Walters, Vicar of Maenclochog, says (Appendix B. 55)—

"The school-house is a wretched one, which prevents us getting any Government aid. The children take advantage of it, and it is crowded in winter."

On the other hand, the Rev. John Phelps, Vicar of Carew (in the English quarter), says (Appendix B. 29)—

"All the children may attend school by paying 1*d.* weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

The Rev. J. D. Palmeur, Vicar of Jeffreston, also in the English quarter, speaks in the same unfavourable terms of the conduct of the parents.

The Rev. W. D. Phillips, Rector of Amroth (also in the English quarter) and diocesan inspector, says (Appendix B., 35)—

"The attendance of children is irregular; the parents desire their children to be educated, but seem careless as to the amount, and ignorant that it can be obtained only by diligence and regularity of attendance; the indifference of parents is the great obstacle to education."

† The Haverfordwest Guardians say (Appendix A. 13)—

"Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals; any child up to 12 years of age might attend school for eight months in the year."

The Carmarthen Guardians say (Appendix A. 14)—

"It is not desirable that children should be employed under 12 years of age, but no legislative restriction is necessary in this union."

And again—

"The parents generally take advantage of the schools, where, as is usually the case, there is no difficulty on the score of religious teaching."

The Llandovery Guardians say (Appendix A. 15)—

"There is no parish in the union without a school; all who can (and most parents can) send their children to school."

It is this evidently "growing appreciation" of the value of education which inclines me to think that nothing more is needed than to establish efficient schools. O.

55. If, however, my report had reference only or chiefly to the English quarter of the counties ("Little-England-beyond-Wales"), I fear that I could not have spoken so hopefully. In that district, at least in some parts of it, there is more temptation to keep children from school, as, for instance, in the colliery district, where boys and girls, after they reach 10 years of age, can earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day separating culm (the dust or small of anthracite coal) from earth at the pit mouths (Appendix B. 35 b., 41a and 41b). There is also a larger proportion of arable land in that district, and therefore a greater demand for youthful labour. Whatever the cause may be, I saw much stronger evidence of a desire to educate their children amongst the Welsh proper than amongst the inhabitants of the English quarter. Education in English and Welsh districts of South Wales.

56. The very fact which for a long time kept the Welsh, educationally, in outer darkness (for this desire to educate their children is apparently of very recent birth) is now aiding the cause of education. They could not speak English, and the loss they sustained by their inability was never brought home to them till railways put the prizes of the outer world, as it were, before their eyes. Then indeed the Welshman, anxious to secure some of these prizes for his children, saw that the first step must be to teach them the language of the prizeholders, and to do this he must send them to school. It is with the Welsh as with the Scotch, a desire to get their children out in the world, "to "better themselves," that induces the parents to send their children to school, and a feeling of this kind once aroused needs no governmental pressure to aid it. Cause of the increased desire amongst the Welsh labourers to educate their children.

As an example of the spirit that is abroad, Mr. W. R. H. Powell, in his evidence (Appendix B. 44), speaking of Llanboidy National School, says,—

"The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the children should be made to speak English during play hours."

Again, the account of his prospects given to me by a boy who drove me one day from Narberth Road Station will serve as a typical instance of the cause of the increased desire for education. After telling me that he was nearly 12 years old, that he could neither read nor write, and that the nearest schoolmaster was "good for nothing to teach anybody anything," the said schoolmaster having failed to teach him reading and writing in a month, he said,—

"My father's going to send me to school at Haverfordwest, and if I can get to be a scholar my brother says he can get me a place in London on the Great Western Railway."

South Wales was, a very short time ago, and probably is now, one of the worst educated districts in the United Kingdom; but all this will soon be changed. The thrifty and independent Welshman, who cares very little for parish boundaries, has found out that education means higher wages, and so he makes haste to educate himself.

Cottages.

57. A general description of the cottage accommodation in 35 parishes (25 of which are in Narberth Union), as given by very competent witnesses, will be found in Appendix B.; and the following is, I think, a fair summary of this evidence. General description of cottage accommodation.

The cottages are described as *bad*, or *poor*, or *not good* in 24 parishes; in 10 parishes they are said to be *fair*, or *tolerably good*, or *improving;* in one parish they are described as *good*.

58. It will be well, I think, to preface any remarks which I have to make on this subject by quoting a few examples of evidence applicable to areas larger than parishes. Examples of evidence on state of cottages.

Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor (Appendix A. 1) says:—

"The state of cottages throughout the country (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen) is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultural interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, or convenience of the occupants; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy floors and walls, the former often of earth; frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor and no upper rooms: overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door."

The Rev. Archdeacon Clark (Appendix A. 2) says:—

"The cottages generally throughout the county are not good; small, ill-ventilated, with plaster or flagged floors, and with only two rooms on the ground floor, the upper rooms (if any) being dark lofts or attics under the roof not fit for occupation. They are generally too small for even a small family, and therefore overcrowded, and the usual results to morality have followed. . . . Few cottages have decent privies."

The Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister of Narberth, speaking of the county of Pembroke, says (Appendix A. 3):—

"The state of labourers' cottages generally is very bad; badly constructed; one floor, and one room on that floor, partly divided by some article of furniture; damp walls; earth floors; smoky chimnies; a small window or two, often no more than a square foot, and never opened; no out-offices, or any accommodation whatever."

The Board of Guardians for Haverfordwest Union gave me the following answer to my inquiry on this subject (Appendix A. 13):—

"The condition of cottages is generally bad."

The Carmarthen Board of Guardians answered (Appendix A. 14):—

"The cottages in the Union are as a rule bad."

The Guardians for Llandovery Union answered more cheerfully (Appendix A. 15):—

"Cottages have been greatly improved of late years; the old cottages and old farm houses are deficient in accommodation, but they are fast disappearing.

I did not ask the Narberth Union guardians to describe the state of cottages in their Union as I satisfied myself on the subject by a personal examination, and I think the Board will allow me to answer for them, that *the condition of labourers' dwellings in Narberth Union is generally bad.*

O.

Description of the ordinary cottage in the rural districts of South Wales.

59. The ordinary form of cottage in South Wales is a rectangular building about 20 feet by 12 (inside measurement), with walls of mud (clay and straw mixed) or stone about 8 feet high. The mud cottage is almost always covered with straw thatch, while the stone cottage is now more usually slated. In the middle of the front wall is the door with a small window on each side. Running back from each side of the door for 6 or 8 feet, and about as high as the door, are partitions, often formed by the back of a box bed or chest of drawers, by means of which partitions the inside space is divided into two small rooms, in one of which is a wide fireplace surmounted by a conical chimney. The whole interior is open to the roof, except where boards or wattled hurdles are stuck across the heads of the walls to support childrens' beds. The floor is usually of mud or puddled clay. The only outside office is the pigsty, generally built against the end of the cottage.

Such is a description of probably four-fifths of the labourers' cottages in the districts I visited. There are worse, and there are a few better, though where it is said, as it several times is, in the evidence, that the cottage accommodation is improving, or that the old mud cottages are gradually disappearing, the improvement more frequently arises from the total disappearance of old cottages than from the fact that they have been replaced by better ones.

Diminution in the number of cottages.

60. Nothing struck me more in Narberth Union than the number of ruined cottages unrepresented by any modern substitute. Between the adjoining small parishes of Minwere and Newton there are, I think, at least 40 remains of what within the last 30 years were cottages, and I am not aware that any one of these has been replaced.*

It may be, as a general rule, that, as the agricultural population has decreased from other causes, landowners have allowed their poorest cottages to remain untenanted and fall into decay; but this can scarcely be pleaded in favour of the parishes I have just alluded to, as, from the evidence of Mr. Theophilus Llewellyn, an occupier of 280 acres in Minwere parish, there is a decided scarcity of labour, arising from the fact that so many cottages have been pulled down or allowed to become uninhabitable.

Mr. Llewellyn says (Appendix B. 57):—

"I would have more land in tillage if I could get labour conveniently. I can only get a labourer occasionally, when I pay him, in winter 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and his food, and in summer 2*s.* a day and food. There is only one cottage on my farm; there were a good many at one time, but they were pulled down or allowed to fall down."

Again, Mr. W. H. Shield, a landowner and occupier in Lampeter Velfrey parish, in Narberth Union, says (Appendix B. 43a):—

"The cottages have been allowed to become ruins throughout the whole district, so much so that were farmers with capital to be desirous of cultivating the land there are no cottages for them without rebuilding, and that to a considerable extent."

Feeling in the district that the want of decent dwellings is driving away the agricultural population.

61. There is, moreover, a strong feeling in the district that the want of decent dwellings is driving away the rural population to an extent that injuriously affects the agricultural interest.

At a meeting of the United Counties (Cardigan, Pembroke, and Carmarthen) Chamber of Agriculture, held on the 7th of July last, a paper on "The necessity for house accommodation for the "agricultural population" was read by Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis, of Henllan, a landowner and magistrate of Pembrokeshire. In the earlier part of this paper Mr. Lewis says:—

"To you who are acquainted with the dwellings of the labourers and small farmers of these three Western counties, the small two-roomed cottage, with its mud floor, having hardly any light, and badly ventilated, it is unnecessary for me to show that an improvement of their habitations is required."

And after describing the means by which in his opinion labourers' cottages might be improved, Mr. Lewis ends thus:—

"Let us then endeavour to devise the means of retaining our agricultural population amongst us, let us endeavour to supply them with the accommodation without which I am satisfied they will leave us."

On the other hand, except in close parishes where cottages have been pulled down to save poor's rate, the evidence I received shows that the counties are fairly supplied with cottages as far as number is concerned; and any pressure, either from above or below, which might tend to improve their quality, would at the same time, now that union rating is established, tend towards a better distribution.

Cottages in Pembroke and Carmarthen compared with those in Beds and Bucks.

62. Although the proportion of good cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen is smaller than in any English county which I have inspected, I was more seldom shocked by the feeling that I was examining a building totally unfit for human habitation, than, as for instance, in the counties of Bedford and Buckingham.

Domestic habits of the Welsh and Southern English.

63. How far this feeling was affected by the fact that I stood on the mud floors, and within the mud walls during a very dry summer, or by the fact that the women of South Wales are much better housewives than the women of the South Midland counties of England, I do not know; but I wish to testify in favour of the Welsh labourers' wives, that, except in the north of England and in Scotland, I never saw such a general endeavour to make a poor dwelling look its best. Nor should I fail to say for the husbands, that, although they earn lower wages and receive less aid from their children's earnings than their fellows in any of the southern English counties which I have visited, their thrifty habits allow their houses to show signs of comfort and well-to-doism which might put to shame their better-paid brethren.†

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* Mr. William Philipps, relieving officer, Narberth Union, says (Appendix A. 19)—

"In many small parishes cottages were discontinued for the purpose of preventing parties becoming chargeable to the poor rates; this evil has how been remedied by the Union Chargeability Act. At present there are not sufficient dwellings for labourers. Several large estates have few cottages, and those that have fallen into decay are seldom or ever replaced."

Mr. Daniel Williams, relieving officer of Llandovery Union, says (Appendix A. 28)—

"In one parish alone there are 40 cottages less than when I first remember it."

† The evidence of Mrs. Scorey, the wife of a Hampshire labourer, now settled in Narberth parish, is somewhat to the point here. Mrs. Scorey says (Appendix B. 58c)—

"We came here from Hampshire. Labourers' wages here are 10*s.* a week, where we came from (North Hampshire) they were 12*s.* I think the people here live very hard, but not because they are forced to do it; they sell the best they have, and put up with anything. They live a good deal on barley-bread, potatoes, and Welsh cheese, worth from 2*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb.. We use white bread, and make our own bread. I like the people here as well as I did those in Hampshire."

64. In the paper which I have referred to above, Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis says that two things are necessary to enable the farmers to retain the services of good labourers, viz., better cottage accommodation and better wages. For my own part, I am convinced that it is simply the chance of better wages, now brought nearer them, that is tempting the Welsh peasants to leave the rural districts, just as the same chance is inducing them to educate their children. O. Duty of landowners as to providing cottages.

However desirable it may be that better cottages should be provided, and that the labouring class themselves should quicken that provision by demanding it, there is, as far as I know, no district in England which could be quoted to justify the belief that the "cottage question" may be left to right itself by pressure from below.

If it be the landowner's duty to see that there is a good school within a reasonable distance of the cottages on his estate, it is far more his duty to see that those cottages are not such as to make it impossible to teach in that school anything better than reading, writing, and ciphering.

As nearly all the cottages in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen belong to the landowners, it is more evidently their duty to make every endeavour in their power to give their labourers dwellings in which the ordinary decencies of life may be observed. I say every endeavour in their power, as in many districts it is too evident that the great cottage difficulty is the poverty of the landowning class.

65. Those landowners, who have the power, have before them the example of the Earl of Cawdor, who has not only recently built several improved cottages, but has also published a book of "Cottage Plans," which, as his Lordship says in the preface, "may be useful to landowners and tenants anxious "to provide decent accommodation for their labourers." The Earl of Cawdor's "cottage plans."

66. Lord Cawdor addresses his book of Cottage Plans to tenants as well as landowners, no doubt because a considerable number of farms with the cottages attached to them are let on "leases for lives," and in such cases it may be said that some part of the responsibility of the landowner is shifted to the leaseholder. The result is, that as the responsibility is divided it is accepted by neither. This difficulty of cottages attached to farms let on leases for lives was pointed out to me by Mr. Gower, of Clyn Derwen, a landowner of Pembrokeshire, and the only conclusion I could come to, after discussing the subject with him, was, that as such leases are as great an impediment to agricultural improvement as to cottage improvement, it behoves landowners to strain every nerve to get rid of them. Leases for lives.

Small Farms, Gardens, and Allotments.

67. Finding a large number of very small farms in my district, I endeavoured to obtain evidence from all persons willing and competent to give it, on the comparative merits of large and small holdings as affecting agriculture, as well as on the desirability of small holdings as affecting the comfort and advancement of the peasant class. Small farms as affecting agriculture;

As affecting improvement in agriculture, the evidence I received seems to me entirely to confirm the opinion which I expressed in a former report, that it is impossible for agriculture to make any decided advance in a district where the holdings are so small as to make it unprofitable for the occupier to employ the ordinary mechanical aids which increase the produce of a farm at the same time that they lessen the cost of production.*

68. As to the effect of small holdings on the comfort and advancement of the peasant class, Mr. C. Bishop, clerk of the peace for the county of Carmarthen, says (Appendix A. 4), as affecting the peasant class.

"In my opinion the labourer with constant work is better off, and enabled to command more of the necessary comforts of life than the small farmer who pays from 10*l.* to 20*l.* a year for rent, and who lives harder than the inmates of the workhouse."

Mr. G. Jones, vice-chairman of the Llandovery Board of Guardians, says (Appendix A. 7),—

"Labourers receiving 10*s.* a week are better off than tenants paying up to 20*l.* a year rent."

Mr. Daniels Williams, relieving officer of the same union, says (Appendix A. 28),—

"I think our labourers are better off than small farmers, say, than farmers paying 20*l.* a year rent, and they educate their children better. The children of small farmers are often sent to work before they are fit for it."

Mr. J. J. Johnston, relieving officer, Haverfordwest Union, says (Appendix A. 22),—

"These 20 acre farms in my district are generally poor land and pay about 10*s.* an acre rent. Unless a man with 40 acres of such land has something else to do, he is not better off than a labourer."

Other witnesses give similar evidence, and it is perfectly evident that in South Wales, as elsewhere, peasant farmers are not only obliged themselves to work harder than ordinary labourers, but are obliged also to make their children work at a very early age.

69. There are, however, redeeming features in a system of very small farms, which are so well put by Mr. H. P. Goode, land agent, in his evidence (Appendix A. 5), that I shall take the liberty of quoting him without further remark. Mr. Goode says:— Industrious habits of small farmers.

"The smaller farms, whose tenants occupy from 5 to 100 acres, of which there are a great number in this country, employ their own children, both boys and girls, at a very early age to look after their cows, watch over their crops to keep off birds, watch their bees, and the little girls do the house work, whilst their parents are employed in the fields. They are generally a very industrious race; and when the girls and boys come

* Mr. T. T. Mousley, agent to the Earl of Cawdor, a very competent authority on such a subject as this, says (Appendix A. 1)— Mr. T. T. Mousley on small farms.
"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales are the want of capital, and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small, and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend upon. Landlords ought by degrees to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small farmsteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise. *If they do not, the country must remain as at present, very little in advance of a state of nature as regards farming.*"

O. up to 14, 15, or 16 years they go to service, some to farms, others to families; the girls as nursemaids, under housemaids, and maids of all work to small establishments. They carry with them their industrious habits, and in good considerate families make first rate servants."

Cow allotments. 70. Where a farm or allotment of five or six acres is of such a character as to enable a man to keep one or two cows without withdrawing him from his legitimate occupation as a farm labourer, there is the same evidence as I found in Derbyshire, that the charge of the little dairy is a much better occupation for his wife than ordinary field work, or, indeed, than any other work I have seen labourers' wives engaged in.*

Cottage gardens. 71. As almost every cottage in the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke has a fair-sized garden attached to it, and a large majority of the labourers have in addition potato land allowed by their employers, cultivated allotments as distinguished from gardens are very little known. A plot of three acres allotted by the Inclosure Commissioners to the poor of Pendine parish remains uncultivated, though I dare say its situation has as much to do with its present state as the indisposition of the people to take advantage of their rights.

Potato ground. 72. The custom of giving a labourer potato ground, on which the labour is performed by the farmer, is an excellent one, and although its pecuniary value is reduced by the exaction of service in harvest, it still has the effect of, as it were, compelling him to spend a certain portion of his wages for the benefit of his family.†

Pauperism.

Administration of the Poor Law. 73. I have quoted in evidence a portion of an article published on the 4th of September last in "The Welshman," a paper of considerable repute in South Wales, to show that the same action which I drew your attention to in my report on Oxfordshire and Berks is going on in South Wales to the increase of pauperism. The writer of this article says :—

"Every step in the recent legislation on this subject has been made in the direction of spreading the cost of maintaining the poor over the whole surface of the union; and perhaps, all considered, the steps taken have been in the right direction. Still, however, an abuse has sprung up, the remedy for which can only be found in the good sense of the guardians. As long as each individual parish felt the burden of maintaining its own poor, there existed a strong inducement for the guardians to see that the relief of individual paupers was not excessive. Now, however, since the relief of the individual is borne by the union generally, the fact that the aggregate of the expense to the union is increased is lost sight of in the desire of many good-natured and easy-going guardians to see that their own poor are tenderly, we were going to say too tenderly, cared for. . . . . There is in the minds of many guardians a feeling somewhat akin to that spoken of by Sydney Smith when describing a sort of pseudo-benevolence which led the person affected by it never to see a case of distress without wishing that somebody else would relieve it, the somebody else in this case being represented by the union at large. It is difficult to counteract this tendency, and we almost fear it can only be done by the appointment of a sort of supervisor of the relief list, who would have no local sympathies to sway him in the pursuit of his duty."

A public supervisor of the relief list might no doubt help towards a stricter administration of the law, but his action would have a levelling tendency, and would be a hindrance instead of an aid towards solving what to my mind is the great difficulty, viz., how not to reduce the industrious man temporarily or permanently disabled to the same level as the idle vagabond who will not work, or who has by dissipation reduced himself to a state unfit for work; how to teach the labouring class that industry, under any circumstances, will have its reward. Nothing but a close examination of the character of the persons seeking relief can effect this, and I cannot see how you could succeed without leaving a certain amount of discretion in the hands of a local authority.

74. There are three great bars to agricultural improvement in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen,—a very wet climate, heavily-burdened estates, and small holdings; but I look very hopefully on the prospects of the labouring class. Only put the means of education within their reach, and I feel sure that they are perfectly able and willing to take care of themselves.

After thanking you for having sent me to inspect these two interesting counties,

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. CULLEY.

Fowberry Tower,
10th Dec. 1869.

* The merits and demerits of a system of small farms are exceedingly well treated by Mr. Jas. Howard, M.P., in a paper on "Continental Farming," read by him at a recent meeting of the Central Farmers' Club.

† Potato ground forms a considerable item in the wages of a farm labourer in many counties of England, and, if a column is to be added to the third table of the Agricultural Returns, "showing the acreage employed in cottage gardens and allotments," I cannot help thinking that where the custom of a district causes a farmer to provide potato ground, such a provision is almost as much entitled to notice as a cottager's garden or allotment. Every farmer who makes such an allowance could easily enter the quantity in his return.

REPORT of Mr. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE on Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour to present my report on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture for the three counties of Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, which, in compliance with your instructions, I visited in the autumn of 1869 for the purpose of inquiring and ascertaining to what extent and with what modifications the principles of the Factory Acts could be adopted for the regulation of such employments, especially with a view to the better education of such children. P.

2. The three counties assigned to me in the above inquiry, although possessing many social features in common, have nevertheless certain distinctive peculiarities. The counties visited partly differ from and partly resemble each other.

Cardiganshire is almost exclusively Welsh in its character, and that language is still exclusively spoken by at least three-fourths of the population.

In Montgomeryshire there is a well defined line of demarcation between two portions of the county, in one-half of which the Welsh and in the other the English language is spoken. The separation is well marked by the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy. Merionethshire, an extremely mountainous county, is essentially Welsh.

3. There are extensive districts in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire in which the condition of the population is materially affected by mines and manufactures.

4. I propose in the following remarks to consider each county separately with reference to the subjects on which I was instructed to report.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

5. This county contained in 1861 a population of 71,178. It possesses considerable diversities of soil. Cardiganshire. The fertile loam of the coast produces excellent crops of grain, while the hill districts are devoted to sheep walks and small farms for rearing cattle. It was intimated to me that it would be sufficient for the purposes of the inquiry if I selected a portion of each county as a specimen district, by a careful investigation of which a correct general impression might be formed of the whole in reference to the points suggested for inquiry; but Cardiganshire varies so much in the rate of wages and in the condition of the population that I found it impossible to fix upon any single district as conveying a just conception of its general economical condition. I therefore considered it desirable to visit portions of the county widely distant from each other.

These districts were, 1, the vicinity of Aberystwith; 2, the highly cultivated district of Aberayron; and, 3, the country in the neighbourhood of Lampeter.

From these three districts I was enabled to acquire a sufficient amount of information to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion in reference to the subjects on which information was desired.

6. I found the employment of women in agriculture very general in Cardiganshire. Female farm servants who are engaged by the year and boarded and lodged in the farmhouses, are throughout the county hired expressly as agricultural labourers. They perform a large portion of the outdoor work of every farm, with the exception of ploughing. There is indeed a redundancy of female labour in The employment of women in agriculture very general in Cardiganshire.

P. Cardiganshire, and women migrate in large numbers from the southern to the northern portion of the county, and into Montgomeryshire, offering their temporary services to any farmer who may happen to be short of hands. At harvest time their wages are 1*s.* 6*d.* a day with food.

Employment of women.

7. In the ordinary routine of farm work the women servants tend cattle, clean out the stalls, load dung carts, plant and dig potatoes, hoe, take up, top and tail turnips, and in the spring drive the harrow, but they are never trusted with horses and carts on the high road.

Wages of women labourers.

8. The ordinary wages of female farm servants in agriculture are from 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year with board. A day female agricultural labourer is generally paid 8*d.* a day with nothing extra. On the extensive farm of Mr. Miller, of Morfumaur, near Aberayron, 19 young unmarried women are regularly employed as agricultural labourers at these wages throughout the year; they live with their parents in cottages at no great distance from the farm. Married women thus employed are paid from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

Women robust and healthy.

9. The women whom I observed engaged in field labour seemed to be robust and healthy, and in reply to my inquiries as to their general efficiency as labourers I was told that for many descriptions of farm work they are considered quite equal to men.

Employment of females has diminished.

10. The employment of females in Cardiganshire has, however, considerably diminished within the last 25 years. It was stated to me by many clergymen, magistrates, and land agents that the number of women employed in agriculture in that county is certainly not now more than one-half what it was within their recollection. I may add that several farmers expressed themselves as opposed to the employment of females in field labour, considering such employment to be both economically false and morally wrong.

Employment of women in agriculture not the special cause of immorality.

11. The laxity of morals among the female peasantry of Wales is unhappily notorious. The inveterate custom of night courting has destroyed all delicacy of character, and although marriage often follows such irregular proceedings the rate of illegitimacy is high. In the face of the well-known Welsh custom of "bundling," which is not confined to the agricultural population, I cannot charge to the employment of women in agriculture the immorality which undoubtedly prevails.

Gangs unknown.

12. Agricultural gangs are quite unknown in this county, nor are children employed in early labour to any considerable extent, except by their parents on the small farms in the mountain districts. Very young children are habitually employed for perhaps half the year in tending cattle and sheep. This employment, which is very common, prevents a great number from attending school for many months of the year.

Children not hired out by the day.

13. I did not find it generally the practice of parents to hire out their children by the day, and they avail themselves, where practicable, of every opportunity of sending them to school. There is, in fact, no regular or constant demand for the labour of children, a few weeks in the barking season and the hay and corn harvests, being the only periods at which their services are required. I was informed by Lt.-Col. Lewes, a county magistrate, that he had found difficulty in getting a boy to carry a post bag daily three-quarters of a mile, and still greater in hiring one to scare crows.

Children hired as farm servants very young.

14. Although the employment of children in gangs is unknown, it is to be regretted that by the custom of the county they are hired into farm service so young as to almost entirely neutralise any benefit which they may have previously derived from their education. Boys go to service at from 9 to 12 years of age, and when once in service only in very rare instances is any portion of their time given to self-improvement. Unfortunately, the poverty of many parents is such as to make it a matter of the greatest importance to get their children off their hands at as early an age as possible, and it has certainly been found that physically boys often make great and rapid progress after they leave home and its privations for the comparative abundance of a farmhouse.

Another mode of hiring children.

15. There is in Cardiganshire another mode of hiring children at an early age which does not wholly separate them from their parents, or deprive them of the power of attending school for a portion of the year. On many farms boys are found useful at 10 years of age, and they are employed for eight months in the year for sixpence a day, and are boarded in the farmhouses. They return home for the winter months, during which they generally attend school, but such partial attendance would be barely sufficient to enable them to keep up the little that had been acquired before their engagement on a farm.

Farm servants' wages, &c.

16. Farm servants are hired by the year at the hiring fairs which are held periodically in the chief towns of the county. The wages of a head man, who is generally the ploughman, seldom exceed 16*l.* a year, but in rare instances 20*l.* are given, and inferior servants are paid from 8*l.* to 10*l.* a year; women from 6*l.* to 8*l.* with food.

Moderate as these wages are, savings banks and benefit societies are occasionally taken advantage of by this class. An instance was mentioned to me of a farm servant whose highest wages amounted to 9*l.* 10*s.* a year, who had deposited 150*l.* in a savings bank.

Diet in farmhouses.

17. The food supplied in the farmhouses to farm servants generally consists of flummery (boiled oatmeal), with bread made of wheat and rye or maze frequently of barley alone for breakfast; salt beef, bacon, or broth two or three times a week for dinner; bread, cheese, and milk for supper. Beer, and occasionally fresh mutton, are given at harvest time, but fresh meat is never tasted at any other time.

I often heard unfavourable opinions expressed of the efficiency of agricultural labourers in Cardiganshire. That the low estimate formed of them is caused mainly by the general inferiority of the diet may be inferred from the fact that whenever a native has been enabled to live better, by being engaged, for example, in the construction of a railway, his employers have rarely had any cause to complain either of the quality of his work or of his alacrity in performing it.

Diet of small farmers and agricultural labourers.

18. The diet of the smaller class of farmers and of day agricultural labourers is inferior to that of farm servants; even salt meat is rarely tasted, barley, or oat cake with potatoes and a little butter or cheese, forming the staple of their ordinary meals. It was remarked, in an article on the farming of South Wales in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society for 1852 that in general field work, where strength and exertion are required, Welsh labourers are much inferior to English labourers, and that a Lincolnshire workman at half-a-crown a day is not dearer than most Welsh labourers at a shilling. As a proof of this it may be stated that task work cannot be done cheaper in Cardiganshire than in the east of England, and until Welsh labourers are better fed they cannot be physically capable of sustaining with the same ease the fatigue of a hard day's work as the labourers of the many parts of England. The wages of agricultural labourers vary, as I before observed, in different parts of the

county. The highest being 12*s.* a week, the lowest 8*s.*; but with the lower rate of wages are generally associated privileges, which somewhat increase the rate of remuneration, and may bring it up to perhaps 10*s.* per week. Thus, with low money wages a cottage is sometimes given rent free; some labourers are also allowed to grow potatoes on their employer's land, for which privilege they are required to give two days labour in harvest for each bushel of potatoes planted. P.

Modes of payment.

19. A custom exists in one part of the county of paying a labourer low wages but providing him with a portion of his food and a cottage free, as in the district between Aberayron and Lampeter, where I found the rate of wages for an agricultural labourer sixpence a day with food or ninepence without food, but in the latter case with a cottage and good garden at a rent of 1*l.* a year with rates and taxes paid. A singular mode of paying labour was mentioned to me as prevailing in one portion of the county. A farmer provides a labourer with a cottage rent free, together with pasture for a cow, and pays him in money, when he requires his services, sixpence a day. The labourer may earn higher wages elsewhere when not needed by his master, but he is bound to return and work for sixpence a day whenever he is required to do so, on pain of forfeiting his cottage and being deprived of the pasture for his cow. This is, however, I believe, quite a local custom.

Subdivision of landed property.

20. Landed property is much subdivided in Cardiganshire, and the farms in general are small. In the union of Aberayron, for example, a district containing 11 parishes comprising 65,704 acres, there are but nine farms of 300 acres each, and only one farm of 400 acres, the great majority ranging from 20 to 80 acres each. The county contains a great number of small freeholders, who cultivate their own land aided by their families, rarely employing hired labour. These numerous freeholds originated in the frequent sales of Crown lands which have taken place in this county.

Average value of land.

21. The average value of land in the Aberayron union, a district containing some of the best arable land in the county, but also considerable tracts of moorland, I was informed by Mr. Daniel Thomas, of Aberayron, an experienced land agent, does not exceed 10*s.* an acre.

The hill farms.

22. The hill farms have generally extensive sheep runs, and are occupied by a class of men who may be termed shepherds rather than farmers, and the houses, or rather the hovels, in which they reside on the hill sides are of the most wretched description, without fences to protect them from the intrusion of cattle and sheep, the dung of which is allowed to accumulate close to the dwelling and to form an indurated mass. The children of these small farmers, or shepherds, are, as I have before observed, employed for many months in the year in tending cattle and sheep, and preventing them from straying beyond the legal boundaries of the pasture, and even when there is a school within a reasonable distance from home, which is not often the case, it is seldom taken advantage of. The wild and solitary life passed by these children among the hills in idleness and listlessness for a considerable portion of the year is certainly not calculated to produce a favourable effect upon their character.

Farmhouses.

23. The farmhouses on the small farms are, generally speaking, very defective, not only in sanitary arrangements but in proper sleeping accommodation. An instance was mentioned to me by a county magistrate in which the men and women servants all sleep in a loft together, separated only by a row of boxes; and by another magistrate I was informed that in a great many of the small farmhouses the male and female servants have only one room in common.

Cottages.

24. The great blot upon this county is the condition of its cottages. The exteriors sometimes promise well, but are deceptive. There is an appearance of neatness in the thatched roof and whitewashed walls which creates at first a favourable impression. The practice of whitewashing the walls, and not unfrequently the roofs with lime, which is mentioned by a Welsh bard of the sixth century, is still very generally practised. In some places it is common to mix clay with the lime for colouring the walls yellow, and the slate roofs are washed white. Nothing, however, can be conceived more wretched than the interior of most of these habitations. The cottage has often only one room, which is divided into two compartments, in one of which the cooking is done; the other is used for meals and contains the beds which are simply boxes, and five or six of these box beds are often packed together within the compass of a few square yards. The windows have no apertures; ventilation is supplied by the chimney and the door; the floor is of clay, and in this close, damp, dreary hovel are often housed a labourer, his wife, and six or eight children.

Cause of the inferior cottage accommodation in Cardiganshire.

25. The very wretched labourers' cottages in Cardiganshire appear to have originated in two causes:—1, in squatters building upon the wastes at a time when manorial rights were very little looked after, and any one possessed of a few pounds might, unmolested, erect a hovel for his residence. 2, in a long established custom of granting building leases for a long term of years, leaving the tenant to form his own plan and choose his own materials. The result is the existence of perhaps a greater number of cottages unfit for the habitation of human beings than is to be found within an equal area in any part of Great Britain. Most of these cottages are occupied by their owners until the expiration of the leases or they tumble down from age and decay. I was informed by Mr. Fryer, the agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Bart., one of the largest landed proprietors in Cardiganshire, that out of his 500 cottage tenants only 40 pay rack-rents.

Inability of landed proprietors to improve.

26. A landed proprietor, the cottages on whose estates are thus held, is almost powerless for the purpose of improvement. He cannot turn out the squatter or his descendant, who, by long acquiescence, has acquired quasi proprietary rights, and when leases have been granted he must wait for their expiration before he can even think of rebuilding. Many other difficulties surround the question. Large landed estates are often heavily mortgaged, and little money can be found for the most necessary improvements, but with all these allowances I regret to state that I have no reason for believing that the majority of the landowners of Cardiganshire are duly alive to their moral responsibilites and true interests in providing improved accommodation for the class upon whose comfort and welfare so much of their own prosperity depends.

Good cottage accommodation more appreciated by the labouring classes than formerly.

27. Proper cottage accommodation is, however, a want which the labouring classes are themselves beginning to recognize. The decencies of life are more thought of than they were, and although, from the general want of privies, the lane, the field, and even the churchyard, are still resorted to for the purposes of nature, it is occasionally with a feeling akin to shame, and a sentiment certainly not of respect for the owners of those hovels, whose parsimony or indifference have compelled them to resort to such practices. Mr. Loxdale, of Castle Hill, Llanilar, a gentleman who has taken

P. much interest in the improvement of labourers' dwellings, informed me that a marked change for the better has taken place of late years in the Welsh people in regard to the observance of some of the proprieties of life. This gentleman has built a considerable number of cottages in the place of the hovels which were a disgrace to his neighbourhood, and he assured me that the desire for better accommodation is becoming general among the labouring classes. He has been enabled to build a considerable number of excellent cottages with three bedrooms above, and kitchen, pantry, &c. below, for 120*l.* each, for which an agricultural labourer in receipt of fair wages is willing to pay 5*l.* a year, and as a hopeful sign of progress, he stated that he had been often reminded by labouring men while engaged in carrying out his building plans not on any account to omit a privy for every cottage.

No gardens. 28. Few cottages in Cardiganshire have gardens. In villages the houses are generally built in rows with no frontage but the road, and without any ground behind. Where detached cottages have small gardens they are generally neglected. In the immediate neighbourhood of towns cottage gardens are not uncommon, and are comparatively well cultivated, and the wives of cottagers may be seen on a market day carrying their baskets of vegetables and fruit to the nearest town or hawking them about from house to house.

No allotments. 29. In Cardiganshire the allotment system is entirely unknown, as I did not meet with one instance of it in the course of my inquiries. I presume it is unsuited to the habits of the agricultural population.

I reserve such remarks as I have to make on the state of elementary education in this county until the sequel of my Report, where I think they will be more conveniently introduced with those relating to education in the other counties which I visited.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

30. This county, as I before observed, possesses two marked social divisions; one-half of it is almost exclusively Welsh in its character and the other English. I deemed it right to restrict my inquiries to the Welsh portion of the county, and I selected the union of Machynlleth as that which promised to afford the most useful information. I attended a meeting of the board of guardians at Machynlleth, and I had the opportunity of obtaining the opinions of some of the most considerable farmers of the district on the several questions raised by the Commission.

Women not employed in agriculture. 31. In one respect Montgomeryshire presents a marked contrast to the adjoining county of Cardiganshire. The employment of women in agriculture is very rare both in the Welsh and in the English portions of the county. There is, indeed, I was told, a general feeling of repugnance to the employment of women in field labour, except in hay time and harvest.

Gangs unknown. 32. Agricultural gangs are also altogether unknown. Children are very little employed for hire in husbandry until they leave home and enter farm service; this they do at ages varying from 9 to 13.

In my remarks on Cardiganshire I adverted to the average low rate of wages in that county as affording some excuse to parents for sending children so young as 10 to farm service; this excuse will scarcely apply to Montgomeryshire, where the general rate of wages is comparatively high.

Size of farms in the Machynlleth union. 33. In the Machynlleth union, which consists of 11 parishes, with a population of 17,168, the farms range from 20*l.* to 200*l.* a year rent, from 50*l.* to 60*l.* a year being the average. The number of small farms in this union has been the means of introducing a class of farmers very industrious indeed, but generally wanting capital. Nevertheless, I found among landlords generally a predilection for these farms; they bring somewhat higher rents, and are regarded as providing a means of support for many honest men who would otherwise pass their lives as day labourers.

Wages in the Machynlleth union. 34. The wages of agricultural labourers in the Machynlleth union are high, being affected by the demand for labour at the quarries and mines. A good day agricultural labourer can earn from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week in summer, and from 13*s.* to 14*s.* in winter. The majority of labourers, however, live fully up to their earnings, and I did not learn in answer to my inquiries that it was their general practice to save. First class male farm servants obtain from 15*l.* to 19*l.* a year with their food.

Small freeholders numerous. 35. There is a considerable number of small freeholders in this part of Montgomeryshire owning properties of from 20*l.* to 80*l.* a year, which they cultivate chiefly by the aid of their families, but the smaller class of freeholders generally seek occasional employment as day labourers, supplementing their small incomes by the wages thus earned.

Diet of farm servants. 36. The meat diet of farm servants consists, as in Cardiganshire, chiefly of salt beef and bacon, but a great improvement has taken place in the food of the labouring classes generally in Montgomeryshire within the last 25 years. Twenty years ago barley and oat bread were in common use in the farmhouses and amongst agricultural labourers; now wheaten bread, at least in those districts where wages are good, is only used. In poorer districts bread made in the proportion of two-thirds of barley to one of wheat is not unusual. Oatmeal porridge is common for breakfast and supper, and the amount of farinaceous food thus consumed probably serves to counteract the effect which a diet of salt meat would otherwise have upon the health.

State of cottages bad. 37. The cottages in this part of Montgomeryshire are badly drained, badly ventilated, and without privies. Those in the villages are the worst, the detached country cottages being in a slight degree better. When new cottages are built it is generally by speculators who form their plans without reference to the health, decency, or convenience of the future inmates.

Squatters on the waste. 38. The same practice to which I have adverted in my remarks on Cardiganshire of squatters building on the wastes has prevailed to a considerable extent in Montgomeryshire, as the numerous hovels which offend the eye in the wilder districts of the county abundantly attest. Their occupiers are generally obliged to pay a small rent.

Instances of landlords' care as to cottages. 39. Where cottages, as is still often the case, are built on lease, the landlord now generally insists on the adoption of a plan of his own, in which proper arrangements are made for comfort and decency. This is especially the case on the property of Earl Vane, and these, as well as those built at his own cost, leave nothing to be desired. I have pleasure also in recording the liberal spirit in which this great social want has been met by another of the great landed proprietors of the principality, namely, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., the cottages on whose estates in Montgomeryshire are in a very

satisfactory condition, the greater number of them having four rooms. Cottage gardens are rare and not wanted, a labourer generally stipulating with his employer at his hiring for permission to plant potatoes on the land. Allotments in any other sense are unknown. P.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

40. This mountainous county afforded very little scope for my inquiries. A very large portion of it is wholly devoted to the rearing and grazing of black cattle. Sheep farms occupy another large portion of it, and the whole is very sparsely peopled. Cattle and sheep farms prevail.

The land under tillage lies chiefly in the vicinity of the coast, as at Towyn, but the great majority of farmers do not grow a blade of corn, and many do not even cultivate a potato.

41. The district I selected as comprehending within a comparatively limited area specimens of the different kinds of farming prevailing in the county was the union of Dolgelly, consisting of 13 parishes, with a population of 12,482. A few of the grazing farms in this district are large for North Wales, the rent of the largest being about 350*l.* The Dolgelley union.

42. Merionethshire presents a contrast to Montgomeryshire in the common employment of women in agriculture, and in that respect it resembles Cardiganshire, with the difference that whereas in Cardiganshire women entering farm service are expressly hired as labourers in agriculture, in Merionethshire they are engaged as domestic servants, with the understanding that they are to assist in the outdoor work of the farm, although very few are exclusively so employed. Women are not extensively engaged as day labourers, but there are few of the arable farms in which some are not so employed; their wages average from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. Women employed in agriculture.

43. Boys are hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age, but the farms being generally small and pastoral a great many young boys are employed in looking after the sheep and tending cattle, these being the principal occupations on most of the high-lying farms. Farmers then employ their own children for these purposes from a very early age. Boys hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age.

44. Girls generally enter farm service at 9 years of age, but they are seldom put to any outdoor work until they are 11. Early age at which girls enter farm service.

I heard opinions freely expressed that females, particularly young girls, should not be employed in outdoor, heavy, and dirty work, and that they should never be employed after 7 p.m.

There can be no doubt that young girls are often overtaxed in the outdoor work of farms, and that the hours of work are, as a rule, too long for females who have not attained the strength of womanhood.

45. The following description of the mode of living of small farmers in Merionethshire 20 years ago is taken from the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society:— Mode of living of small farmers.

"The rents in this county are high, particularly on small farms, where, what with rent and poor rates, I hardly know how they contrive to live, but live they do, but very hard. For dinner you will see a small farmer have half a salt herring, with potatoes and buttermilk (very poor food for a working man); his wife and family must content themselves with buttermilk and potatoes, or perhaps after the farmer has finished his part herring there will be a scramble amongst the youngsters for the bones to suck as a treat. They sometimes have a little skim-milk cheese with oaten bread; some, better off than others, bacon; yet the amount of poor and county rates these men pay per annum will amount to from 4*l.* to 5*l.* each; in fact, paupers live better than these men. The cloth they wear they weave from wool of their own growing, both men and women, the men a kind of frieze, and the women linseys."

46. The mode of living in this county may have a little improved since the above was written, but is very inferior to that of the adjoining county of Montgomery. The dietary of the farmhouses is on a lower scale, the bread being made of barley, or if wheaten bread is supplied it is of very inferior quality. The only meat consumed is salt meat, and less of that is consumed than even in Cardiganshire. Dietary of farmhouses.

47. The average wages of an agricultural labourer in the union of Dolgelly average from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. His general diet is for breakfast broth or milk and bread and cheese, for dinner salt beef or bacon and potatoes, for tea a bowl of milk and bread and cheese, and for supper porridge or flummery. Wages in the Dolgelly union.

48. The remarks which I have made on the deplorable want of proper cottages in Cardiganshire apply with full force to the county of Merioneth, or at least to that portion of it which I selected as the subject of my inquiries, and I have reason to believe, from the answers to the circular of questions which I distributed in other portions of the county, that the same deficiencies exist throughout. The farmhouses are also in a very poor and miserable condition, often with only two rooms; and the sleeping apartments generally are not properly separated from each other, with what results to morality may be inferred. Bad state of cottages in Merionethshire.

Education.

49. I have reserved such remarks as I have to make respecting the state of elementary education in these counties until now, for more conveniently treating the subject as a whole.

50. All the clergy, schoolmasters, and farmers with whom I communicated were unanimously of opinion that a very general desire exists on the part of the labouring classes to give their children the advantages of education. Doubtless many instances are to be found in these counties, as elsewhere, of parents, uneducated themselves, neglecting to educate their children; but where poverty or the want of schools does not prove an obstacle the means of education, such as they are, are taken advantage of. Desire for education general.

51. Many parishes, however, are so large and so thinly populated as absolutely to preclude the establishment of a school. In others, where schools have been established, they are often very indifferent ones, and most inconveniently situated for regular attendance, parts of the parish being four and even six miles from the school. In Bala, for example, a parish 13 miles long and 8 wide, all the schools, with the exception of one, a small rural school, which is closed in summer, are situated in the town at one extremity of the parish. As a proof of the great deficiency which exists in the means of education throughout the counties of Cardigan, Montgomery, and Merioneth, I find it stated by the Rev. J. B. Binns, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, in his evidence before the Select Committee on Education Size of parishes an impediment to schools.

P. in 1866, that there were in his district, which includes the above counties, 650 parishes or townships, out of which there were at the time he wrote 350, or more than one-half, without any day school whatever.*

Sunday schools to some extent do the work of elementary schools.

52. This deficiency of day schools is, however, in some degree compensated for by Sunday schools. The children of the labouring classes are indeed to a great extent trained in the Sunday schools, which they attend in common with adults.

To the very general attendance of the labouring classes in these schools is attributable the high percentage of the population which is able to read their own language, for it was stated to me by one of the guardians of the poor for the union of Machynlleth that of the adult male population of his parish 19 in 20 are able to read their native language, and about 10 in 20 to write it.

Educational deficiencies.

53. Generally speaking the means of education in the three counties which I visited are most insufficient. I found it impossible to go into minute statistical details on this question, but I found in most of the districts a decided want of good schools. The want of trained teachers has long been one of the impediments to the progress of education, and if twenty a year more than the present supply were procurable from the training colleges they would, it is said, be not more than the necessities of the Principality require.

Welsh ignored in the Government schools.

54. The Welsh language is altogether ignored in schools subject to Government inspection, and receiving a Government grant. Practically this system, except where the schools are of a superior kind, has not had the effect it was designed to have, namely, in imparting to the children such a knowledge of the English language as to supersede their own. Generally they leave school too young to have acquired sufficient English even for colloquial purposes, for on their return to their homes in the evenings they hear nothing spoken but Welsh, and they naturally speak nothing else themselves. I found scarcely an instance in the many farmhouses which I visited of the young farm servants, male or female, being able to speak or understand English, if they had left school before 13.

Farmers favourable to education.

55. I may take this opportunity of stating that I found the farmers as a class universally in favour of education, and should any limit be placed on the age at which young boys and girls may enter farm service, or any previous educational qualification be required, I am convinced that such a plan would meet with their ready approval, and that they would afford it their hearty co-operation.

I heard hopes frequently expressed by farmers that as a living language Welsh would soon become extinct. They feel its inconveniences daily. It interferes with their business transactions with their English neighbours, and it keeps the country, as they say, a century behind England in civilization.

Why the English language does not make progress among the rural population.

56. One cause why the English language does not make speedier progress is the early age at which children generally leave school for farm service. It is simply impossible for a child who hears English spoken only at school, and who is often unable to attach any meaning to the sounds which he hears, and whose school lessons in English are learned merely by rote, to have acquired any practical use of such a language at the age of 12 or 13.

Poverty the chief cause of neglect of education.

57. There is, as I have before observed, a general desire for education, but in parts of Cardiganshire and Merionethshire the low rate of wages tells heavily against the parent when he has several children of an age to send to school. With wages at 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, it cannot be supposed that a parent with a family can willingly make the sacrifice of even a penny a week for each child's schooling. In the majority of cases where there is default on the part of the parent poverty is the true cause, and an improvement of his condition as a labourer the appropriate remedy.

The homes of the agricultural classes, however, are often at a great distance from any school, and a parent will seldom think it worth the sacrifice to send a child three or four miles daily if he doubts the capacity of the master or the value of the instruction imparted.

Neglected education of the children of small farmers.

58. The children of the smaller class of farmers receive less education than those of day labourers. The children of the latter are not habitually employed until they enter service, and a considerable period of the year is therefore available for school attendance, but the children of small farmers are utilized at a very early age, and pass the greater portion of the year either in herding, bird keeping, or some other occupation connected with the farm.

The Pen-y-parke School.

59. The Pen-y-parke School, near Aberystwith, is an instance of the effect of a really good school in attracting to it not only the children of the parish in which it is situated, but of other parishes. This school has 350 scholars on its books. It is a Church school in connexion with the National Society, but is conducted on liberal principles, the church catechism being taught only to those children whose parents do not object to it. The master, Mr. G. H. Thomas, owes much of his success to the system of bilingual teaching which he has adopted. Having taught himself Welsh he was better able to teach his scholars English. They acquire consequently ideas as well as sounds, and can read English intelligently when the master is able to explain its meaning in their own language. The repute which this school has acquired has induced many parents who can afford it to send their children to board in the village for the sake of the superior education which they are thus enabled to obtain.

Many large parishes without any school.

60. Where schools are most wanted, as in large parishes with a widely dispersed population, there is the greatest difficulty in establishing them. Either it is impossible to procure a site, or the subscriptions are so small that it is impossible to support it properly, or it is often so placed as to be practically useless to one-half the parish.

"In many parishes of Cardiganshire," says Mr. H. C. Fryer, the agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Baronet, "we have no school, and there is no person of sufficient weight to take the initiative in providing one; in such cases it appears to me to be the duty of Government to step in. There is a class of children, moreover, which can be reached only by a compulsory and free system of education. The children of the very poor in our remote rural parishes must be educated gratuitously or they will not be educated at all."

61. It is scarcely within my province to comment upon the difficulties with which the progress of elementary education is beset by the disturbing element of religion in these counties, but I cannot refrain from quoting the following admirable remarks on the subject by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for the Principality:—

"It is most desirable," writes the Reverend S. Pryce, "that proper Government schools should be established in some of the most central of the neglected parishes, but the population is generally so small

* Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Education, 1865, p. 212.

and scattered that this could only be done successfully by those who are interested in the education of the neighbourhood, whatever their religious views and creed may be, joining to support one common school. In some places, such as Llangwyryfon and Llanddewifrefi, Cardiganshire, religious rivalry prevented this being done, no sooner did one party determine upon having a school, than the other party felt bound to start an opposition one; and thus, while many parishes in my district are without a school of any description, there are in these villages too many schools. The consequence naturally is, that such schools are small and inferior. The two schools, the National and the British, work against each other, and not against ignorance and indifference. In towns and parishes where there is a fair population, this opposition and rivalry work beneficially, for there is always plenty of raw material to act upon; but in villages and parishes where the number of children who can possibly attend school within a radius of three miles does not exceed 60 or 80, an increase in one school merely means a decrease in the other, one can only flourish at the expense of the other; the object in such places is not to get half a dozen poor children from the streets to attend some school, but to entice half a dozen children from the National to the British school, and *vice versâ*. I need not point out what a bad effect all this has upon the discipline and instruction in both schools." * P.

62. The feeling between the dissenting community and churchmen in regard to education has, however, been gradually improving, and many instances might be cited of parishes in which the most harmonious co-operation has been established between them; at the same time I would not omit to do justice to the independent exertions of dissenters, and I think that the fact of 30 British schools, some of high merit, having been established in the county of Cardigan alone, proves that the dissenting community is fully alive to the importance of providing education for the children of the rural population in accordance with its own opinions. Improved feeling between dissenters and churchmen.

63. The conclusions I arrived at as the result of my inquiries in these counties, as regards the immediate objects of the Commission, is that in reference to the employment of women in agriculture no legislation is necessary. It is undoubtedly on the decline in Cardiganshire, and will probably in the course of another half century altogether cease. The interests and feeling of the women themselves and the gradual assimilation of the customs of Wales to those of England will in time effect that change which might be attempted by legislation in vain. General result of the inquiry.

64. The very early age at which girls enter farm service not only deprives them of the proper opportunities for education, but exposes them to the danger of having their strength overtaxed by outdoor work.

Without imposing any positive limit as to age at which girls may be allowed to engage themselves as farm servants, it seems to me that the desirable object of deferring the period of service might be attained by requiring a certificate of education up to a certain point as a condition of hiring; farm service being generally the only form in which the labour of girls is required, unless working for their parents.

The requirement of an educational qualification preparatory to hiring seems to be the most practicable mode of prolonging the period of school attendance for boys and preventing the premature taxing of their undeveloped strength in the rough work of a farm. It is natural that poor people should wish to be relieved as early as possible from the burden of supporting their children, but the interests of the children are entitled to as much consideration as those of the parents. It would be an important step in education too if some adequate inducement could be held out to boys to continue their school attendance for only 12 hours in the week until they attained the age of 14, the interval between 12 and 14 being the most important period of a boy's life, not only for benefiting by instruction but for receiving permanent impressions for good.

65. This inquiry was carried on in one respect under circumstances of some disadvantage. The Welsh language being alone spoken over a considerable portion of the districts which I visited, free communication with the agricultural classes was impossible, and I was unable consequently to personally ascertain the general state of education among the peasantry, nor could I put to any satisfactory test the amount of school instruction which young boys had received who has just entered farm service. I visited numerous farms in which neither the occupier nor any of his servants could speak or understand a word of English. The evidence accompanying this Report is, therefore, necessarily less copious than but for the above reasons it would otherwise have been, for I was obliged to confine my inquiries chiefly to the clergy, magistracy, and professional persons, and to such farmers and labourers as I found could speak English. The answers which I received to the numerous circulars distributed were, moreover, remarkably few. Many of the occupiers to whom they were addressed were, perhaps, incapable of comprehending their meaning, or unwilling to attempt a reply. Out of 50 circulars which I transmitted to the incumbents of parishes in the three counties of Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire, and Merionethshire, the returns amounted only to eight.

66. In concluding this Report, I beg to express my obligations to the clergy, magistrates, clerks of Boards of Guardians, yeomanry, and tenant farmers with whom I had the pleasure of conversing, for their readiness to afford me all the information in their power. From the land stewards of many of the chief proprietors in the three counties I also received the most valuable assistance, and I am happy to bear my testimony to their enlightened and liberal views on the subjects on which I felt it would be of advantage to invite their opinions.†

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

November 20, 1869.

J. HENRY TREMENHEERE,
Assistant Commissioner.

* General report for the year 1868 by Her Majesty's Inspector, the Reverend S. Pryce, M.A., on the Church of England Schools inspected by him in Mid-Wales.

† Of these gentlemen I would beg to specially name Mr. H. C. Fryer, agent of Sir Pryce Pryce, Baronet; Mr. W. Pugh, agent of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.; and Mr. R. Gellart, agent of Earl Vane.

REPORT by Mr. R. F. BOYLE on MONMOUTHSHIRE and RADNORSHIRE.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Q. Gentlemen,

1. I beg to lay before you the evidence I collected, and the conclusions I have drawn therefrom, in the counties of Monmouth and Radnor during the months of October and November in the year past (1869); and in doing so shall combine my accounts into one Report, the circumstances of the two counties being in many respects so similar that I shall easily be able so to do.

Distribution of circulars.

In accordance with usual custom I distributed a considerable number of the circulars with which you were good enough to provide me. In the county of Monmouth I distributed 56, of which nine were the longer circulars: of the shorter, 47 in number, I forwarded 18 to the various meetings of the Board of Guardians I purposed attending, and did not expect to receive answers, having only made use of them to show the gentlemen present the objects of the Commission. Of the remaining 29, I received 22 answered more or less fully. In the county of Radnor I distributed five of the larger circulars, of which I received three answered, all by clergymen; and 12 of the smaller, of which 1 received seven answered. Some gentlemen have been contented with little more than monosyllabic replies; others, and to them I would wish to express my gratitude, have bestowed considerable time and trouble on theirs.

English and Welsh farms compared.

2. In both these counties there are two distinct kinds of farming, prevailing respectively on the east and western sides, which we may distinguish as the Welsh and English, the principal characteristics of the former being, as far as concerns our purpose, that the labourers live in the farmers' houses, of the latter that they live in cottages on the farm. Both these counties being essentially of the nature of border counties the transition from one to the other is very fully marked:—In Radnorshire, owing to its more broken surface and the difficulty of its communications, it is possible almost to draw a border line. In Monmouthshire, which consists of merely undulating, not mountainous, country, and where communications are therefore easier, it is harder to trace. About Chepstow, which is quite an English district, the characteristics of English farms exist, whereas in the far west the Welsh system is as unmixed as in any part of Radnorshire.

Boundary of England and Wales.

3. Mr. Price, of Maesgwyn, Chairman of the Board of Guardians at Builth, told me that he considered the boundary of Radnorshire and of Herefordshire to be quite arbitrary, that the real natural boundary was a line drawn across the summits of the Begws and Clyro Hills, and Radnor Forest out to Bailey Hill, where a range can be traced varying from 1,500 to over 2,000 feet high, and broken only naturally by the valley of the Lug, but crossed below by the high road that leads over a high part of Radnor Forest through Penybont to Rhayadr. On the east side of the range the farming is very similar to that of Herefordshire. To the west we have almost entirely stock farms, with the Welsh peculiarity of the labourers, men, women, and boys, living in the farmhouse. Where the Valley of the Lug, however, runs up to Bleddfa and Llangunllo an arm of England runs up between the Welsh mountains.

4. In Monmouthshire it is very difficult to draw any certain line; but certainly the Wye is too far east to be considered the boundary of England and Wales, and the Rumney too far west. The only part that can be considered purely English is the part of Chepstow union in Monmouthshire, and the only part purely Welsh, the hill country and the valley of Cwmyoy, which runs up between Hereford-

shire and Breconshire, and is shut in by mountains on both sides. Along the whole of the rest of the county, principally the basin of the Usk and its tributaries, the characteristics of a Welsh farm and an English farm are intermixed, some few of the labourers living in cottages, others with the farmers, according to various circumstances, such as the number of cottages on the farm, and the proportion of arable land to pasture. Q.

5. The proportion of arable land to pasture is everywhere an important element in determining the proportion of labourers living in the house, stock requiring constant supervision, and men at hand at all hours of the day and night, while ordinary farming only requires the usual labour hours of 6 to 6, or till dark in winter, and can be managed as well by men living in cottages as by farm servants. In the district along the Severn, where there is a belt of rich grazing land, nearly every labourer lives in the farmhouse; very few are employed; one or two cowmen and a shepherd or two, according to the size of the farm; and if there is a little corn land, extra hands are hired in summer. The eastern part of this belt, however, can hardly be called a Welsh district.

6. In English counties the system prevails of men employed in stock farms living in the farmhouses. It might seem at first that it is only because the Welsh farms are almost entirely stock farms that the labourers live in the houses with their employers, but this is not the only reason. The line of demarcation between the farmer and his labourer does not exist in Wales as in England. The farm servant on a Welsh farm lives and eats with his master and mistress, and is treated in every respect on a footing of equality; he puts by money, if thrifty, and ultimately starts as a farmer on his own account. The farmer's son works as an ordinary labourer on his father's farm, and instead of their being an expense to him each saves him a labourer's hire.

7. In both these counties the Welsh language is rapidly disappearing. Even the poorest parents seem to wish their children to know English in preference to the old tongue, and there are instances of children who can speak hardly a word of Welsh, being sprung from parents equally ignorant of English. In Monmouthshire, though you will hear occasional Welsh among the people in the cottages, English, being now taught in every school, has become the language of the county, and up in the hills, where it survived much later than in the lower grounds, the introduction of mines is gradually driving away the old language. Radnorshire was never a very Welsh-speaking county. The Rev. J. Evans (R. 2) informed me that he can recollect before the new bridges were made that there was hardly any communication across the Wye with Breconshire; that it was as great a barrier as a range of mountains, and that whereas everyone in Breconshire was speaking Welsh, everyone in Radnorshire was speaking English. The Rev. W. Williams (R. 20), whose parish occupies all the western corner of this county, a mountain tract of over 30,000 acres, considers that the boundary of the English and Welsh tongues is now half-way across his parish, at the glen of Nant-Gwyllt. Welsh language disappearing.

8. In the county of Monmouth I visited the parts of the Chepstow and Monmouth unions, some few parishes of the Newport union, the non-mining part of the Pontypool union, and the parish of Cwmyoy, and one or two others in the Abergavenny union. An agricultural labourer, if able-bodied, can in this district earn as high wages as a miner. But it is, for the most part, a district of small farmers; and their labourers are housed and fed and treated like one of the family, so that they can get one of them to work for much less money than a wealthier farmer could. The mining district occupies all the west of the county, except a strip along the sea-board, and includes, perhaps, one-third of its extent, and three-fourths of the population (M. 64, 76, 90). The wages of men and boys there are so high that women are not tempted to do agricultural work. District visited in Monmouthshire.

9. In Radnorshire I only visited the union of Rhayadr, a purely Welsh district, and the part of Kington union in Radnorshire, which includes the borough of Radnor, the most prosperous part of the county, a dip of excellent land, surrounded on all sides by hills, and with the advantage of being the only district in the two counties where many of the proprietors reside. But these two districts gave ample opportunities of judging the different characteristics of Welsh and English farming as affecting the objects of our enquiry. District visited in Radnorshire.

(1.) Employment of Women and Children on English Farms.

10. On the circumstances of the English districts of Monmouthshire I do not propose to enlarge. They are very similar as regards the employment of women and children to those of English counties described in the Report lately presented. I may add, however, that in most respects I should consider the people in the two unions of Chepstow and Monmouth as well off, compared with those of many other counties in England. The wages in money are not high, but perquisites are given which make it up to a shilling or two more; the advantages naturally varying with the terms on which the farmer and his labourers stand. At Newchurch the least Mr. Woodruffe, a large employer of labour, gives is 10*s.* and two quarts of cider; three of his men have 10*s.* a week, and a cottage beside, but he has only cottages to give three of them (48 M). At one time he gave corn, but that was when it had risen to 8*s.* or 9*s.*; and this he continued to do until the market price had fallen below the 6*s.* English and Welsh farming compared as concerns the employment of women and children in agriculture. Wages in Chepstow and Monmouth union.

11. Throughout this district I found the usual remark, that women will not work out to the extent to which they used formerly. The usual cause assigned was the rise in the rate of wages, but this I had occasion to remark has not been very marked of late years, considering what might have been expected in a tract of land lying midway between the greatest coal fields in Wales and those of the forest of Dean (M. 54, M. 3). The clerk to the Newport Board of Guardians stated that wages in his district averaged from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week, all counted (M. 54). But in the neighbourhood of Monmouth they were said to be only 9*s.* with perquisites. If we are, therefore, to accept it as granted that the reason for women not going out so much to work is that they are better off than they were, we must seek for the reason in the fact of the necessaries of life being cheaper. As a rule, all the baking is done at home, little meat is eaten from year's end to year's end, except the flesh of one pig, which nearly every cottager keeps. Reasons for diminution of women's labour. A labourers' food.

12. But a circumstance which struck me as accounting in some measure for women caring less to go out to work was that suggested by Mr. Lyne, agent to Mr. Herbert of Llanarth (M. 55),—the facility of getting Poor Law relief. No woman ever works out a whole week, say at the most three or four days, Liberality of Poor Law relief.

Q. allowing for wet days, washing days, market days, &c., and for that they would only earn their 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*, whereas they can get 2*s.* from the union equally well without wear and tear of clothes. It was formerly the custom for a widow if able-bodied to go out and work for her family. As there are incessant complaints from the guardians of the amount of the poor rates, it would clearly be better that more should be given in wages and less in charity.

Female labour in Kington union.

13. The same remarks will apply to the English portion of Radnorshire. There it was the subject of general complaint among the farmers that no women will work out. In this district women's labour has almost entirely gone out now. Perhaps the low remuneration given may account for it in some measure. With low wages scarcely enough can be made to cover the wear and tear of clothes, the damage done by children left alone at home, and other incidents to the mother's absence.

Female labour in East Monmouthshire.

14. As a rule, on the east side of Monmouthshire, two or three women are employed on most of the farms. But it is not to be supposed for that reason that they turn out every day of the year; probably scarcely one works out even every fine day; there are certain busy times when they are wanted; at other times they stay at home. Most of those who work are labourers' wives. The principal woman's work is topping and tailing turnips and swedes. At Usk, which is a large agricultural village or small town (M. 80), the English and Welsh women do not work out much now; nearly all the woman's work has been taken by the Irishwomen, who came over in the time of the famine. At this town and at Caerleon there are large colonies of Irish; they are mostly very poor, not such skilled labourers as the natives, and consequently the women have to work to make out the purse. The pulling swedes sometimes falls upon the women too; this is very hard work (M. 27) involving continual stooping; they weed corn occasionally, as many as eight doing it in a row (M. 23), but this is unusual in this county; little weeding is done, there being a great deal of pasture more or less good on the high grounds. Women are employed much to cut thistles, and all over the part where there are orchards a good deal of apple picking is done by them, as also potato setting and planting, partly for farmers and partly for themselves in their own gardens.

Proportion of women working in fields to non-workers.

15. As to the proportion that the women who work out bear in number to those who stay at home, this is dependent on local circumstances, principally the poverty of the district; often on the mere custom of the place; often on the fact of some particular farmer being a large employer of female labour. The high parishes between Monmouth, Raglan, and Chepstow are perhaps those in which women do most out-door work; in St. Arvan's nearly all the women, except those who make dresses, are glad to get out-door work (M. 54). In Newchurch, a large parish on the hills, three parts out of four work out more or less (M. 48); further north at Trelleck, one of the poorest parishes in the district, perhaps a dozen women come out (M. 32) to make hay and reap, and Mr. Hewlett mentions one or two as coming out for him in the swede pulling. Mrs. Hoskins, a labourer's wife in Mitchell Troy, mentioned that there are few who work out in her parish, speaking rather contemptuously of those who do not (M. 27). The further west we go we find less work done by women, the arable land diminishing and the farms being smaller generally, but it is very difficult to lay down a general rule, as far west as Llanarth (M. 11). Where there are many Irish we find farmers taking their wives and children out to dig potatoes, and as an instance of how local the differences are, in the parish of Llanvihangel Crugcorney, scarcely a woman is employed at all, whilst in a neighbouring (Herefordshire) parish only separated by the river Monnow nearly every woman works (91 M).

Women's wages.

16. The wages of women generally are from 10*d.* to 1*s.*, besides a little cider in some cases. At Trelleck (M. 32) where it is perhaps lowest, a woman gets 9*d.* or 10*d.* and some drink. At Mitchell Troy 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day and drink (M. 27); a good deal of work is done by piecework, and at turnip topping and tailing they will get near Chepstow (M. 48) 6*s.* an acre.

Employment of girls.

17. Few young women are employed in agriculture now; most of them go into service as soon as able to carry a child, some will go as young as 10 or 12; those who go very young, perhaps for their food; those a little older for a few pounds; the greater part go into farmhouses, but some go away to the towns; as a rule, they prefer the latter, but the farm service has its advantage in many ways, the food is better (M. 54), and they are treated more on a footing of equality by their employers. Farm service, however, does not merely include in-door work; many farm servants do as much work out of the house as in, and this we find to be more the case the further we come into Wales, where fewer people are kept in regular employment. As to young women working in the same manner as married women, the cases are exceptional, and becoming more so. I seldom heard of more than one or two in a parish, and in their cases there was usually some good reason that prevented their going into service.

Is female labour demoralizing?

18. It seems by general consent to be allowed that field labour does not injure the health. No woman to whom I spoke on the subject complained of ill effects, and farmers spoke of it as beneficial. As a rule, however, except in the case of some few old women who have done it all their life, those who work in the fields speak of it as a hard necessity. Mrs. Cook (M. 41) is "glad to do it sometimes, because "she has so many children, and wants some clothes to put on them." Another woman at Magor, "is "very glad to do it, as she must, would like not to if she could afford it" (M. 59). Mrs. Hoskins' "husband has very bad health, can earn when in work 12*s.* a week, sometimes only earns 2*s.*; last week "had to earn nearly all the money myself; am quite ready and willing to turn my hand to any work, out-"door or in-door. Pulling swedes is very hard work, but am glad to be able to do something." Opinions generally were expressed in favour of women's labour; that it does not demoralise the women themselves, and that their homes are quite as tidy as those of the women who are at home all day. Certainly, speaking from my own experience, it was impossible to judge from the appearance of a cottage whether the mistress works out or not. If she is a sufficiently energetic woman to go out and work, she will probably have sufficient energy to repair some amount of the harm done by her children in her absence, when she returns home; and as in no case does a woman work out every day of the week, her days at home will be better employed than those of a woman who is always at home. What has always seemed to me one of the worst results of female labour is, that when the mother goes out an elder child is kept at home to take care of the baby. Mrs. Burris at Magor, leaves her second boy in charge; he could not be much above 8 years old, and the children have to do as well as they can while she is out (M. 41). The woman to whom I have before alluded at Mitchell Troy (M. 27), has only very young children. "When I go out," she says, "I am obliged to leave the children to take care of

" themselves; one is only a few months old, and none is old enough to take any real care of the " others. I lock them into the kitchen, and they play about; I must leave a bit of fire because of the " supper, but it is dangerous, and I am always afraid they may come to some harm; still, we are so poor, " I must go out to work." Q.

19. There is, of course, generally a girl old enough to take care of her little brothers and sisters, while her mother is out. Schoolmasters complain much of this, and it is much to be deplored; still, it is a question, whether being kept at home for such a purpose is not to some extent a training for domestic duties, such as they never get at school, where such education extends only to needlework.

Employers of female labour, Mr. Woodruffe, Newchurch.

20. On these questions the opinions of gentlemen, who are themselves great employers of female labour, are of much value. Mr. Woodruffe, of Newchurch, " employs in harvest more women than " anyone near;" sometimes he has 20 out. The system on which he goes is to give them as wages the leasing of the field afterwards, and they are all very happy to come out. It is only for harvest, however, that he employs strange women, in everything else he gives the preference to his labourer's wives, and they are always ready to come out when there is extra work to be done, unless there is a child coming or just come. In like manner also " the preference is given " on Colonel Clifford's farm to labourer's wives, and his steward, Mr. Roper (M. 11), thinks " women who come out are better and more " healthy looking than those who stay at home." Mr. Thomas, who farms largely at Bleddfa (R. 36), " lets out the swede pulling to women, who come to work with their children. They do it by measure, " 1½*d.* a row, 100 yards long. They are not at it regular—do not come very early in the morning. " One workman's wife with two boys,—lumps of boys, who ought to be in service,—got 5*l.* for pulling " turnips about a month. All the labourers' wives, who have their hands free, are glad to come out." Mr. G. A. Haig (R. 33), who has a large extent of land in hand upon the Radnorshire hills at Llanbadarn Fynydd, and is introducing tillage in lieu of the usual pasture, writes, " girls are very seldom " employed until they are 16 or 17. At that age they are employed in turnip weeding and planting, " and gathering potatoes, and binding corn in harvest. Women, both married and single, are employed " in the same occupations; they get 1*s.* a day. I employ a great many, sometimes 30 women and " children. The employment is not constant; it is intermittent, and depends on weather. On a fine " day a great many will turn out, on a wet day, very few, or none at all. I think it would be a great " hardship to restrict labour on land; it would only injure the labouring classes. The occupation is " healthy and liked by those engaged in it. I can get plenty of women for field work at 1*s.* a day; " but the same women object to work in my laundry at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, showing plainly that they consider " the occupation a pleasant one." Mr. Thomas, Bleddfa. G. A. Haig, Esq., Llanbadarn, Fynydd.

Employment of children in agriculture.

21. The employment of labourers' children in agriculture is by no means excessive in any part of these counties. As a rule, very few boys do work of any sort for farmers before the ages of 10 or 12 years; about that age the boys will get employment in a farmhouse, usually living there. Each farmer has a boy or two in his farm. If a good boy, and he and the farmer get on, he will probably grow up in the farm, and thus in many farms there will be no small boy at all; but when a new boy is wanted, a younger one is taken, generally a child of one of the labourers. The work done by such a boy is light, generally about the farm-yard, such as minding sheep or pigs, and horses. The old system of taking a little boy to lead the horse while ploughing has almost entirely gone out; pair-horse ploughing, has almost entirely superseded the old tandem ploughing, and the ploughman himself can drive. The farmer himself naturally prefers the new system, as saving the 6*d.* formerly given to the boy. Almost all boys, when first regularly employed, seem to be taken into the farmhouse under the above system; it is an offshoot of the Welsh ystem, as we shall see presently. But boys are sometimes taken from school at an earlier age to scare birds, which always seems to be the first work for which they are considered adapted. It is carried on much on the same system as in most counties in England, but owing to the great extent of pasture in Monmouth and Radnorshire, is confined to some districts, and prevails little in others. They are generally found necessary in the neighbourhood of rookeries,—the only bird that the farmers seem much to dread. The ages too at which they go are the same as I have seen before, depending chiefly on local circumstances, of which the principal is the poverty of the district, and in a minor degree, the personal influence of squire or clergyman, and the quality of the school. The parent is chiefly responsible for the fact of a child going out very young; the farmer naturally never inquires his age; if only he seems a sturdy boy, he knows that one boy at 8 is as good as another at 10. Of course, if the parents be poor, it is a great object to make the child support himself as early as possible. Mr. Smedley, at St. Arvans, told me that little boys run after him and ask him for employment. In Shire Newton, which is a poor parish (M. 45), boys go as young as 8 to keep crows; in the adjoining parish of Newchurch as early as 7 (M. 47). The Rev. C. R. Hall, of the parish of Shire Newton, who filled up a circular for me, informed me that the boys, who go away to keep crows, do not come back to school much after; " they get apple picking, potato setting and picking, and when they get a little older, " holding horses;" but I must say that his experience was rather exceptional. In most parishes, I was told that nearly every child, where there is a school handy, comes back for some short time at least during the winter. The schoolmaster at Llantillio Crossenny, for instance, informed me that the children who are taken away for the hay and corn harvests, sometimes come back for a short time between the harvests. Holidays are given in August for the harvest, and after that comes the potato picking and apple picking, which keeps them out pretty well till November. After that they come with tolerable regularity to school till the mowing begins. Bird-keeping.

Apple picking, potato setting and picking.

22. The work besides harvest work that detains them at other times, is such as the smallest child can be of assistance in,—apple picking, and potato setting and picking. In such work they will often be at work for their parents, or in the garden of a friend of the parent, who will afterwards requite the assistance. A good deal is done for farmers too, and this work they will do chiefly with their parents, so that except bird-keeping the child seldom works alone till settled in a farm.

Employment of little girls.

23. Little girls will also assist (M. 17, 18,) their parents in the same work, though not to the same extent as boys, but it is very light work and unobjectionable, except, perhaps, on educational grounds, to which the same remarks would apply as in the case of boys. I did not come across an instance of a girl keeping birds; of course such apple picking and potato picking as is done by girls, would only be up to the age of 12 or 13, when they go into service. The question of out-door work, as done by farm servants, will come under the head of Welsh farming.

Q. 24. With one more remark I shall conclude this portion of my Report; it is one affecting the morality of these counties. Although there is generally something against the character of a girl who works out in the fields, it is not in consequence of such work that she has lost her character; she is usually a girl who has come to misfortune in farm service. A great deal of harm of this kind arises from the free intercourse between the servants, male and female.

(2.)—Employment of Women and Children on Welsh Farms.

Welsh farms in Radnorshire and Monmouthshire.

25. In considering the peculiarities of Welsh farming, as affecting the employment of women and children, I shall draw my remarks chiefly from the Rhayadr union in Radnorshire, and the Pontypool union and parish of Cwmyoy in Monmouthshire, where we find a totally different state of things from what we meet in the English districts.

Mr. Edwards, of Maesygellig.

26. The case of Mr. Edwards, of Maesygellig, Nantmel, in the centre of the Rhayadr union, is a fair specimen of a Welsh farm. He farms in all about 140 acres, of which only 23 are ploughed, and the rest pasture; of the pasture, about 90 acres are hill side, for sheep, now enclosed, but formerly common, the rest being of a better description (R. 15). Mr. Edwards milks nine cows, but it is not on the dairy that the farmers depend, but on grazing; they grow little more corn and roots than is necessary for farm consumption, and depend for the rents and profits on the cattle and sheep, sheep being the more numerous up in the hills, a larger proportion of cattle in the valley farms. In the hills the proportion of cattle to 200 sheep would be about 25 to 30; in the lower grounds, 50 or 60 cattle to the same number of sheep (R. 33a.). Mr. Edwards can work his farm with two men and a young fellow of about 18, all of whom live in the house, as generally happens, unless with gentleman farmers. In his case all three of his workmen are his own sons. A large farmer in the valley of the Lug (R. 36) told me that he has six sons working on his farm; they work with the farm-labourers, just like one of them. The whole permanent establishment at Mr. Edwards', therefore, consists of his three sons and one farm servant,—a female, who does the milking. When harvest time comes it becomes necessary to hire a man: and the wheat is let out to a stranger to cut at 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* and food. As a rule, so little corn is grown on these farms that one extra hand, or, as often happens, the assistance of some neighbour, is sufficient to get it all in. In the valley of the Usk, however, in Monmouthshire, where the Welsh system of living in the house still prevails, there is more arable land, and a larger proportion of extra hands becomes necessary.

Pontypool union.

Mr. Jenkins, Glascoed.

27. Mr. Jenkins, of Glascoed (M. 84), who farms about 180 acres, has only three men in regular employ—his shepherd, who occupies the only cottage on his farm, and his waggoner and a boy of 14, who live in the house. He does everything else by job work. In harvest he would have a good many out; had three or four hands employed extra for a month this last summer, but now (October) does not require so many. His farm would be a fair specimen of the farms in the valley of the Usk. Some slight modifications of these circumstances exist in various localities, dependent on where there is a larger proportion of arable land, and where there are a few more cottages on the farms than the scanty supply usually found in Monmouthshire. It was often given as a reason for having men (R. 13) living in the house that there are not sufficient cottages for them to live in; but, in some instances, farmers have told me that they prefer to have men living in the house (M. 68; R. 40). The farm servants hired thus are hired annually at the hiring fairs, which still go on in these two counties; in Monmouthshire, at Monmouth and Abergavenny; in Radnorshire, at Rhayadr and Penybont. Many of the servants, even who have no idea of changing their places, insist on having their holiday at the fair, and then come back to their old place. Few, however, will stay at one place more than three or four years (R. 20); the young men and women like change. Everything is upset about the time of the fair (May); you can get no one to do anything; all the lettings take place from the day of the fair. Mr. Wyatt, the Duke of Beaufort's agent, speaks of these mop fairs, as they are locally termed, as one of the greatest evils of the county. "As many as 500 young men and women come to the great "mop fair at Monmouth, which takes place in May. They hire themselves out for the year, and most "of them come back again at the end of the year to the next fair. They are generally worse "characters than the people who keep steadily to one place; they never seem to get attached to one "locality. They do a deal of harm in the town; each public-house has its fiddler, and a dance "generally takes place; they are almost all unmarried." No inquiry seems to be made into character on these occasions; it is a question only of who is a good workman or workwoman, and the demoralization can easily be imagined consequent on young women waiting in the market-place to be hired. I regretted much that the time of year of my tour in Wales prevented my being present at a "mop "fair," so that I cannot speak of it from my own experience.

Hiring fairs.

Farm servants.

28. In the wilder districts, however, there is a more clannish feeling, and a servant once hired is more willing to stay in his place, and grow up in it. In the Welsh farms the servants are as well off, often more so, than their masters. Many of them will get 16*l.* or 17*l.* a year (R. 20), and as they have no expenses, except clothes, a saving man can put by nearly the whole of it. In a farm at Cwmdauddwr there was a farm servant, a man 35 years of age, worth 200*l.* When a labourer marries he has to leave the farm very often; for many of these farms are quite unprovided with cottages. In many cases, however, when a young man has been some time in service, and put by a little money, and a servant girl the same, they will marry, and set up a farm on their own account with a capital of perhaps 80*l.* to 100*l.* But this system is going out very much now; the farms are being consolidated into larger holdings, which require more capital, and cottages are being built, consequently there is less chance for a labourer to rise to be a farmer. In the valley of the Usk nearly all the married men work by the job at 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. There are very few married men in regular employ; but they are very little out of work, unless they choose to be so; there is always road work or fencing to be done, if not harvest, turnip pulling, or mowing; then there is a good deal of wood-cutting in the winter, and the wives and children, if they do not work in the fields, can make a good deal of money by nutting and the whin harvest in some parts (M. 34, 87). Besides this many such men have small holdings of their own, held under a nominal rent sometimes, to most of which gardens are attached, considerably larger than in most English counties. In this district (M. 87) men generally prefer irregular job work; they want to get on the roads or railway. On the other hand, up on the Radnorshire hills, in the Cwmyoy valley in Monmouthshire, and, I believe, on the Monmouthshire hills, the out-door agricultural labourer hardly exists. There

Farm servants turn to farmers.

Job men in Monmouthshire.

Mutual assistance in Radnorshire and Monmouthshire hills.

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are not so many hands wanted here, and a carpenter or anybody else will come out for a few days; there is no real scarcity of male labour. "We help one another too," says Mr. Price, of Maesgwyn (R. 40), "often lend one another a team; and in the case of small farmers, they will often go out "together, and get in the harvest on one farm first, and then off to the next. It is a system very hard "for English people to understand: but the labourers here are not many, and those that are are as well "off as many of the farmers. Many of the people are half farmers, half labourers; men, for instance, "who pay 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year rent, will work a day or two on their own land, and the rest of the week "at 2*s.* a day for some larger farmer." A farmer in Old Radnor, who farms 90 acres, of which half is arable, with only two men living in the house, if he wants another hand in summer gets one of the neighbouring lime-burners to come out (R. 28). One of them will often borrow his team in the winter, saying if he will lend it he will do a day's work for him in the summer.

Little room for female employment on a hill farm.

29. From this it may be seen that on a Welsh-hill farm, such as those in these two counties, there is no room for organized female employment. Labourers' wives, in fact, where there are labourers, seldom or never work out at all: but as we have seen in every farm there are one or more female servants, whose work is by no means always confined to the house. I heard, however, general complaints among the farmers that the girls are now getting above out-door work, and consider themselves only called upon to do household work. In the west of Radnorshire farmers like to get a Cardiganshire girl; she will do a lot of out-door work, such as all the milking, and going out to spread manure, &c. But when they come into this county they soon get above that; they will come at about 16, but in two years they will be as particular as the Radnorshire girls (R. 17). It seems that the natives of Radnorshire appreciate a hardworking wife; for in Cwmdauddwr parish I heard as one of the reasons of Welsh being still talked there that so many of the men have married girls from Cardiganshire, where Welsh is still talked. Radnorshire girls will generally begin service at from 12 to 15 years of age; it is the career of nearly all of them; they stay in service usually till they marry. A carpenter's daughter to whom I talked at Newbridge (R. 11) had gone to service at 13 in a farmhouse; she would do a little out-door work now and then, such as setting potatoes and going out in the harvest; she did the milking too. She and a young man of 20 were the only people working on the farm besides the farmer and his son.

Female farm servants.

Farmers' daughters.

30. The girl thus employed is however in no sense a drudge; she is treated on a footing of equality in every respect, such as having her meals with the family, and such work as she is expected to do is only that done by his daughters, if the farmer has any. In cases where a farmer who is not a rich man, and few are rich here, has daughters, he will often have no servant at all, his wife and daughters doing all the women's work (R. 9, 10). On one point only did I hear complaints as to the system, and those were on the ground of immorality. The Rev. W. Williams writes (R. 23):—"The morals of the young "women in this district are I fear very much corrupted. It is with much regret that I state that "it is quite the exception for young women of the rank of farmer's daughters and downwards to be "married before they are far gone with child." Owing to the children being mostly located in farm-houses at 13 (M. 97), there is little crowding in cottages, and little harm can be traced to that.

Immorality in Radnorshire.

Employment of children in hill districts.

31. As a rule in the hill country farmers' children begin work considerably earlier than labourers'. Some of them begin at 8 years of age to work for their parents; not only the children of small farmers, but those of the large farmers too (M. 96). A farmer with a small holding in the Cwmyoy valley told me that his boy began to work almost as soon as he could walk, and could lead a horse at 7 or 8 years of age (M. 97). "A farmers' boy," he added, "generally manages a horse better than "a labourer's because he begins earlier. A labourers' boy does not begin till 10, and has not the "same advantages." He has not the same opportunities of being about with his father and his elder brothers and the horses. The farmer's family living nearly as much out of doors as indoors, it is a child's amusement to get away among the horses. When a little older he is proud of being able to drive the sheep and cattle and set and pick potatoes. There is no bird-keeping, and all ploughing is done by pair-horse teams, so that a boy is not necessary to lead the horses, though often he will come out for his own amusement, and although there are not birds to be scared, a farmer will often plant a little bit of land with corn without fencing it and keep his children at home to keep the cattle out of it. A farmer finds it an economy to employ his own children, and will rather work them than a labourer's child whom he has to pay (R. 20). As to their being overworked, we hear nothing of that.

(3.)—Education.

Schools newly built in hill districts.

32. It is very satisfactory to find that, though hitherto very ill-provided with schools, considerable efforts are being made in the hills to repair the deficiency. In the union of Rhayadr, which contains only nine Radnorshire parishes, I counted no less than four schools built during the few late years, and at another parish there is one just going to be commenced. To get up the funds for these schools has generally been a work of time and difficulty; the resident gentry are few, and the farmers poor, their money is hardly earned, and so not lightly to be parted with (R. 14), besides though thinking it right that every child should know how to read and write they do not think it necessary he should know much more. That that amount is necessary however seems generally agreed, and I found among the farmers in this union, especially on the hills, a great wish that their children should be educated to that extent. Thus in the valley of the Wye, where for a distance of 10 miles there is no other school, one of the farmers who has a good deal of room has given a room in his farm for the purpose, and the neighbours have combined to keep a schoolmaster for the six winter months. There is an attendance of about 15 children (R. 20.)

Extent of parishes interferes with school attendance.

33. In an ordinary English parish one such school as exists in most parishes of this union would be sufficient, but the extent of these Radnorshire parishes is very great, and the population very scattered. Thus the parish of Cwmdauddwr contains 32,000 acres; that of Nantmel is 10 miles long; that of Cwmyoy in Monmouthshire is seven miles long: the population of Cwmyoy is little over 600, that of Cwmdauddwr not quite 800, and that of Nantmel about 1,400; so that each of these parishes having a capital school house would, if compact, have sufficient accommodation for all the children resident there.

Cwmdauddwr schools.

34. Of these parishes Cwmdauddwr is perhaps the most unfortunately situate. The school is in one corner close to Rhayadr, and is more a town than a country school: in fact, an arrangement

Q. is made by which the boys come to Cwmdauddwr school, the girls to Rhayadr. It is open to all denominations, but on Sunday each chapel has its separate school. The exertions of a resident squire have provided to a certain extent for a higher part of the parish, Nant Gwyllt, five miles from the other school, and here there is often an attendance of 50 children in a neighbourhood very sparsely inhabited. Besides these two schools there is that in the Wye valley mentioned above, but there is a large mountain tract, within reach of which there is no school. It is a subject, however, for congratulation that the distances to which the children will often come to school are considerable; often they will walk, there and back, as far as four or five miles (R. 1), bringing their dinner to school with them to eat there. Some of the farmers even go to the expense of boarding and lodging them in Rhayadr for the advantage of the schools.

Abbeycwmhir. 35. At Abbeycwmhir, the schoolmaster mentioned two boys, the sons of men with small holdings (R. 3), who lodge in the village. He has children coming as far as from four miles, and some little ones who come nearly two miles.

Newbridge. 36. At Newbridge (R. 6) "there are a good many come four and five miles, walking there and back "every day; some from the adjacent parish of Disserth."

Nantmel. 37. In Nantmel, which has an area of 16,000 acres, there are two schools, the National school and a British, a mile and a half distant from one another. The rector (R. 14) wants very much to get some more schools, as all children in outlying parts have to go to other parishes or to no school at all. In parishes such as Nantmel and Cwmdauddwr some children never go to school at all; but the people send them if they can. At Newbridge, where there is a very energetic schoolmaster, the people seem to take a great interest in their school,—a capital building erected two years ago. On the day on which I visited it there were present three young men, and as many big girls. The young men have been in service, but have only taken service this time for six months in order to come to school the six winter months. The schoolmaster himself (R. 6) attributes a portion of this interest to the fact of the people having felt the want of a school so long.

School attendance better in winter than in summer. 38. With regard to the regularity of school attendance, I found in the instances in which statistics were given that on a rough computation two-thirds of the children on the books attended on an average daily throughout the year, the attendance in winter being always better than in summer. For though naturally the weather and shortness of days prevents many of the distant children from attending school in winter with regularity, this is amply compensated by the fact that all the children, who work out on their fathers' farms, or for farmers, work in the summer months, and there is little work done by children in winter. The difference therefore is not very great. The Rev. Mr. Evans, of Abbeycwmhir, a parish in which there is scarcely a village at all, and nearly all the children come some distance to school, was good enough to provide me with his statement of average attendance during the four quarters of year (R. 2), from which it will be seen that the best attendance was in the two winter quarters, the months of October to March, the average being in the two quarters 44 to 46. It was much the worst in the spring quarter, when it had fallen to 33; in the summer had risen again to 41. The proportion of attendance to the number on the register differed little throughout the year, except that in the quarter from January to March the proportion was far better than at any other time, 48 to 57, against in the preceding quarter, 45 to 67. In the three Cwmdauddwr schools (R. 20) the average summer attendance was 68 boys against 81 in winter, and 32 girls against 39. It must be recollected that at the principal school there are only boys. At the Cwmyoy school, which I visited in November, there were 23 children present, out of 27 on the books that week. From January to March the schoolmistress estimated the attendance at about 10 more; in the summer it dwindles to 11, and they only little ones,—the youngest aged 2, the eldest, a girl, 11 (M. 95). As a rule, the labourers' boys stay later in age than the farmers', and also come more regularly; few of the former begin any work before 10 years of age; of the latter many only come to school at intervals of work.

Abbeycwmhir schools.

Cwmdauddwr schools.

Cwmyoy.

Schools in Chepstow and Monmouth unions. 39. In the English districts of these counties children are taken away from school usually at an age in proportion to the general poverty of the parish or the personal influence exercised in the parish by clergyman or squire, the influence of the clergy of all denominations being naturally less than in most English counties, in consequence of the variety of forms of religion that prevail; but now that pair-horse ploughing has come in there is little work for very small boys to do for the farmers. Thus in the parish of Llangwym, one of the few of any considerable extent in which there is now no school,* the vicar assured me (M. 49) that he did not believe that on that account the boys go earlier to work—"there is really little work for boys to do." In the hill districts between this parish and Chepstow children are taken the earliest to work. The Rev. R. Hall, at Shirenewton (M. 40), says, that "boys go as young as 8 to keep crows, and do not come "back much after; they get apple-picking, potato setting and picking, and, when they are a "little older, holding horses." The schoolmaster at Newchurch mentioned that "children are taken "as early as 7 to work in the fields; they generally begin at crow-keeping a few weeks in the spring; "also for nutting, potato setting, apple picking, and leasing; they all come back again. Girls leave "the school at 9 to 11, and get regular work, if they can, generally farmhouse work." The schoolmaster at Magor says (M. 61), that "the time of year when boys are taken away to mind crows is in "September and October. There is a boy of 10 away minding crows now. In April and May they "go to plant potatoes. As a rule, they come back, but the schoolmaster generally has to go off to "the cottages to see about getting them back. I am going after two or three to night." The schoolmistress at Raglan says, "Boys are taken away for a time very often, but they come back generally; "they go to mind the birds. Some have been away, and are now away potato picking. Some go "very young, at 7 or 8 years of age. In summer quite a third of the children go; they come back "about now, and will be off again in the spring."

Shirenewton.

Newchurch.

Magor.

Raglan.

Other causes besides early labour interfering with school attendance—poverty. 40. In poor parishes a good many children are kept away from school "because of the penny" (M. 47). Sometimes when the Monday is very wet they are kept away from school all the week; but when the Monday is fine, and the penny once paid, the parents will send them pretty regularly all the week. It sounds at first an absurdity to suppose that one penny can be any great consideration, but when it is recollected that in many cases there are some four, five, or six children of an age to go to school, and there is only 9*d.* or 10*d.* in money coming into the house weekly, it is a great temptation, especially where the management is not good, to keep the children idling at home. Distance is often

Distance.

* Money has been collected, and one is immediately to be commenced.

an obstruction, especially in wet weather, though not to the same extent as in the hills; but there are several parishes (M. 46), especially the smaller ones, which have no school at all, and the children from these, who are not within reach of a neighbouring parish, get little or no schooling at all. At Llangwym, where there is a population of 400, some 10 or 12 children go to the adjoining parish of Llansoy, and some few to other neighbouring parishes; the rest go to no school at all, except one or two dame schools, which are now and then established for a time, and then die out. Of course, in every parish there are some few families who do not appreciate the advantage of schooling, perhaps never having been themselves, or wanting the money for other purposes,—too often drink. Their children either never go to school, or very seldom, and then only when pressure is put on them. At Magor even, which is on the whole a well-managed parish, there is a cottage close to the school, the children in which never come to school, except on Sunday. Q.

41. On the subject of night schools I need make few remarks, principally for the reason that there are hardly any in these counties. This is easy to understand in the hill parishes, because, on account of their great extent, it is absurd to expect the people to come out at night, after a long day's work a walk of several miles to school and back. In the lower grounds I cannot help thinking that the cause of their being so few is the variety of forms of our religion into which the people are split up. As long as the teachers are content to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic all goes well; but I have always found that owing to the work done by the schoolmasters during the day they are little able to teach at night, and the work generally falls on the clergyman, who naturally wishes to add religious teaching. Among other difficulties one gentleman told me that his greatest was that he could not get the boys he wanted. What he wanted was the boys who had lately left the day school, and the young men, and he found that those who came were too often the boys still of an age to come to the day school, who made the night school rather an excuse for not coming to the other. Another gentleman told me as a reason for his night school having failed that he thought all the children already knew when they left the day school as much as was taught at the night school. Night schools.

42. In these counties I found, as a rule, that boys' labour as required by farmers need clash very little with the school. It was a generally expressed opinion among the farmers that boys under 12 are really of very little use (M. 39), and certainly I feel sure that nobody in these counties employing labour could have reason to object to any of the very moderate recommendations embodied in your late report on the English counties. The boys I found keeping birds were generally about 10 or 11 years of age,—a little younger in some instances,—but even those so employed are, or can be, at school, if there is one within reach, at least half of the year. A great deal of work is done by them as little children in their parents' gardens, for many labourers have large holdings, and a great deal by farmers' children for their parents. At what age do farmers require boy's labour?

4.—Cottages.

43. Throughout the greater part of Monmouthshire I am sorry to say I had occasion to observe that the cottages were not at all up to the mark of those in Radnorshire, either as to quality or as to numbers. One peculiarity which accounts for this in some measure is the quantity of small freeholds and what are called cot-rents,—cottages which pay only a small, in many cases a nominal, rent to the landlord. Of these there are more than 800 on the Duke of Beaufort's estate alone. The reasons which have led to their growing up are various; principally that some years ago little narrow strips of land were left along the sides of the roads, land not being so valuable as now; or that, a new road being made, perhaps a corner was cut off a farm, so small that it was not thought worth while to re-enclose it. Some individual would put up a little cottage here, generally a mere hovel at first, but in course of time as he became more sure of not being disturbed in his possession, would improve the house, and take in more and more garden land along the roadside, till there has grown up in some parishes,—Raglan, for instance,—a sort of long narrow field cutting off the farm from the roadside, and cut up into small holdings, each with a garden, sometimes with an orchard attached, and sometimes even, if the holding be larger, a bit of corn or roots. Some of these are freeholds; but the greater part pay some small rent to an adjoining proprietor. The greater number of these cotters pay 10*s.* a year, some as low as 6*d.* (M. 78). The system, however, is going out very much now; very few of the small freeholds are left. When the present proprietor of Dingestow (M. 23) came into his property all the cottages were owned by squatters, some freeholds, some cot-rents; he has now bought up all the freeholds, the people coming and asking him to do it. It sounds very well at first that every labourer should have his own little holding, but it too often ends in his only making use of it to borrow money which he can never repay, and getting into the hands of some small money-lender, who will sell him up mercilessly. The copyholders ought to be better off than the freeholders, for they pay small rents, and are therefore less able to mortgage, while their cottage is obtained practically almost as cheap as a freehold. The fact of the matter is that a freeholder with his cottage mortgaged is worse off than a tenant at its full value, inasmuch as he must pay the interest or will be sold up, and never have a repair done for him, while his landlord is far more likely to be lenient, and is expected to keep the building in repair. Paucity of cottages in Monmouthshire. Cot-rents. Extinction of small freeholds.

44. Some of the cots are wretched hovels: others again, where a man has thriven, are often very good houses. At Raglan I saw one hardly fit to live in, and another a capital slated cottage, two stories high, with three windows on the top storey and one on each side of the door below (M. 20). The Duke's agent told me that his cotters are a great disadvantage to him. Remarks are often made as to the badness of their cottages, and made undeservedly; he can do nothing for them but pull them down altogether, or improve them and raise the rent. To do the latter is very difficult, for they do not at all understand the value of a good cottage (M. 24). They have only one advantage that I could see; they all have capital gardens: nearly every cottage is Monmouthshire has an excellent garden. At Usk, I saw from the rate book that nearly every cotter has at least an acre of land; in one page of about 20 holdings were only two less than an acre (78). Usk itself, which is called a town, is really a very large collection of houses and gardens, nearly every house having a good garden at its back. Condition of cots. Gardens excellent.

45. The cotters are much poorer than the ordinary agricultural labourer who gets 2*s.* a day. They will work for 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and only work by job work, getting a job from a farmer now and Cotters very poor.

Q. then. Most of them have built their houses close to the woods, and some earn a good deal of money in the winter as woodmen, but a good deal of pilfering goes on besides, the women taking wood not only for their own firing, but also to sell to the bakers in the towns (M. 4, 24).

Cottages in country towns. 46. The worst cottages that I saw in Monmouthshire, next to those of some of the poorer cotters, were those on the outskirts of the smaller towns, inhabited by agricultural labourers. In this county it has been for a long time not the habit for landed proprietors to build cottages, and consequently in such towns as Usk and Caerleon there is a large agricultural population, going out in many instances long distances to work. There is one parish in the Newport union which has little population beyond the rector's family. The vicar of Caerleon (M. 64) mentioned that some of his parishioners go out to work at parishes four and five miles distant. People go out from Usk to work at Llangibby, parts of which are three and four miles distant (M. 84). The same thing is found over most of the county.

Rents high. The great scarcity of cottages has of course a tendency to keep up the rents, and, as a rule, in Monmouthshire I found rents paid for cottages disproportioned to the income of the labourer, except in the case of proprietors living on their land, who are aware that it is impossible to ask a labourer more

Farmers in want of cottages. than 1*s.*, or at most 1*s.* 6*d.*, a week cottage rent without impoverishing him. At every meeting of Boards of Guardians that I attended the general complaint was that they wanted more cottages. They have done tolerably well without them up to the present time by keeping labourers in the house: but as the farms have been consolidated the farmer has begun to find the need of cottages for some of his men in regular employ to live in. He has not room for all in his house, and he is a higher class of man, and cannot live with his servants. But the great question we have had to deal with all along comes of how cottage property is to remunerate the owner, and yet not be too expensive for a labourer to live in. Too often we find the labourer quite content to live in a poor place that is really worth no more than the 3*l.* a year he can afford ; but it is the general opinion now that such places are unfit for a man to live in, and any landlord who has such cottages on his property is justly the subject of comment. The Union Chargeability Bill, which was passed to prevent people from pulling down their cottages with a view to escaping rates, has not had much effect as yet. It was passed with the object of taking away the benefit that accrued to the agriculturist by forcing the town to pay for his old and feeble, and so inducing him to build cottages, but it has not had this result. The fact is, remarks Major Herbert in allusion to this question, cottages will not pay, and people will not build them (M. 90). Mr. Lyne (57), Mr. Herbert of Llanarth's agent, calculates that a good cottage costs 100*l.*, and to make it pay you must charge 8*l.* rent a year, whereas 3*l.* is about all a labourer can afford. Lord Tredegar calculates that a cottage must pay 6 per cent. to remunerate the owner. He charges 3*l.* for a labourer's cottages, which is about half its value (M. 55). But, of course, it is only large proprietors who can afford this liberality. The class of cottages that are built in small agricultural towns belongs generally to small proprietors, who must make profit out of them, and can only do

Little overcrowding. so by stinting repairs, and asking a large rent. It is a somewhat rare thing in Monmouthshire to find a three-bedroomed cottage, but one redeeming feature of the cottage property in the county is that there is little overcrowding. The children, boys and girls, are almost all taken at 12 or 14 years of age, some earlier, to service in the farm houses, consequently little immorality can be traced to this cause ; we must seek most of it, as before stated, in the farmhouses themselves.

Radnorshire cottages. 47. In the hill farms of Radnorshire there is little need for cottages ; a greater necessity is, of course, arising now with the enlarging of the farms, and we find that in many instances old farm houses are turned into cottages for the labourers. Where the English farming has penetrated at all the county may be compared to its advantage with Monmouthshire. In the course of my tour I saw in many quarters symptoms of great activity in cottage building ; on the road, for instance, from Newbridge

Mr. Phillip's cottages. to Rhayadr, and from Penybont to Abbeycwmhir. At the latter place Mr. Phillips has built lately some excellent brick cottages, for which he charges only 4*l.* rent; but they are rather on too expensive a scale to serve as a general type of model cottages, costing him 400*l.* a pair (R. 5); they are sufficiently good for the village schoolmaster to live in one. At Doldowlod the same remarks

St. Harmon's cottages. would apply. In the village of St. Harmon's, one of the worst out-of-the-way parts of the country, though some of the cottages were very bad, I was glad to see that decided improvement has been made of late years, principally owing to the railway, the benefit of which to this county is apparent in almost every part. There seemed to be three different classes of cottages. The old ones, of which there cannot be above half-a-dozen now, and which are gradually disappearing, would form the first class. One I visited consisted of only two rooms, separated from one another by a partition, of which a high old-fashioned fire-place seemed to be the principal part. The walls were built of rubble, and thatched, and the roof so low that inside a man putting up his hand could touch any part (R. 19). The whole kitchen was so small that when the Rev. Mr. Evans, who took me there, and I were inside, there seemed little room for ourselves, or the three other people we found there, to move. The next class were more substantial looking buildings of stone with tile roofs, but only one story high. The best class seemed as good as one could wish anywhere,—stone and tile, and two stories high. These last only have been built since the railway came and facilitated the transport of stone and lime. But,

Cwmdauddwr cottages. as above stated, some of the worst specimens of cottages are to be found in the outskirts of the agricultural towns, in Rhayadr, for instance (R. 1), and in Cwmdauddwr, which is in fact a suburb of Rhayadr. In this latter place (R. 22) I visited some cottages in no degree better than the very worst at St. Harmon's, and there did not seem to be the same sort of improvement going on. The suburban cottages, inhabited by agricultural labourers, as a rule, belong to small men living in the town, whereas the few cottages situate in the country belong to the landed proprietors who, being richer men, can afford to give more money for repairs and ask a lower rent. There are in Monmouthshire, as far as I saw, few cottages as bad as some of those in Radnorshire: but the progress of improvement is far more rapid in the latter country than in the former.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

January 9, 1870. ROBERT F. BOYLE.

APPENDIX.

PART II. TO THIRD REPORT.

EVIDENCE

ACCOMPANYING

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GLAMORGANSHIRE.

Glamorganshire.

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1. MEETING OF THE COWBRIDGE FARMERS' CLUB.

November 2nd, 1869.

The Rev. H. Morgan, of St. Athan's, occupied the chair, and there were also present Mr. J. Garsed, Dr. Lewis, Rev. C. R. Knight, Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, Mr. Bodington, Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, Mr. Gordon, Tondu, Mr. Culverwell, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. Price, Mr. Alexander, Monkton, Mr. Howe, Rev. T. Edmondes, Rev. T. Williams, M.A., Mr. L. V. Huntley, Mr. H. Garsed, Mr. T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Mr. L. Thomas, Tydraw, Major Turberville, Mr. D. B. Davies, Eglwysbrewis, &c.

Mr. Gordon, of Tondu, said he had had some experience in regard to the employment of women for agricultural purposes. He agreed with Mr. Portman that if married women were employed from January to January in field labours, their homes were not what they should be. But with regard to unmarried females from 14 to 18 years of age he approved of their being employed. When over 18 years they generally got married, and were, in his district, rarely seen afterwards at field work. With regard to the age at which children should be employed, his experience led him to the conclusion that it was not desirable to employ boys under 10 years of age. He thought that up to that age they should be sent to school, and as a father of children he should be sorry to see them go to work before that age. Indeed he did not think that boys should be employed much between 10 and 12 years, for if they had boys on their farms they must put them to hard work, which was perhaps too hard sometimes for boys of that age. With regard to the distances which the agricultural labourers had to travel before reaching their homes, they varied very much in the district. He thought no married woman with a family should be required to commence work before half-past eight in the morning, so that she might be able to attend to her family before leaving home, and also have time to walk the one or two miles which she has generally to go before reaching her work. She should have one hour for dinner, and be allowed to leave work so as to reach home about half-past five, so that she might have time to prepare for her husband's return. He had found that by letting the women have a little time in the evening, it had generally resulted in their having happier homes. The hours of unmarried women should be from eight to six o'clock. As to the health, he found few people more healthy than the women employed in the fields, and illness was much less amongst them than was the case with those employed in factories and indoors. Education, he thought, was very deficient, and he should like to see some steps taken which would guard against a continuance of the present state of ignorance. The only way to do this, he thought, was to put the means of education within the reach of the children. Let them put education within their reach at a low rate. But he did not approve altogether of making it compulsory. They could not expect that the result of such a system would be felt so much by the present as the next generation, which would probably send their children to school without being asked. He thought that they could spare their boys between 12 and 14, in the winter months, to go to an evening school two or three times a week. His own impression was that boys between 12 and 14 would be likely to derive more advantage in two hours than during ten hours in the day before they were 10 years old, because by the time they reached 12 or 14 years they would have began to appreciate the advantages of education.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, said he was opposed to women between 14 and 18 years of age working in the fields. He thought that the most critical part of their lifetime, and their employment in fields then exposed them to many dangers which had a prejudicial effect upon their welfare.

Mr. Robert Howe, of St. Marychurch, said that Mr. Gordon's experience related to the neighbourhood of the tip girls; but the Vale of Glamorgan was different. He (the speaker) had never seen girls of from 15 to 17 years of age working in the fields, but he had found married women assisting their husbands during harvest time. It was not a general thing in the neighbourhood for women to be employed in the fields, except in clipping turnips and picking weeds, and occasionally at harvest time. As a general rule, the woman had a house and several children. The boys were sent from home to the farmhouse, where they received 4*l.* or 5*l.*, and that money was generally

reckoned upon by the parents to pay the rent, or buy a pig, or something of that sort. Boys and young girls were, however, not as a rule employed in the Vale of Glamorgan. The children were generally taken care of by the rector of the parish. A penny a week generally paid for the school, and the rector took care of them on the Sunday. There was generally, also, a night school, and he (the speaker) took care that his boys had an hour or two at night to go to it. That was in the Vale of Glamorgan. He thought that boys should be sent from home when they were from 8 to 9 years of age, for if they were kept at home till they were 13 or 14 they thought it a hardship to have to go to work. If they kept them till that time he thought they would have to make additions to their workhouses and gaols.

Mr. Portman asked Mr. Howe at what age he gave boys 4*l.* or 5*l.* a year?—Mr. Howe replied, when they were about 10 years of age, and that was exclusive of their keep.

Mr. Alexander, of Monkton, said when he was young—or within the last 20 years—the rule was to keep women working in the fields in his parish, and he had seen as many as 30 women on a farm in a day. Now it was very difficult to get any women to work in the fields, and it was the exception for them to do so now. This was principally owing to the increase of wages to the men—about 30 per cent.,—which gave them the opportunity of enjoying the advantages of a good home. As to young girls, they generally took care of the house when their mothers were out. His parish had not a school, but there was one in the adjoining parish. With regard to the age of the boys, farmers found them of little service under 10 years, except for bird-keeping, and they generally took them into service for the advantage of their fathers. In their district they were generally in such a fix for labourers, owing to mining operations, that they had to entice people to work, but women, girls, and boys were rarely employed by them. They enjoyed better health than any other class of workers, and with regard to education, he found that as people acquired means and cultivated steady habits, they generally took advantage of opportunities for getting education. He had brought up a number of boys, who, after becoming acquainted with reading and writing, had gone into other occupations, such as artizans and porters, and done well. Men who formerly got 8*s.* or 10*s.* a week, now became possessed of education, and earned their 15*s.* or 20*s.* a week.

Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, said, that as a considerable employer of labour, he could say that women were employed on farms to great advantage. They were generally employed by the piece or job, and not by the day. They worked four or five hours a day, and materially assisted the farmer, and aided in the support of their families without any of the bad effects which the Hon. Mr. Portman had spoken of. Where labour was so high—in few districts was it so high as theirs—he did not think it desirable to interfere with the employment of women. He did not think it was quite right that women should be kept from their house from 7 in the morning till 6 at night—they did not do so in his district. They employed boys from 8 to 10 years bird-keeping and other similar work, which they required them to do at certain seasons of the year. For six months out of the twelve farmers could arrange to do without boys. It would not be to the advantage of the children to interfere with their employment during certain portions of the year. As to the health, the ruddy faces of the boys were the best indication they could have. Cottage accommodation was the great defect in this part of the district. They wanted to get respectable men to settle down in their farms, and his experience was that they left them because they had not comfortable homes. (Loud applause.) In their places they were compelled to pick up tramps from the road. He thought education was a great thing, but education began at home, and he said let them have good cottages, and they would have respectable men settling down amongst them instead of running away. (Applause.) If that had been attended to before they would not have heard so much about the question of education.

Mr. Portman.—How many hours are the boys engaged in bird-keeping? Is it not a fact they are out from daylight to dark?—Mr. Wright.—Generally from after breakfast until night; sometimes from 7 till 5.

Mr. Culverwell said that comfortable cottages were the great reformation that was required in that part of the country. He might say that there were a hundred cottages in the immediate neighbourhood which were without ceilings. They had inspectors of cattle, and why not have inspectors of cottages? (Cheers.) They were calling upon the poor employers of the land, but why not call upon the landlords to attend to the cottages? (Cheers.) They sent for labourers to all parts of the country, and whether they had cottages or not they had to give them high wages. He said landlords ought to be compelled to provide a proper number of good cottages, and then there would be a great improvement in the condition of the labourers. (Hear.) He approved of boys being sent early to work, as in his experience they turned out more useful labourers, and by going to night schools in the winter were as well educated as any. He had taken boys from the union and boys from school, and they were not equal to the boys brought up on the farm.

Mr. Portman.—Do the boys live in the farmhouse?—No, I don't keep boys in the house. I don't think we ought to keep them in the house, they ought to live with their parents. It was a great loss if a boy or man had to walk a long distance to his work. He found that the more job work that was given them the better it is for the farmers. They got more for their pound than they did by day work.

Mr. J. Garsed.—At what age do boys generally go into your employ?—Mr. Culverwell.—My boys generally commence between 10 and 12. I take them when they are young a few hours to commence with.

Mr. Price thought that 10 years of age and upwards in this country was the age at which boys commenced work, and it would not pay farmers to take them below that age. Girls and women were employed to a small extent; but he did not think there was a woman or child employed to every 500 acres throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. (Cries of "No," and "Yes.") The ordinary distance that men had to walk to get to their work was about half a mile. Women's work was principally piecework, and consisted of weeding and trimming turnips. Their health was good, and education was above the average of any county in England.

Mr. John Thomas, auctioneer, said Mr. Gordon's remarks referred to the western part of the district, near the works about Bridgend. He did not think, if they wanted women in their district, they could get them, and boys were not employed under 10 years. When women went out to work it was generally because they had drunken husbands, or only one or two children. The greatest want of all was an improvement in the labourers' cottages, but that improvement was being commenced. Their labourers' cottages were as bad as in any county they could name. (Cries of "Shameful.")

Mr. John Garsed desired to make a few remarks, which he would state as briefly as possible. As to the age at which children were employed in that district, he found that, as a rule, in his locality children were taken to work from 7 years upwards. When taken at so young an age it was generally through charitable motives, and in order to assist the father. His own opinion was, that the employment of one man with a gun over a farm to scare away birds was more profitable than having boys. He personally did not think that it would prove beneficial to fix a definite age at which boys should not be employed; but he was willing to concede the point and say that no child should be employed under 10 years. A good deal

Glamorganshire.

Mr. Portman.

m.

had been said as to night schools, but he found from his experience that unless children were taught at an early age, when they easily received impressions, that they did not afterwards benefit much at the night schools. With regard to the employment of women and girls for farm work, very little was done in that neighbourhood. Although there was much work to be done, sufficiently good wages were brought home by the man as not to require the employment of the wife in farm work. He had a strong opinion that no unmarried woman should be employed in out-door agricultural labour. There could be no doubt that the moral tone of the female was lowered by the people she was brought in contact with at such work. He not think, however, that legislative interference in women's work was necessary. The question might very well be left alone, because, owing to the high rate of wages, it was optional with the female whether she would assist the husband or not. The hours of work and distance from home were questions affected by the want of cottages. Some were compelled on this account to walk considerable distances, and, as Mr. Culverwell remarked, that took a great deal out of the stamina of the individual. His own opinion was, that no child under 12 years should be compelled to walk more than one mile to the place of work. As to the health of the agricultural labourer it was good, but the medical gentleman present would be better able to inform them on that matter. He would be able to speak of the injury done to the constitution of women by field labour. At the same time he (Mr. Garsed) did not think that they suffered like females in factories. As to education, that was the great question upon which that inquiry would turn. The state of education amongst agricultural labourers in that district was not what it ought to be (applause.) There was a variety of causes to account for this—in some instances a want of schools, though that was rapidly disappearing; in others, the necessities of the parents demanded that the children should soon earn an honest penny; in others, the neglect of the parents allowed the children to remain in the same state of ignorance in which the parents were in themselves. As to a hard and fast line, he thought too much had been said. Many objected to compulsion. People were compelled to pay taxes and to do many things which were distasteful, but the question resolved itself into this—whether through the greed of employers and the necessities of the parents, the future of those children was not to be ameliorated by the neglect of education? (Cheers.) He was not an advocate for compelling children who were employed in light work to leave that source of revenue alone, but he did think that means should be adopted for enabling a boy to obtain a certain number of hours of instruction in the course of a week, and that if an employer took a child without a certificate that he had had that instruction, he should be penalized. With reference to these schools being supported by Government grants, which he was in favour of, he thought that a rate should be made upon the occupiers of land, for he thought they were all bound to see that the means of education was placed within reach of the agricultural labourer's children; for how could a man with 11 or 12 children see to the education of his children. It was their place to see that a system of elementary education was provided for all their children, but if the labourers wanted anything beyond that, they must pay for it as a luxury. He hoped that the club would come to some conclusion, so that the hon. gentleman who had visited them might return with some idea of their views upon the points submitted to them.

After sundry remarks by preceding speakers, the chairman proposed—"That it is the opinion of this club that no person should be employed in agriculture under the age of 10 years, and that girls and unmarried women under 18 years of age should not be employed in agricultural labour." The resolution was carried unanimously.

2. *Letter from Evan David, Esq., Chairman of the Cardiff Board of Guardians, to Hon. E. Portman.*

"Fairwater House, Cardiff,
"My Dear Sir, 1st November 1869.

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo . . Before, however, I proceed to reply to the several inquiries it contains, excuse my remarking, with reference to your observation that you think it 'generally the case that the attendance at school of children under 10 years of age is irregular,' that in my opinion the children of our working classes are not irregular in their attendance at school. I refer more particularly to those of our native population. But we have a large and greatly increasing number of Irish (Roman Catholics) among us, whose children are not, as a rule, sufficiently educated.

"With reference to your first question, 'whether it is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child shall be allowed to work in the fields,' my opinion is that children should not be so employed until they attain the age of 14, unless they produce certificates, obtained under certain restrictions from duly authorized schoolmasters and others, that they can read and write with facility, such certificates to be available for six months only.

"With regard to your second, 'whether prohibiting children from work until they arrive at a certain age would result in a more regular attendance at school,' and to your third, 'whether, if the age were fixed at 10, any real injury would be done to the parents,' I beg to observe that it is seldom children under 10 years are employed in the fields in this part of Glamorganshire. The proposed prohibition if fixed at 10 years of age would be virtually inoperative, and would not result, but in very exceptional cases, in loss to the earnings of the families to which they belong. As to the attendance of children at night school up to 15 or 16 years of age, I consider night schools very unsuited for our rural districts, because of the long distance children would generally have to travel by night to and from the schools.

"*You may recollect my telling you that I am much in favour of requiring all children to be taught reading and writing. These rudimentary acquirements can, I think, be better attained and kept up by giving the parents of children a pecuniary interest in the matter (which they would have according to my scheme) than by compelling children to be a certain number of days yearly in schools. For the reason stated, as well as from shame and fear lest their children should fail to pass the requisite periodical examination, parents would not unfrequently assist materially in teaching their children to read and write.

"Yours very truly,
"Evan W. David."

3. *Mr. Stephenson*, Union clerk, Cardiff.—Education in the agricultural portions of this district is chiefly obtained through the Church schools. The wages are good, owing to the constant drain of boys and young men to the mines, works, and docks. I see no objection to a prohibition of work on the farms till the children are 10 years of age. Relief is not withdrawn till children are 11 or 12 years of age; but by that time farmers would expect the children to earn some-

* The occasion referred to was at a small meeting at the house of Mr. Brogden, at Porthcawl, where, in addition to Mr. Evan David, there were present Archdeacon Blosse, Mr. Brogden, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. J. Gordon, of Tondu. The question was discussed generally, and, with the exception of Mr. Brogden, who, besides being a large employer of labour in the Tondu Iron Works, holds a considerable farm, and who was in favour of compulsion in the matter of school attendance, the opinion of those present was adverse to fixing any limit of age for work in the fields, or to *compelling* school attendance; though it was admitted that the employment of children at an early age was not desirable. The want of education for the children of farmers was said to be very great.

thing. Little children are occasionally employed for bird-keeping and stone-picking.

This Board pays for the schooling of the children of those who are receiving out-door relief, sometimes even when relief is not being given to the parents.

4. Cardiff Union Industrial Schools.

Mr. John Harris, master.

There are 116 boys and 152 girls now in the schools, whose ages range from 9 to 14 years. There are also infants from 4 years old and upwards. They are children deserted by their parents, orphans, and those whose parents are in the workhouse. They are taken to the workhouse before being admitted to this school. The establishment is under the Poor Law.

The boys are instructed in tailoring, shoemaking, and gardening; the girls in washing, cooking, knitting, and sewing. All the under-clothing for girls and boys is made by the girls. The boys' clothes also are made on the place.

The staff consists of a schoolmaster and mistress, and of instructors in tailoring, shoemaking, and gardening, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Harris, the superintendents. All the housework is done by the girls.

The cost of maintenance, including food and clothes, is 3*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.* per week for each child. Every child on going out to service receives an outfit.

The schools have been established for six years, during which time about 200 children have been sent out, some to farm places, some to the collieries and works. I think there would be a difficulty in utilising the labour of the boys for weeding or other operations on the neighbouring farms on account of the requirement of three hours daily attendance at school. They have never yet been so employed.

5. ST. FAGAN'S AND LLANILTERN.

Population, 656 - Acreage, 3,321.

The Castle School.—Mr. Miles, master.

Number on books, 107.

Average attendance for year, 78.

Attendance in week ending October 9, 89.

Number presented to inspector, 67.

The boys remain at school till 12 years of age, and sometimes till 14. There is a great demand for boys of 13 years of age who are quick at writing and sums for the ironworks and for other places in Cardiff.

Agricultural work takes some of the boys; the children are irregular in attendance at the time of potato gathering. There is a fine of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for non-attendance.

I think the parents are becoming more alive to the value of education for their children, and regret that they were themselves without it.

There are dames' schools in most of the small parishes, and the older children come to this school. There is no night-school.

6. *Mr. Akers*, Pentrebane, farmer, an Oxfordshire man.—I farm 600 acres; am guardian and overseer of the parish.

Women are not employed here for farm work. An Irish woman from Cardiff will occasionally come for a day's work at 1*s.* and food, or 1*s.* 6*d.* without food. The weeding of corn and stone-picking is not done by women or boys but by men by the day. Turnip-hoeing, hedge-making, and such like are done by the piece.

Boys are not employed till they are 16 or 18 years of age, and do not live in the farmhouse.

Wages for a man are 12*s.* up to 16*s.* a week. A boy of 18 years gets 12*s.* a week, and 1*l.* at harvest. I paid a man and two boys of 18 and 19 years old 96*l.* 5*s.* in the year, from which 1*s.* a week is to be deducted for house rent. Many of my men are from Oxfordshire. They are far better off here than they were there.

I have eight cottages attached to my farm. Most of the cottages in this neighbourhood have large gardens. Potato ground is to be had from the farmers at 1*s.* a perch, but it is rarely wanted on account of the size of the gardens. The labourers usually keep a pig.

The children attend school pretty regularly up to 12 and 14 years of age.

There are in the hills small holdings and sheep runs.

I think legislation is more wanted for the street arabs in towns than for the rural districts.

7. *Thomas Goddard, Esq.*, land agent.—The cultivation of St. Fagans and the hamlet of Llaniltern is about one-third pastoral and two-thirds arable.; the pastoral feature being mainly represented by the dairy and young stock.

The pair-horse system of ploughing being generally adopted, boys are not so much employed as formerly, and rarely, if ever, under 12 or 13 years of age. With very rare exceptions girls are not employed in agriculture, as a rule I may say *none*. The Welsh women are not employed on the farms, some Irish women seek and obtain such employment.

The hours of work are in summer from 6 to 6, in winter from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It would not appear that under the circumstances above referred to it is necessary in these parts to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be employed on the land.

The wages for a man are 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in ordinary times, in harvest and hay-making from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week. Women get 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

There is a good school liberally supported and well attended, and under Government inspection.

In this parish the cottages are good; in the neighbourhood they are not quite so, but more attention is now being paid to them generally. In an agricultural sense they are sufficient. The number of dwellers in *each house*, as a rule, would not be objectionable, but where attention has not been given to privacy, the number in *one room* must have evil tendencies. Education will do but little in a moral sense with this crying evil so general.

Rents vary from 2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*; in some cases they are as high as 5*l.* a year.

There are good gardens to most of the cottages, and they are usually well managed.

PETERSTON.

Population, 235 - Acreage, 2,010.

8. *Rev. L. C. Lewis*, rector.—The farms in this parish are very small; there may be three containing above 100 acres, but the average size is 50 or 60 acres. The farmers are for the most part men who have risen from the position of labourers and are very uneducated. The sons of small farmers work as labourers when they are grown up and married. There is no resident squire, and no return of the money drawn from the land.

Some children are employed as young as 6 or 7 years of age. There was no school in the parish when I first came to it. The population is small and scattered.

There is great irregularity in school attendance on the part of boys above 9 years of age. I think some form of compulsion is wanted in the matter of school attendance.

I think the employment of females in agriculture tends to demoralise and unfits them for domestic duties. I do not think it desirable for them to be so employed, but there is no necessity in this parish for any restriction.

Boys should not be employed in the fields at all under 10 years of age, nor under 12 years unless a certificate of a certain amount of schooling be produced.

Our cottage accommodation is deplorable. It consists of old thatched buildings, very low, with one living room, a portion of which is generally partitioned

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off for a pantry, and a general garret or sleeping room for the whole family. I would suggest that cottages should be inspected, and that those found unfit for human habitation should be condemned, more especially as I feel confident that the moral and social status is impaired by such a state of things.

There is one cottage to about 150 acres. The dwellings are generally crowded, and have not a sufficient number of bedrooms.

No Irish property can present more wretched consequences of absenteeism than this. The only consideration the parish receives from the owners of property is the regular collection of rents.

I have tried a night school for two winters, but the attendance was very small.

9. *Peterston School,* Miss Hardwick, mistress.—On books, 18 boys and 21 girls ; the attendance does not vary much according to the time of year.

The daughters of small farmers work on their father's land. I do not think women are much employed in the fields.

10. *John John,* between 8 and 9 years old.—I was employed bird-scaring this spring. I had my food but no money, and was out from 7 a.m. till dark.

11. *John Thomas,* 8 years old.—I was employed during the summer by farmers with the horses. I had 6*d.* a day and all meals.

12. *John Miles,* 10 years old.—I have been employed setting and pulling potatoes for 3*d.* a day and my food. I got one hot meal of meat and vegetables every day, and breakfast and tea. I was out for three weeks last spring. My clothes wear out quicker when I am at work than when I am regular at school.

13. *Ann Rees.*—My husband is an agricultural labourer. I work in the fields sometimes, planting potatoes, and get 1*s.* a day. I have taken sheep-milking for a farmer ; it lasts from May to the end of August. I got one-seventh of the produce ; at first one can make an 8 lb. cheese per week, but the weight decreases. The cheese is worth 8*d.* per lb.

A man's wages, if regularly employed, are 12*s.* a week ; if employed by the day or job 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Farmers have boys in their houses by the year. I have four children, and I cannot afford to lose the small earnings of the children by sending them to school. My boy of 10 years old goes to work in the fields. I know it is a good thing to have the learning, but still the sixpences are a great help.

The cottage has one room (with mortar floor) and outhouse downstairs, and one large bedroom upstairs ; 25 perches of garden. Rent 3*l.* 6*s.* and rates. I can have potato ground, if I want it, from the farmer at 1*s.* a perch, dressed and turned-up.

LLANTRISSANT.

Population, 5,492 - Acreage, 16,669.

[This parish is on the edge of the hills, and a large portion of the population is engaged in the works and mines.—E.B.P.]

14. *John Morgan,* occupier and assistant overseer.—Boys are employed from the age of 11 in agricultural work, and chiefly in the summer time. There are a few girls employed in summer at haymaking and binding corn, of ages varying from 12 to 18 years. There are about 100 women in the parish who work in the fields. The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The distance to work is one mile and under. I do not think that any restriction as to the age at which boys and girls should commence work is necessary in this district.

There are two National schools, two British, and several private schools in different places in this parish, and the agricultural labouring class take advantage of them.

The number of cottages is quite sufficient for the demand, and on the average they are comfortable dwellings. There are very few without gardens, but there are no allotments.

Wages for a man are 16*s.* a week, for a woman 9*s.*, and for children 6*s.* a week.

WENVOE.

Population, 504 - Acreage, 2,955.

15. *Rev. C. Jenner.*—Very few women or children are employed in agriculture here. My experience is that the employment of females, whether married or single, altogether unfits them for the proper discharge of their domestic duties, present or future. In my parish the demand for female labour is so small that I am not prepared to recommend any legislative restriction. The wages here are so high that the labour of the women is not required for the families. If it were necessary, I would prohibit all female labour till the age of 20 years at any rate. Boys should not be employed till 12 or 13 years of age.

I would venture to recommend that a system of alternate whole days at school and at work would be the best for enforced attendance at school ; but at the same time I strongly object to compulsory education.

School attendance is not here affected by distance, and as wages are high I do not think there need be any difficulty on the part of the parents in paying for their children's schooling.

I am decidedly of opinion that good cottage accommodation is *essential* to the morality as well as the health and comfort of the labouring poor.

The cottages generally are not good, and in some cases not conveniently situated for the work of the farms. There are not enough with two or three bedrooms, and they are too crowded. The drainage and water supply are bad. The rent, with small garden, is about 4*l.* a year ; sometimes the cottage is included in the wages. No progress is being made towards increasing the cottage accommodation.

In country places the late hour at which a night school must begin, and therefore close, is the greatest hindrance to its success.

Wages are from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week for men. Many men live in the farmhouses. Many of the farms are very small, and the tenants not men of capital. They would oppose an education rate.

16. *Mary Howard.*—My husband is a labourer. Boys used to go to the farmhouses at 10 years old, but they are not so much used now on account of the machinery. My boy of 12 years old gets his food and about 1*s.* per week. Women are not employed in the fields. My mother used to work regularly, and I went weeding as a girl with other women. The weeding is now done by men and boys.*

Wages for a man employed all the year are 13*s.* a week, a pound of butter a week, which he gets at 1*s.* a lb., and cheese at 6*d.* a lb. Cottage with good garden rented at 1*s.* a week, the cottages being attached to the farms. A woman when employed gets 1*s.* a day.

My cottage has two rooms downstairs and two bedrooms, and a small garden. The rent is 4*l.* a year ; it is the property of a small owner, and not of the squire. Sometimes I get potato ground at 1*s.* a perch.

Sheep-milking pays, but it is very hard and nasty work.

Wenvoe School.

17. *Mrs. Watkins,* mistress.

Number on books - - -	60
In attendance - - -	47

I have been mistress here for many years. The payment for each child is 1*d.* a week. The attendance in winter is better than at other times of the year. The oldest boy in the school is 11 years of age ; they do not begin *regular* work before 11 years. A few boys are employed younger for bird-keeping, and get their food and perhaps 1*s.* a week. The children are absent from school in the potato season. Girls work for their parents, but *never* for the farmers.

* A *boy* in Wales means an unmarried man without reference to age.

Women are not employed on the farms.

There was a night school here on two nights in the week; it was attended chiefly by mechanics and older men; the farm boys cannot very well attend, on account of doing up the horses, chaff-cutting, &c. in the evenings.

Uneducated parents are careless about the education of their children. I do not think that the well-educated lads leave the parish.

Boys are not so much employed on the farms as formerly.

LLANTRITHYD.

Population, 201 - Acreage, 1,450.

Cultivation mixed.

18. *George Tritton*, schoolmaster.—The school is not in receipt of any Government grant. Average number of scholars, 45 in summer, and 50 in winter. Of the children of labourers, 11 in summer, 18 in winter. The sons and daughters of farmers attend the school, and there is greater irregularity in the attendance of that class than of the labourers. The school is fullest from October to March. I think 150 attendances could be obtained from boys of 13 and 14 years of age during the winter time. There are three boys of 14 years of age in the school, and one of 15 years whose father is a large farmer. The oldest girls are 14 years old.

There was a night school last winter, but it did not answer; the farmers object to their servant boys coming out in the evening.

19. *Rev. R. T. Tyler*, rector.—No children or women are regularly employed in this parish; three or four women work occasionally in hay harvest. Children pick potatoes for their parents, and very seldom scare birds. They all live in the parish. The hours of work are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner.

I cannot speak from experience, but from all I hear and read I am convinced that the employment of young females in agriculture is most objectionable, and has a demoralizing tendency. Labourers' wages are high here, hence their wives are seldom necessitated to seek for field work. I think labourers' wives and single women of 30 years and upwards might *occasionally* be employed in field work with benefit to themselves and to the farmers.

Boys should not be employed under 10 years of age.

I have little or no complaint to make as to the regularity of school attendance in this parish. All the children above the age of six attend school; the charge is low, and the parents are in a position to pay it. The girls are taught sewing.

There is much room for improvement in the cottages. On a farm of 175 acres there are six cottages. The farmers board and lodge their workmen.

The cottages vary much in number and size of rooms; some are crowded with large families, but not with lodgers. Most of them have one sitting room, with a pantry or lean-to attached. There is generally a good sized upper bedroom under the thatched roof, which is *sometimes divided*. A bed is often placed in the sitting room. In old cottages the windows are seldom made to open, but there is no lack of air. The drainage is fair and the water supply good and near at hand. With a small exception, the whole of the parish is the property of the Rev. G. and Mrs. Chetwode, of Chilton House, Bucks. The rent of cottages is generally 1*s.* a week; a garden is attached to each.

There is no night school at present; I have had one. The great obstacle to its success is the objection of the farmers, who make their farm servants work till a late hour.

BONVILSTON.

Population, 291 - Acreage, 1,178.

20. *Thomas Eagleton*, relieving officer for St. Nicholas district, Cardiff Union.—The farms, as a rule, are small; 300 acres would be considered a large farm, though there are some larger than that. The small farmers are in many instances very badly off, and cannot afford to pay for their children's schooling; they are obliged to employ them on the farm; they are worse off than the labourer, as they do not get parish relief or the benefit of medical aid in cases of sickness.

A good deal of property in this district is held on leases for lives.

Children are not wanted on the farms so much as formerly, on account of the change in the method of driving horses in the plough, &c. The boys go into farm service about 11 years of age; they may sometimes be employed for bird-keeping and driving cattle as young as 9 years. Girls are not employed at all in the fields, and women only very seldom.

The distance to work would not usually exceed one mile, the parishes being small and situated near each other. The hours of work for men are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; for women, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I do not think it is necessary to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land.

There is a school in almost every parish, and the children attend pretty regularly. The schooling of out-door pauper children is paid for by the board, at an allowance of 3½*d.* a week for each child.

The condition of the cottages is fair; they usually have two or three bedrooms; there are very few without two bedrooms, and they are not overcrowded. The old cottages were built of stone, with thatched roof; the new ones have slate roofs. The average rent is from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* a year; they all have good gardens. Allotments are not often found in this district.

The number of illegitimate children has increased lately.

Wages for a man are from 12*s.* and a house up to 15*s.* a week; for a woman, 1*s.* a day; for boys, in bird-keeping, 3*d.* a week and food; for boys, in service, at 12 years old, 2*l.* a year, board, and lodging, with an increase of pay annually; at 18 years of age, from 14*l.* to 18*l.* a year.

The hiring is from May-day to May-day, with a month's notice. There are no hiring fairs in this district, but they are held at Neath.

Savings banks are now being taken advantage of by some farm labourers, but clubs are more popular.

PENMARK.

Population, 529 - Acreage, 2,950.

Cultivation mixed, arable, and pasture.

21. *Rev. C. F. B. Wood*, vicar.—Children are not systematically employed in this parish, but are taken by their parents to assist them, such as stone-picking or hoeing, and a boy is employed when required for scaring crows. In the autumn they are employed in harvesting potatoes. They live on or near the farms on which they are employed. The hours of work are from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner, if they do not take their meal with them. There is no injury to health arising from such employment, nor do I know of any cases of ill-treatment.

I do not think it advisable that females should be employed in farm labour. When so employed, it is impossible to prevent their associating too freely with persons of the other sex. Their sense of propriety and delicacy thereby becomes blunted, and we always find that the woman who spends the most time in field work affords in proportion a less tidy and comfortable home to her family.

Females are little employed in this parish, and I do not think that the rate of their husbands' wages furnishes a sufficient reason for their being so employed, as labourers' wages are from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and more when employed on task. I think that besides assisting in the hay and corn harvest, married women may occasionally, if required, due regard being had to the number and circumstances of their families,

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take a job of light work, such as stone-picking, without objectionable results.

I think that no boy should be withdrawn altogether from school under 13 years of age, and that none should be employed under the age of 10.

I think it highly impolitic and unjust that children should be employed at long distances from their homes; but in this parish there is no need of restrictions on this head.

It appears to me that half day at school and half day at work is likely to be best for the boy and for the employer, and if this could be varied so that the attendance at school should be morning and evening in alternate weeks the boy would have a better chance of reaping the benefits of school without any interference with the discipline or system adopted.

The attendance at school is affected by distance in the case of some of the small children living two miles from the school.

The wages in general received are sufficient to enable the parents to pay for their children's schooling, and when the family is large, or there is any peculiar difficulty, the required payment is modified accordingly.

There is a fair proportion of cottages conveniently situated. I should say there are hardly enough with two bedrooms, and almost none with three. In the cottages generally there is a sitting room from 12 to 16 feet square; in the better sort a small room on the same floor used as a bedroom, overhead is a loft, which is very rarely divided by a partition. They have also generally a lean-to, where tools, coals, &c. are kept.

There is generally a sufficient garden. Most of the cottages are let with the farms on which they stand, and rented by the labourer of the farmer. The average rents are 3*l.* per annum. In many cottages the doors, windows, and floors are in a very insufficient state of repair.

The *school* is a mixed National school under Government inspection. There is also a dame school in one of the hamlets, where there are about 15 children, chiefly girls. There is hardly any difference in the attendance between summer and winter.

	On Register.	Average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	25	14
Between 10 and 13 -	15	8
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	26	18
Between 10 and 13 -	14	10
	80	50

There is a night school just opened by a new masters but it is hardly got into work. An evening school hae been kept in some winters with tolerable success threnights in the week for an hour and a half. The num, ber of scholars was from 6 to 10.

I do not see in what other way than by night school young people or adults whose education has been neglected can be provided with the means of repairing the evil.

The difficulties in the way of maintaining a night school are the small remuneration that it affords the teacher, and the want of interest taken by those who should be scholars, inasmuch as they undervalue education in proportion as they more need it; added to this, the expense, which is not adequately met by such payments as can be obtained from the scholars.

In the School.

22. *Eilen Mahony,* 10 years old.—I was out last year with mother working for a farmer for a fortnight. I picked up the weeds behind mother, who was hoeing. I was out from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and went home to dinner.

23. *Thomas James,* 9 years old.—I have been weeding this year for a farmer; got 9*d.* a day.

24. *John Jones,* 9 years old.—I have been out stone-picking at 9*d.* a day for a farmer. I worked from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; found my own food.

25. *James Austin,* 8 years old.—I went out bird-keeping *two years ago;* was out from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and got 6*d.* a day. I did not go on wet days.

26. *Ebenezer Kemp,* 8 years old. I have been out this year bird-keeping for a farmer. I went wet or dry from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and had 6*d.* a day and no food.

27. *Cottages.*

(1.) Attached to a farm.
One room down.
One room up.
Inhabited by father and two little girls. Rent reckoned at 1*s.* a week.

(2.) One room down.
One room up.
Privy and pigsty; very small garden. Rent 4*l.* a year. Property of the Oddfellows' Society.

(3.) Freehold.
Two rooms down.
Two rooms upstairs.
Good garden. Inhabited by man and wife, one boy, and the grandfather.

28. *Mr. Jenkins,* farmer.—Boys are very little employed on the farms, a few occasionally for bird-keeping. Girls are not at all employed and women very little. The supply of labour is not always sufficient; I have to employ the Irish. Our lads go off to the works or to Cardiff.

I employ one boy, who lives on the premises.

Wages are 11*s.* and 12*s.* a week and a house and the privilege of buying wheat at 6*s.* a bushel, butter at 1*s.* a lb. (1 lb. per week), and cheese at 6*d.* a lb.

In harvest time they have meat extra.

A woman gets 1*s.* a day. Turnip-hoeing is done by the piece. The weeding is done by old men and a woman or two.

The hours of work for the teams are from 8 a.m. to 12, and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There is an old custom here of giving a dinner every Wednesday to all the workmen, which I keep up; it is not reckoned in the wages.

Cottages attached to the farms are reckoned at a rent of 1*s.* a week to 3*l.* a year, with good garden to each. They are in bad repair.

ST. HILARY.

29. *Llewellyn Thomas,* farmer.—I employ one boy of 12 years of age.

Irish women are sometimes employed for weeding; but weeding and turnip-hoeing are usually taken by the piece at per acre.

Small children are very seldom employed, occasionally perhaps for bird-keeping; there is not so much use for them with the ploughs as formerly.

Wages for a man here are 13*s.* a week, but they are lower in some parts of this neighbourhood.

I do not think the prohibition of the employment of children under 10 years of age would be any hardship to the parents.

LANMAES.

Population, 144 - Acreage, 1,035.

30. *Rev. T. Parry Thomas.*—This is a small parish. Boys are not often employed under 12 years of age; a few occasionally for bird-keeping when quite young. Girls are not employed in the fields, and very few women.

Wages for a man are 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week in winter, and 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in summer. In some cases they have wheat at a fixed price per bushel. The men who work for the farmers can usually get potato ground if they wish it. I do not think that a prohibition of work for children under 10 years of age would inflict any injury on the parents.

School attendance is irregular from various causes; there is a want of education among the heads of the labourers' families. I think compulsion in the matter of school attendance is more needed in towns than in the rural districts; the mothers would, in my opinion, rebel against such compulsion.

The small rural parishes want more State aid; at present the burden of supporting the school falls mainly on the clergyman. A system of payment for results, independently of the question of the teacher being certificated or not, would I think be most beneficial.

Most of the young men, the best workers, go away to the works in the hills, leaving the old and crippled to supply the labour.

I do not think that half days or alternate days at school and work would succeed. Children if thus kept at school would have their thoughts more on the fields, sheep, horses, and open air than on their lessons; neither do I see the necessity of half measures with young children. The plan of attendance for a certain number of days during the year would be preferable. In some cases children would be kept in school for a longer period if the parents could dispense with the amount earned by the children.

One and a quarter cottage is considered sufficient per 100 acres.

Some of the cottages are sufficiently large for the present occupants, having good walls, glazed windows to each room, floors of lias mortar hard as stone. Bedrooms separated by lath and plaster divisions, warm in winter and cool in summer, owing to the roof being thatched. Water is abundant; moderate sized gardens with very good soil and good natural drainage. The *inferior* cottages contain only one room on ground floor about 15 ft. by 12 ft., with a small lumber room where a bed is occasionally placed; one room over in the roof. The owners are not the landowners, though they own the ground on which the cottages stand. Rent averages *3l. 5s.* a year. Though the *number* of cottages is ample, they are with a few exceptions very far from what they ought to be.

I think this inquiry and the visit of the Commissioner will produce some effect, and probably, if he could repeat and extend his visits to all the villages every two or three years, and not only report to Parliament the result of his inspections but get copies of that report circulated through the county, in less than a dozen years many good cottages would be built and the bad ones would find no tenants. In the absence of something of this kind there should be an enactment to prevent owners of cottages (after a certain date and notice) renting them for occupation by an improper number.

I do not think any of the landowners would avail themselves of the provisions of the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114, as they would hardly think of borrowing money to build cottages.

An evening school has frequently been tried here but with small success; there is not one now. In summer harvest and other operations prevent the attendance of young men and lads, while in winter some are kept away by attendance on horses, &c. Besides this it is rarely young people employed in agriculture during the day can get over the difficulty of applying their minds with any advantage for a few hours at night; their bodies tired, the irksomeness of the school is too much for them, and after the novelty has worn off the school dwindles entirely away.

ST. ATHAN.

Population, 357 - Acreage, 1,486.

Cultivation about ¾ arable and ¼ pasture.

31. *Rev. Hanmer Morgan.*—There are in my parish 38 children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture.

Males, two between 8 and 10 years of age; seven between 10 and 13 years, eight between 13 and 18 years.

Females, three between 10 and 13 years of age; one between 13 and 18; over 18 years there are 14 married women and seven unmarried.

The employment of boys and girls in *spring* are crow-keeping, harrowing, ploughing, driving carts, sheep and cows, and incidental work; of women, topping turnips, feeding sheep, and spreading dung.

In *summer,* machinery has superseded the employment of women; they are not now much employed in hay and corn harvest, but in sheep milking.

In *autumn,* boys of 8 years go crow-keeping; other boys drive carts and go ploughing and raising potatoes; women recommence turnip-trimming, raise potatoes, pick stones, and go to the thrashing and winnowing.

In *winter,* boys are ploughing, harrowing, and driving horses; women, thrashing, winnowing, and sheep tending.

The distance to work rarely exceeds half a mile; boys are expected to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; women from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No difference in the hours is made on account of distance from home; 1½ hour is allowed to boys for meals; one hour to women and girls.

There is decidedly no injury to the health; the children employed in out-door labour are quite as healthy as those at school. I never heard of any ill-treatment.

Sheep milking is a very unhealthy employment, as many of my people complain of it as the cause of illness, especially chronic rheumatism. The exposure to all kinds of weather when trimming turnips in autumn and winter is also injurious. These occupations are principally followed by married women.

As to the effect of field employment on females, I find that from the greater liberty they enjoy, there is a great unwillingness on the part of girls and unmarried women to enter domestic service. They lose in a great measure the gentler attributes of their sex, are devoid of modesty in consequence of their intercourse with men, and a large proportion become mothers of illegitimate children. To the married the consequences frequently are neglect of home, uneducated children, dirt and discomfort, which too often leads to intemperance on the part of the husband.

Where there is a young and numerous family my opinion is that with labour wages at 12*s.* a week a man would have almost insuperable difficulty in maintaining it without assistance from his wife. The demand for young girls of 12 years and upwards is so great for domestic service and so unnecessary in the field, that it is very desirable, taking into consideration the evil effect on their morals, that they should not be employed in such labour. I would prohibit the employment of females under 20 years of age, and I am not prepared to except hay and corn harvest.

Boys should not be employed under 12 years of age, unless permission were given by magistrates in petty sessions to necessitous parents of large families.

With reference to the proposed table of distances, I think that no girls should be taken to work at all, that boys under 12 years should not be employed, and that from 12 to 14 years the distance should not exceed two miles.

Boys under 14 years of age should not be permitted to work after 5 p.m., or at the latest 6 p.m., as they are only employed as a rule in the lowest operations of agriculture, such as crow-keeping, potato-picking, and horse driving, and they would thus be enabled to attend night schools.

Several of the boys are unemployed in the winter, they could therefore attend school in those months. I believe the shortening of the hours in the evening would not materially affect the work of the farm, and would give them an opportunity of educational improvement.

The cottage accommodation is of a very wretched description; the rooms are small and without ventilation, the children consequently are frequent sufferers from epidemic disease. In the smaller ones such a thing as comfort cannot exist, and to this I attribute the prevalence of drunkenness among the people.

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m.

There are 36 cottages now occupied by agricultural labourers, giving an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to every 100 acres. This number is deemed sufficient.

The cottages are very much crowded; they generally consist of two rooms about 12 or 13 ft. square, the lower floor formed of lime; the upper room walls about 2 ft. high, whence a thatched roof springs, which is usually unceiled. There are frequently no means of ventilation and none of drainage. There are $2\frac{1}{4}$ persons on an average to every room, including dwelling rooms, and $4\frac{1}{5}$ *to every sleeping room.* There are occasionally lean-to sheds for coal and tools. Gardens are usually of from 20 to 30 poles in size.

Eleven cottages in this village have only one room for all purposes.

The cottages are either held by the landowner or let on leases for lives; none are owned by tradesmen with whom the tenants are obliged to deal.

Rent averages 3*l.* a year.

No progress towards improving cottage accommodation is being made, except when a fire fortunately occurs, in which case the cottages are rebuilt on a scale consistent with the requirements of the tenants. The difficulty consists in inducing the owners to make a present sacrifice.

SCHOOL.

—	On Books.	Average Attendance.
Midsummer :		
Boys and girls - -	44	40
Winter :		
Boys and girls - -	74	55

There is great difficulty in obtaining regular attendance. Knowledge of rudimental learning is therefore not obtained, and where it is so obtained it is frequently lost for want of habitual exercise after leaving school.

There is an evening school in the winter open for three hours on four nights in the week during 13 weeks. There are eight scholars, all above 12 years of age.

The difficulties in maintaining it are the carelessness of the young as to whether they are educated or not, the late hours at which they are occasionally employed, as well as, to a certain extent, the unwillingness of masters and mistresses to allow them to attend school when it may interfere with their work.

32. BRIDGEND AND COWBRIDGE UNION.

MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

October 16th, 1869.

J. C. Nicoll, Esq., in the chair.

It was stated that boys do not usually go to farm service till 12 years of age, but an instance was given of one at 10 years receiving 4*l.* a year, board and lodging. Little boys are employed for bird-keeping at 6*d.* a day and their food.

That girls are not employed in the fields, and that women are employed for weeding corn, turnip-clipping, &c. at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

There was a difference of opinion as to fixing the age for work at 9 or 10 years, but it was thought that such a limit would meet the wants of the agricultural classes, and only in cases of long families of small children inflict any hardship on the parents through the loss of the children's earnings.

Men's wages were stated to be 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week. The cottages are not often attached to the farms, but when so attached are let at 1*s.* a week. The state of the dwellings was not considered satisfactory.

It was stated that with very few exceptions there were schools within reach of the greater part of the agricultural population, *i.e.* within a distance of two to three miles. It was thought that education should be made more available to the poor, and that the removal of the restriction of grants in aid to schools having certificated teachers would give very valuable support to many schools now in existence which are capable of bearing inspection as to results, and which are kept up with some difficulty for want of funds.

It was said that savings banks are much used by the labourers, many of whom become small farmers. Many of the clubs divide at intervals two-thirds of their funds and go on with the remainder.

Complaint was made of the state of the brick-yards; children are employed in them at a very early age, and it was stated that their health and morality suffer much.

NEWCASTLE WITH LALESTON, TYTHEGSTONE AND BETTWS.

Population, 4,828 - Acreage, 12,458.

33. *Archdeacon Blosse.*—Boys are employed in the farmhouses from 10 years and upwards. Some are employed in the spring for bird-keeping, and in the summer and autumn for singling turnips and for potato-picking. The usual hours of work on the land are eight; $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour is allowed for dinner. There is no injury to the health caused by such employment. Women are so seldom employed here that that I do not think any restriction on their labour necessary.

Boys should not be employed till they are 10 years of age.

The school attendance is not much affected by distance, and the schools are so cheap that it should not be affected by the pecuniary resources of the parents.

Cottage accommodation is not good; too many persons sleep in one room, the sexes often being mixed.

Cottages used by agricultural labourers are small and not good. Those inhabited by colliers and miners are good, but too much crowded. The ownership is not in the landowner. Rent from 2*l.* to 6*l.* a year. In the neighbourhood of the works the rents are as high as 3*s.* a week. Cottage building is a favourite investment of savings, and ground is easily obtained in the villages for the purpose.

There is not much progress towards increasing cottage accommodation for the farm labourers.

There are about 300 children in our day schools.

There is an evening school for four or five months during the winter, open for two hours on two nights a week. There are about 60 scholars; they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. The great difficulty in maintaining a night school is the want of persons to take a share in the teaching.

The farmers are in many instances very uneducated men; their children attend the village schools.

Potato grounds comprising some acres are let by the farmers at 1*s.* a perch. The farmer puts on the manure and prepares the ground, then the labourers who rent it put in the seed. The crop is gathered by men and their families, not at their own convenience, but under a condition that the field is to be cleared by a given day. Children are at that time much employed with their parents for about three weeks.

I was formerly actuary of the savings bank here. I know many instances of labourers being worth 100*l.* and upwards. They will take a farm on a capital of 2*l.* per acre, which affords work for themselves and their families.

34. *Cottages in Newcastle.*

(1.) One room and backhouse down.
Three bedrooms.
Very small back yard. No garden. Rent, 5*l.* a year.

(2.) One room down.
One room up.
No garden. Rent, 16*s.* a quarter.
(3.) One room down.
One room up.
No garden. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year.
(4.) One room and back house down.
One bedroom.
No garden or privy. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year. In very bad repair.

35. *Davies*, stock-keeper to Mr. Price, farmer.—The cottage is attached to the farm, and reckoned in rent at 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. It has one room downstairs and two bedrooms. My wages are 18*s.* a week. I get garden stuff from the farm, and butter at a fixed price when there is any to spare. Wages for an ordinary labourer are 15*s.* a week.

[Some cottages the property of a labouring man who built them out of his savings on land formerly cribbed from the waste but bought by him were very good. They had two rooms and a back place downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, a small garden. Rent, 10*s.* a month.—E. B. P.]

BETTWS.

The School.

36. *Miss Morgan*, mistress, uncertificated.
Number on the books, 70.
Average attendance for year, 40.
In attendance on 21st October, 58.

The oldest girl or boy in the school is 14 years of age. Some children come from a distance of three miles.

The attendance is irregular at the time of potato-setting in the spring, and when the crop is being gathered in the autumn; the children then work for their parents and not for farmers, and are employed at a very early age. Stone-picking is done by boys and girls for farmers at 8*d.* a day.

Women very seldom work in the fields, except at haytime and harvest; when they are employed they get 1*s.* a day. Wages for a man are 2*s.* a day and food; they work long hours. Boys in service under 12 years old get their food, but seldom any money; over 12 years they get 3*l.* and 4*l.* a year, and board and lodging. Service is taken for six months, from May to November. Boys come back to school sometimes for the winter months.

I find that boys forget their learning more than the girls when they are away from school. The boys have very little instruction given them in the farmhouses.

The farms are mostly small. Many of the labourers have a field or two and keep a cow.

The rent of a cottage and garden varies from 3*l.* with two rooms only) to 4*l.* 10*s.* a year, and rates.

[This parish or hamlet is on the edge of the hills, thinly populated, and comprising a large district of sheep runs. Very little labour is employed by the farmers, who for the most part cultivate their small holdings by themselves and their children, with, perhaps, one or two boys living in service in their houses.—E. B. P.]

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37. *Letter from Rev. C. R. Knight, rural dean, and vicar of St. Bride Major.*

Tythegston Court, Bridgend,
October 28, 1869.

"My dear Sir,

"I have been endeavouring to fill in answers to the queries you were good enough to send me on the 18th instant, but I find I cannot do so with sufficient accuracy or fullness for any statistical purposes.

"I can only offer you the general opinion I have formed, that the practice does not prevail to any injurious extent in this part of the country of employing children at a very early age, or for too many hours in the day, or from too great a distance, so that legislation is not loudly called for on physical grounds. At the same time there is a good deal of occasional work going on at various times of the year, in which the moderate employment of children under 10 adds very much to the resources of the family, and the temptation is no doubt great to the parents to keep them away from school at such times, and thus to prevent all progress in their education.

"I cannot but think that an enactment requiring the parent or guardian of every child under 10 to produce to some authority a certificate of, say * 300 attendances (each whole day counting two) at some school, at the end of every six months would be desirable, and could not meet with much opposition.

"I think the accommodation in the cottages and in the smaller farmhouses is as a rule insufficient; the sexes are often not divided, and the ventilation is bad, but I see no remedy for this as long as the building of cottages is the favourite investment of the savings of the Welsh labouring classes.

"Yours very truly,
"Charles R. Knight."

COYCHURCH.

38. *Rev. C. H. Lewellin*, rector.—The usual age of children going to work in my parish is, for boys, 13 years, and they always live with the farmers. With the exception of harvest time, women rarely do any agricultural work but pulling their own potatoes. I do not think any restriction on the employment of females is needed, the evil where it exists will I think work its own cure. Boys should certainly not be allowed to work under 12 years of age.

I do not think that the principles of the Factory Acts would answer for agricultural employment. My experience is that a boy loses in a day more than he learns in a week. Attendance at school should be continuous to be efficacious. The great evil here in regard to non-attendance proceeds from the parents; from local circumstances the children are kept away for a couple of days a week to fetch coal on donkies. This is a greater bar to education than agricultural labour.

In rural districts it is impossible to have the distance as short as one would wish. I believe one good school, with a distance of two miles on each side, better than multiplying small and necessarily inferior schools.

School payments should be 3*d.*, 2*d.*, and 1*d.*

Hedge schools charging 3*d.* a week are better attended than those charging 1*d.* There is no industrial training for girls except sewing.

There is ample house room for the accommodation of the labourers. The cottages generally have two rooms downstairs, they have a little land for a garden. Many belong to the labourers themselves, and most belong to small owners. Rent varies from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* a year.

I have labourers earning 14*s.* a week who keep cows and rent land; they are to be distinguished from small farmers, as they all work for masters. One who has two cows and a heifer works on the railway.

I do not think that cottage property, such as would be really necessary for the comfort of the poor, will ever prove remunerative.

In Summer.

—	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	50	45
Between 10 and 13 -	30	20
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	45	40
Between 10 and 13 -	30	20

* The 300 attendances are for the *whole* year, but the certificate is to be produced half-yearly.

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m.

In Winter.

—	On Register.	In average. Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	70	60
Between 10 and 13 -	35	30
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	60	45
Between 10 and 13 -	32	25

There was a night school last winter for the first time, open for 20 weeks for two hours on three nights a week. Out of 20 on the register the average attendance was 12. The attendance was irregular.

GOWER.

39. *T. Penrice, Esq.*, Kilvrough, Chairman of Gower Board of Guardians.

The workhouse has very few inmates, there has not been an able-bodied man in it since it was opened.

The difference between the labourer and the farmer in Gower is very slight. A purely labouring class hardly exists; the old class had a small piece of land with their houses.

The people are well clothed with flannel. The cottagers usually keep pigs. There is a considerable addition to their earnings from oyster dredging and quarrying. A quarryman earns from 3*s.* a day to 1*l.* a week.

The cottages are not good; too many of them have only one bedroom. I am getting cottages with quarter acre of land, which I let at 3*l.* a year.

I see no objection to placing restrictions on the employment of children under 10 years of age with a view to improve their education; there might be some difficulty in carrying out any such scheme.

40. *John Clark*, farmer, Penard.—I farm from 300 to 400 acres. I employ a boy of 10 years of age all the year, who lives in my house; his pay, in addition to board and lodging, would begin at 6*d.* a week, and be advanced at the rate of 1*l.* a year. Young boys are employed for bird-keeping at 6*d.* a day; their hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Boys of 12 or 14 years of age are used for singling turnips.

Women weed corn at 1*s.* a day.

Men's wages are 12*s.* a week. I have one cottage attached to my farm for the man who looks after the stock, which he inhabits rent-free.

Boys of 17 and 18 years of age living in the farm-house get 15*l.* and 16*l.* a year, with board and lodging. They can go to night school if they wish, but I do not make a practice of compelling them to do so. I furnish them with books so that they may keep up their education at home.

The district is far better supplied with schools than it was 20 years ago, and I think there is ample means of education for the farmer class; there is a very good school at Bishopton, to which I would send my children. I do not think legislation as to the age at which children should be employed would affect this district; many people now will not send their young children out. Some of the labourers save money in order to get a bit of land to grow vegetable stuff.

41. *Mr. W. Beynon*, farmer, Penard.—I hold about 120 acres. I do not employ labourers; my children do most of the farm work. I keep one man servant, 24 years of age, who lives in my house and receives 15*l.* a year besides board and lodging. He came from Devonshire.

I keep my children at school as regularly as I can till 12 or 13 years of age; by that time they get education enough for *farming*, though perhaps for any *business* they might want more.

I let a little potato ground to the quarrymen at about 2*l.* per acre.

I sometimes employ a woman for pulling turnips at per drill.

I prefer having servants in the house to employing day labourers, they are more at call when wanted.

I have always lived in Gower. The state of education in the district is better than formerly.

42. *Henry Evans*, farmer, Green Lane, Penard.—I hold 50 acres and employ my own children on the land; the only extra labour I require is in harvest.

I do not think the earnings of a child under 10 years are worth anything to the labourer; there is not much need now of such boys on the farms, as they are not wanted to drive oxen as formerly.

All my children go to the village school. I think children get more education now than formerly; some parents are heedless about it. Some of the old people cannot read or write.

There is sufficient means of education for the middle class.

Many of the labourers have a small piece of land and keep a cow or two. Women work in the fields, and girls too sometimes for stone-picking, but as a rule they work with their families and don't go out for hire. My girls go hauling turnips and getting up potatoes.

PENRICE AND NICHOLASTONE.

Population, 416 - - Acreage, 2,829.

Cultivation mixed.

43. *Mr. John Barron*, agent to C. Mansel Talbot, Esq., M.P.—The youngest boys I employ are from 10 to 12 years old. Girls are not employed on the farms, nor as a rule are women so employed except a little in summer. The average distance to work is one mile, and the hours are ten.

I would place the limit for boys' work at 12 years.

There are schools provided by Mr. Talbot, and I think the children do take advantage of them. The cottages are good, in sufficient number, and conveniently situated; they are not overcrowded, and all have good gardens.

Cottage (No. 1). One room and back house downstairs, two bedrooms; garden and paddock. Rent 3*l.* 10*s.* a year and rates.

„ (No. 2). Two rooms and back house downstairs, two bedrooms. Rent with garden 4*l.* a year.

[They are fairly good and tidily kept.—E. B. P.]

Wages for men are 10*s.* a week; at contract work they can earn 15*s.* a week; for women, if employed, 1*s.* a day.

Most of the men keep a cow and a pig with a run on the common or a bit of land; or sometimes both. The labourers save money.

In the western part of Gower there are a number of small farmers not employing any labour but working the land themselves with the help of their families. There are many sheep running on the mountains, the right of run being attached to the farms.

There is a sufficient number of schools, say one for two or three parishes, and within reasonable distance of the dwellings of the labourers. I do not think there is any dearth of the means of education for the farmer class.

VALE OF NEATH.

44. *Mr. Glass*, sub-agent of the Gnoll Estate, Neath.—The farms in this district are as a rule small; there is one on the Gnoll estate of 1,000 acres held by Mr. Paramore.

Children are not employed in agriculture under 14 years of age; the small ones go to the tin and other works. Farmers' children are used on the mountain runs to look after sheep, &c.; these runs let at 1*s.* and 2*s.* an acre.

Women are employed on the large farms for turnip-pulling from the age of 14 years up to 40; there may be on Mr. Paramore's farm 8 or 10 girls of ages varying from 14 to 18 *now* employed in the turnip fields;

hey earn 1*s.* a day, and work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner.

Men's wages are 15*s.* and 16*s.* a week with sometimes a house rent-free in addition. Single men living in the farmhouses are hired in the fair at Neath for six months; women servants are also hired at these fairs. The hiring takes place in open street. These men are hired by the smaller farmers, who have one or two in the house. The larger farmers do not usually keep men in the house, but have cottages attached to their farms where the married carters live.

On the hills there are many 50 acre farms with a run attached, where no labourers are employed.

Legislation as to the age for employment of children would hardly affect this district. I do not think that a prohibition of work before a certain age would have the effect of bringing the children to school; it has not that effect in the works. Farmers would not appreciate a certificate of school attendance, or care to demand it when the lads came to be hired. Register offices for servants are not kept here.

Farmers send their children to the same school as the labourers; the children leave school at 12 years of age to help on their parents' farms. Many of the sheep-farms are two to four miles distant from a school; there are very few shepherds living on the runs. The distance to work is not great, nor is there any injury to health caused by agricultural work.

Cottages on the Gnoll estate are in good order. In some there is only one bedroom, but generally there are two in each, and a garden is always attached. The rent of those attached to the farms is on the average 1*s.* a week; a few are let at 1*s.* 6*d.*

There is a reformatory school in Neath, from which boys go out "in companies" under the care of a superintendent to work for the farmers, weeding and in the turnip-fields; they earn 9*d.* to 1*s.* a head, and their labour is in demand.

45. *Mr. James Long*, farmer, Ynysarwed.—I hold 1,000 acres, part hill and part vale. I employ one boy of 9 years of age to lead a horse at plough. Boys are generally employed from 9 to 12 years of age. Girls are seldom employed on the farms.

Women are employed at 1*s.* a day and their food. The hours of work are about eight for women and 10 for men and boys.

I think boys should not be employed in farm work under 12 years of age except in harvest.

Wages for men are 15*s.* a week, for women 1*s.* a day, for children 4*s.* a week. Lads of 19 years and upwards living in the farmhouse earn 17*l.* to 20*l.* a year. I incline to having all men necessary for the operations of the farm living in the house, for the sake of economy in the matter of food. I have brought several men from Somersetshire. *A Welsh woman works as well as many Somerset men.*

Advantage is not taken of the schools. I do not think that early labour is the hindrance but rather neglect on the part of the parents, who are themselves uneducated, and do not care sufficiently for the welfare of their children. I find educated labourers the most useful; for instance, I have only one who is a scholar, a lad about 16 years old with only one leg, but he is of more service to me than those who have the advantage of him in bodily soundness.

The cottages are very bad, in many instances overcrowded with lodgers to help out the rent; the ventilation is bad and the gardens not very good. Rent is 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a week.

RESOLVEN, GLYNCORWG, AND GLYN NEATH.

Population, about 2,000 - Acreage, 20,000.

46. *Rev. D. Griffiths*, vicar.—This district is partly agricultural and partly mineral. There are three schools, and I have a certificated master at Resolven and at Glyncorwg.

There is no employment of children in the fields. Women are not *regularly* employed.

There are large tracts of sheep run on the hills, and many small farmers who make money by using their carts for hauling at the coal pits.

The labouring class is well off; an agricultural labourer gets 16*s.* a week.

The regulation in the coal pits requiring the production of a certificate of reading, &c. before hiring is working well, and I think it would answer as well for the farm labourer. The Welsh are beginning to appreciate education, and are anxious to secure good teachers for the schools. Farmers' children leave school at an earlier age than those of the labourer. There are many scattered dwellings on the hills, far removed from a school.

I am in favour of grants in aid being given to schools for results, putting aside the question of the teacher being certificated or otherwise; and I think such an alteration of the regulations of the Committee of Council would be beneficial to rural parishes.

In Resolven the school attendance is pretty regular, some pressure being used, as the parish is in the hands of one landlord.

The cottages are pretty good; most of them have two rooms downstairs and two bedrooms, and a good garden. The rent of these is 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. There are some old ones at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. They are not as a rule attached to the farms.

LANTWITT MAJOR.

Population, 1,223 - Acreage, 4,915.

47. *Mr. John Garsed*, occupier.—I employ one boy under 8 years of age, two between 8 and 10 years, and two between 13 and 18 years, no girls, but six married women, who are employed in spring in weeding and stone-picking; in summer in "couching" and hay-making; in winter in pulling turnips, and one or two of them in barn work. The distance to work is 1 to 1½ miles. Women work from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 or 6 p.m. with 1½ hours allowed for dinner. One hour would be required for walking to and from work. Turnip cleaning is injurious to delicate children and married women from exposure to inclement weather. Young girls up to 20 years should not be allowed to work in agriculture, as they become totally unfitted for household work and to be mothers of families. Their morals are decidedly lowered in tone by such labour.

There is no need of restriction on the hours of work for children and young persons, as in consequence of high wages the labourers are more independent than in most other districts.

If there is no school in their parish few, if any, of the children of the labouring class go to another parish. The school attendance is considerably affected by the poverty of the parents, the women from want of household education being as a rule bad managers, and thus whatever the amount of wages earned they are always needy. Bad cottages are a curse to a district; they render the households badly managed, drive the husband to the public house, and lower the moral tone of the whole family. The absence of privies is a great evil in this district.

Two cottages for 100 acres are sufficient; we have more than that proportion. Some cottages have one small room downstairs, and one upstairs unceiled, others have two rooms down and two bedrooms. Ventilation is indifferent, and the drainage is bad. Many are owned by tradesmen and persons having no landed property in the neighbourhood. All have a good garden attached. Rent varies from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a week.

Landlords might provide cottage accommodation on the farms, and charge the tenant a per-centage on the outlay; any tenant would gladly pay it, as the workman would be located where he was wanted, and the employer would pay less wages for horse keepers, &c. than when they have a mile or two to walk home every night.

Glamorganshire.

Mr. Portman.

m.

48. EXTRACT from LETTER from the above.

* * * - "With regard to the state of education. 1st, we want industrial and domestic training for girls to enable them to fulfil properly their duties as wives and mothers. 2nd, boys should before being employed produce a certificate from a properly authorized schoolmaster, that such boy has received a certain number of hours' instruction during the preceding six months; a penalty should be imposed upon the employer of any boy who could not produce such certificate, for I would punish the tempter not the tempted.

"I hold that the owners and occupiers of land, and all other classes are bound to provide cheap elementary education for the working classes; this would be done by local rate, and if the poor require anything beyond that, in order to raise their children in the social scale, they ought to pay for it as a luxury.

"It is highly desirable in this district that education should be undenominational, for at least three-fourths of our fellow parishioners are dissenters, and a Church of England school will not be successful even under strong compulsion. These views are the result of many years' experience in this parish, in establishing and supporting Church of England, National, and other class schools."

Breconshire.

BRECONSHIRE.

BRECON UNION.

49. *D. W. Thomas, Esq.*, union clerk.—Children are not employed in farm work. The board of guardians expects boys at 12 years of age and girls at 15 to earn something for their own maintenance.

Farmers have a boy or two of 12 years and upwards in their houses. They take them from the workhouse at that age, and give them food but no wages.

Women are employed on the farms for stone-picking. They do not often work, but the farmers would be glad to get them at 1*s.* a day.

The highest wages for an ordinary labourer are 15*s.* a week. A waggoner living in the farmhouse gets from 15*l.* to 18*l.* a year with board and lodging.

Schools are fairly numerous in the neighbourhood of Brecon; most of the villages have one, but in the hills the shepherds and farmers never send their children to school on account of the distance from their homes. Relief is withdrawn from widows if the children are not sent to the school after due warning and on the report of the relieving officer.

Since the passing of the Union Chargeability Act farmers are desirous of having more cottages on their farms, but in the matter of education many think that the labourer is now "quite high enough up."

50. *W. Probert*, relieving officer.—I was once a farmer. My district is all agricultural, with the exception of the town of Brecon. The farms near Brecon vary in size from 50 acres up to 300 and 400 acres. There are sheep runs on the hills belonging to the valley farms. The run is not a defined tract of land belonging to each farmer, but a right of run for so many sheep on common land.

Boys of 10 years old are used with the cattle. They live in the farmhouses and get board and lodging, and either clothes or 2*l.* a year. Girls are not employed in outdoor work on the farms except at hay and harvest. Women work at potatoeing, turnip topping, &c. Some are employed all the year round.

Wages for an ordinary labourer are 12*s.* a week; they used to be 10*s.*, but have been raised on account of the demand for labour at the works.

A woman will earn 1*s.* a day, or 6*d.* and meals.

The north side of Brecon is well supplied with schools. I was formerly manager of a British school, and am sure that the people are now more careful about their children's education than formerly. The children used to leave school at 10 or 11 years of age. Night schools have not been successful.

I think 10 years would be a good limit to fix for the employment of children. Children would be sent to school if the parents could afford it, but in cases of large families I do not think they can afford it. Still the loss of earnings in consequence of a prohibition of work before 10 years would, in my opinion, be very trifling. There are some outlying places too far distant from the school to admit of a child's attendance, especially in the hills.

The cottages have of late been improved. Some few have only one bedroom, but the greater number have two. All have gardens. The rent varies according to the size of the garden and the condition of the building, and ranges from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year.

I do not think the labourers save much money.

51. *J. Lloyd, Esq.*, Dinas, near Brecon, owner and occupier.—The cultivation is chiefly arable. Near the mountains some few farms are entirely pastoral.

Boys are employed from 8 years upwards, *i.e.*, as soon as they are old enough to watch the cattle or disturb the crows; the latter they do in the spring and autumn, the former in the summer. This occupies but a small portion of their number. After 10 years of age they get hired by the small farmers, and have constant employment.

I only employ two girls on my farm of 500 acres; they are about 12 years of age; they work in the same occupation as their mothers, and nearly always in their company; the employment of girls is not common in this district.

Women are employed on an average about four months in the year, and would like to be employed more, in hoeing and dressing turnips, harvesting hay and corn, and in a few instances in tending cattle in the farm yards in the winter months.

The distance from work is from ½ mile to 1½ mile, scarcely ever more. On my farm the hours of work are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., in harvest time occasionally till 7 or 8 p.m.; they only work the latter time for, say, 10 days in the year, and on those occasions they have beer. On some farms work is commenced at 8 a.m.

I do not think it desirable to place any restriction on the employment of boys or of females.

The children in my neighbourhood have ample means of education, and very generally avail themselves of them; there is no cause, except early labour, to prevent their attendance.

The cottages in my parish and neighbourhood are good and sufficient for the supply of labour, are conveniently placed, and well supplied with water and means of ventilation. I know of no instance of immorality attributable to overcrowding. Nearly all of them have gardens; the occupiers of the very few that have them not are, in my case, allowed to plant potatoes in the field. I am not aware of any occupiers of cottages who have allotments of land other than gardens, in this district, and in my opinion such allotments are not desirable.

Wages for men are 12*s.* a week, and sometimes a cottage rent free; for women 8*d.* a day.

The sheep-run districts are very thinly populated.

PENPONT.

Population, 156 - Acreage, 1,355.

52. *Penry Williams, Esq.*, owner.—Cultivation chiefly grazing and meadow land, with some small quantity of tillage. Boys are employed at about 13 years old; they are hired in May and November. There are about seven girls employed on the farms, chiefly for milking and housework, their ages varying from 14 to 22 years.

It is difficult to say to what extent women are employed; the wife of a labourer, if without children, would be employed to assist in dairy-work, &c.

Boys and girls live in the farmhouses. The hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in winter. Boys should not commence work before 13 years of age. No restriction is necessary on the employment of females; they are not overworked.

There is a school in the neighbouring parish, to which the children of Penpont go; nearly all the labourers and handicraftsmen send their children there.

The cottages are generally good, and I do not know of any cases of immorality in consequence of overcrowding; they all have gardens.

The hamlet of Penpont maintains its own poor separately. It is one of the hamlets which formerly constituted the parish of Llanspythidd, and by multiplying the number of girls returned by me as employed here by five you will arrive at a proximate estimate of the girls employed in each of the other hamlets.

ABERCAMLAIS, near BRECON.

53. The Rev. Garnons Williams to Hon. E. Portman.

"Sir, 5th November 1869.

"I have not answered categorically the questions contained in the forms you sent me, because the land within my incumbency is exceptionally placed. It belongs for the most part to two estates, the proprietors of which reside on their property. Much is laid down in grass and wood, which under other circumstances would be divided into ordinary farms, and most of the cottages are better and less overcrowded than elsewhere. Perhaps you will, therefore, accept from me instead a general statement as regards the neighbourhood of Brecon on the subject you especially desire to be informed upon.

"There is, as I believe, no pressing call for legislation in favour of children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture in this particular neighbourhood. The system of gangs, either public or private, does not exist here, nor are women to any great extent permanently employed in hard work in the fields; still, as legislation is certainly needed much in other places in this matter, it would be very desirable that women and children, even here, should be protected from the possible oppression of individual farmers.

"The farms in this neighbourhood are for the most part small, and the farmhouse itself contains not unfrequently all who regularly work upon the farm. Women and boys engaged as farm servants, specially so engaged, work often in the fields. In winter they are employed in raising turnips and tending cattle; in spring, in gathering stones from arable and pasture lands; in summer and autumn, in hay and corn harvest, in potato gathering, &c. Women and boys not living in the farmhouses are occasionally employed in outdoor work when there is a pressure, and in oak barking in the barking season, while on the other hand the inmates of the farmhouse often vary their field employment with housework.

"The hours of work for those employed in the fields are, in summer, from 8 to 6, in winter from light to dusk. Boys are not, as a rule, employed till about 12 years of age. When women are employed in field work it usually is not from necessity but choice, because they prefer it to charing, washing, &c.

"This is a thinly populated neighbourhood, on the hills on either side of the valley in which I live, there are wide commons, houses are few and far between; many of the cottages are bad and overcrowded; I doubt not that this tends to immorality, and indeed many of the farmhouses, especially in the hilly districts, have not sufficient accommodation for decency.

"The hiring or mop fairs are a fruitful source of evil; as a rule all farm servants are hired at these fairs, even if the servants intend to keep their places they go to the fair and are hired afresh; I believe these fairs have a very demoralizing effect in many ways, and it would be a great benefit to the country if they could be abolished.

"With regard to primary education; while during the last 10 years many excellent schools have been established, many more are wanted. My conviction is that the present system of education should be enlarged or rather modified so as to embrace all cases. The system of paying by results might with good effect be extended. Schools in country places where the population is small, and where there are few resident gentry, might be exceptionally dealt with. For any sweeping change to be made with regard to the education of the poor would retard its progress for a considerable period. Compulsory education and compulsory local rates for education would, besides being unpopular, damp zeal and energy, and put an end to all voluntary efforts which are the heartiest and the best. To place the education of the country in the hands of the guardians of the poor, or of any other local board of ratepayers, or their representatives, would inevitably in many country places tend to contract and not to enlarge the bounds of education. The minimum of cost and the minimum of knowledge would be the great desiderata, and they would probably be attained.

"There is no industrial school, I am sorry to say, in this neighbourhood. An effort has been made to obtain one for the pauper children of the two unions of Brecon and Crickhowell, but it has failed.

"From observations made in this neighbourhood I do not feel myself in a position to make any more particular remarks, either upon the present state of children, young persons, and women employed in agriculture, or upon the proposed legislation on their behalf. I trust that whatever protective legislation is determined upon, may, if only incidentally, benefit those who live in this secluded district.

"I am, &c.

Garnons Williams."

DEVYNOCK.

Population, 1,798 - Acreage, 28,884.
Including extensive mountains.

54. *Rev. David Parry*, vicar.—The majority of labourers are farm servants living in their masters' houses, and for them there is no special hours. There is no injury done to the health by employment on the farms. I do not think there is any necessity for placing a restriction on the employment of females or of boys in farmwork.

I think attendance at school, if enforced at all, should be made compulsory for a certain period during the winter months, when children in a great measure are altogether unemployed. During the summer months they are usually more occupied.

School attendance is not much affected by distance, except in wet and stormy weather, and very little so by the pecuniary resources of the parents, because of the free education given to the children of the poorer class here by virtue of an endowment.

There is no industrial training for girls, except teaching sewing.

School.

In Summer.

	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - - -	45	40
Between 10 and 13 -	15	10
Girls:		
Under 10 - - -	40	38
Between 10 and 13 -	10	7

Breconshire.

Mr. Portman.

m.

In Winter.

	On Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - - -	60	50
Between 10 and 13 -	30	25
Girls:		
Under 10 - - -	55	50
Between 10 and 13 -	25	15

Almost all the poorest people in this neighbourhood are able to read and write.

55. *Mr. Smith*, relieving officer, Devynock District.—Boys are not employed in farmwork under 10 years of age, and then they go to permanent service. They are not much used for bird-keeping. Girls go out nursing about 10 years of age, but are not employed in the fields till 12 or 13 years, when they are used for stone-picking and weeding corn.

Women are used on farms near the villages for stone-picking, and are paid per cart load; they are also employed in getting up potatoes at 6*d.* a day and their food.

It is a custom to give a row or two of potatoes as payment for harvest work.

The population in the hills is very thin; there are a few shepherds' houses here and there.

There are schools in every parish, but they are not well attended. The small farmers are less educated than the labourers, as they are too poor to dispense with the labour of their children on the farms.

Relief is reduced when a child is 10 years old, *if it is strong*. I do not think that any hardship would be inflicted on the parents by a prohibition of work before 10 years of age.

Cottages all have gardens; most of them have two bedrooms, but they are not very good.

Wages for a man living at home are 5*s.* and 6*s.* a week, and board at the farmer's house.

There is not much out-door labour employed in my district; the work is done as much as possible by servants living in the farmhouses.

There are hiring fairs at Brecon and Trecastle in November and May; the hiring is chiefly by the year. Lads and girls stand in the open air to be hired. If not hired on the first day they go home and can return the next day or on any following Saturday. I have not observed much evil resulting from these fairs.

LLYWELL, near TRECASTLE.

Population, 1,503 - Acreage, 20,800.

56. *Rev. Lewis Price*, vicar.—The farmers of this district and parish being chiefly small tenant farmers do not employ labourers but occasionally, as they are able by the assistance of their children and in some cases by that of a manservant and female servants to do the work necessary to be done on their farms during the season.

School attendance is affected by distance in bad weather. The school payment is only 1*d.* a week for each child. There is no industrial training for girls except needlework at the schools.

This parish is well supplied with cottages, in fact more than sufficiently supplied, as a great many labourers are obliged to leave the place in winter and summer in search of employment. The rent is from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year.

LLANGORSE DISTRICT.

57. *Mr. Price*, relieving officer.—I have been 8 years in office. Children are not employed in farmwork in my district under 10 years of age, and not permanently till 12 years. Small boys may sometimes be employed in the mornings and evenings to fetch cows and ewes for milking, and they attend school in the middle of the day. For this work they get 6*d.* a week, and breakfast and supper every day.

Girls are not employed in the fields; women are difficult to get; they are averse to field-work; those who go get 6*d.* a day and food, or 10*d.* to 1*s.* and no food.

My district is purely agricultural; it is very thinly populated, and labour is scarce. The farms vary in size from 50 to 300 acres.

In some parts of the district schools are few and far between, often as much as three miles from the dwellings, but they are well attended. The small farmers are the worst educated class. The labourers are beginning to care more for education. There are no night schools.

The cottages are generally good, but *rather scarce*. They mostly have two rooms down and two up stairs; most of them have gardens. Those attached to the farms are in the worst state of repair. New cottages are being built by persons investing their money in them.

Wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and a house free, or 12*s.* a week and pay rent, or 7*s.* and 8*s.* a week and board in farmhouse while living at home. Lads live in the farmhouses. Labourers in regular employ of a farmer frequently have so many yards of potato ground free; milk also is given to them when there is a family. There is plenty of milk to be had from the farmers if it is wanted.

Hedging, draining, turnip hoeing are taken by the piece by men. Stone picking is taken by the women at per load, and the children go with them to that work. Sheep milking is done by women, they are paid by the week, and have two meals a day.

Old men go out bird-keeping.

I have not known any cases of injury to health arising from ordinary field work. The distances to work are not great.

I know some labourers who have saved money, and are now small farmers.

LLANDETTY.

Population, 633 - Acreage, 5,980.

Cultivation, as a rule, mixed. Some farms, however, are chiefly arable, and others chiefly pasture.

58. *David Downes, Esq.*, occupier, Maesmawr.—I hire one or two boys by the year, who reside in the house with me, and are generally of the age of 14 or thereabouts. I believe a similar custom prevails throughout this parish. An occasional child (boy or girl) is employed to keep the crows off the corn fields during autumn and spring for a fortnight or three weeks.

The employment of girls both on this farm and in this parish is an exceptional case. If so employed it would be during hay and corn harvest. The instances are rare, and in these instances the ages would vary from 12 to 20 years.

It is difficult to obtain the services of women; when employed, it would be during hay and corn harvest, in topping and tailing turnips, gathering stones off the clover, and in spreading manure in the turnip drills. The distance to work would not exceed one mile on this farm, and 1½ miles in the parish would be a rare instance. The hours, as a general rule, are from 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. I would not place any restriction on the employment of boys. A boy would be of little use to me till he had attained his 12th year; and speaking from observation in this county I would decidedly not place any restriction on the employment of females.

Wages for a man are 11*s.* a week and house rent free, food for a month in harvest, potatoes from one-half to one sack, planted free of cost; they keep poultry and a pig. I reckon it is equal to 14*s.* a week through the year. Women get 1*s.* a day in harvest; they take topping turnips by the job, at 4*d.* a cart load; they usually earn 1*s.* a day at it, but I have known an instance of a woman earning 2*s.* 6*d.* in a

day; they come to work about 10 a.m, and go or return at what hour they please. Labour is rather scarce. I do not think the labourers save much. There are hiring fairs at Brecon, Hay, Builth, and Crickhowell in May and November. The hiring is by the year or six months; some sign an agreement. I should prefer the fairs being done away with, and a character given to the servants from their former places. Register offices might be substituted for the present system. The ironworks in the neighbourhood keep the surplus labour employed, and there is no man or boy out of employ here.

There is an excellent mixed National school, which is well and regularly attended. Last quarter there were 99 on the books. The Government grant this year was 59*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The small farmers want education for their children more than the labourers; they are too poor to employ labour, and keep their children at home to work on the farm. I think on this point the attention of the Government and some form of compulsion is needed. The children go to school in the winter.

The best lads from the school go away to some employment higher than that of an agricultural labourer.

The cottages are, on the whole, in fair condition, though frequently there is not sufficient sleeping accommodation. There might be a few more on some farms with benefit to the tenant. As a general rule each cottage has a plot of ground (large or small) attached to it; potato ground to the extent of one-eighth of an acre is frequently given in addition, rarely more than that, but frequently much less. A double cottage costs 120*l.* Stone is abundant. Rent of a cottage without a garden is 3*l.* a year; with a garden, 3*l.* 10*s.* a year.

There are sheep-runs on the hills, for the most part belonging to small farmers.

CWMDÛ.

Population, 5,384 - Acreage, 33,798.

There is a great tract of hill-top and sheep-run.

59. *Mr. Thomas Francis,* farmer and guardian.—The population is scattered. I hold 378 acres, and employ more labour than anyone else in the parish. I have two men living on the premises, and the rest of the labour is obtained from the village. Boys are not, as a rule, employed before 13 years of age; they are only very occasionally used for bird-keeping. Girls are not employed on the farms. A few women are employed for topping turnips and stone-picking at 6*d.* a load, also for weeding corn by the day at 1*s.* a day.

A man in constant employ gets 13*s.* a week, and two to four pints of cider a day; those living in the house get 15*l.* a year and board. I have one boy 16 years old, who only gets 6*l.* a year, but he is a weak lad; if strong he would be worth 12*l.* to 15*l.* a year.

The labourers live close to their work. The hours for women working by the day are from 8 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner; those who work by the piece come at 9 or 10 a.m. and go away at their own time.

I do not think it is necessary in this district to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be employed, but if it were placed at 10 years I do not see that any injury would be done to the parents in the matter of earnings.

There is a church school here, where the payment for labourers' children is 1*d.* a week, for those of farmers 5*s.* a quarter. There is a sum of 30*l.* a year bequeathed to the school. The district is fairly supplied with schools; I do not think the furthest distance for a child would be more than a mile. There is a school at Wainvach between this place and Talgarth, and many of the *bigger* children from the lower part of the village go to Crickhowell school, about two miles distant. The attendance is fairly regular. There is no night school, but we have a singing club in the village which occupies the young men in the evening.

The cottages are good. All have two bedrooms, some have three. They are not overcrowded, and are in sufficient number for the farms. I have some attached to my farm. Rent is from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a year. All have good gardens. The regular workmen have leave to plant a sack of potatoes *free* in the farmer's field.

The small farmers cannot afford to send their children to school; they want their labour on the farms in winter as much as in summer, and they cannot spare money to pay for hired labour. Their houses are often far worse than a labourer's cottage. I have known some of these men begin a 50 acre farm with a capital of 50*l.*

LLANGENNY.

60. *Martyn Roberts, Esq.,* owner and occupier.—Cultivation is partly arable and partly grass, and a large quantity of mountain common sheep pasture.

Children are sometimes employed in scaring crows. Young persons generally live at the farms as servants. Girls are only employed as resident farm servants.

A few women are employed for weeding corn and digging potatoes. The distance to work does not often exceed one mile. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, then from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., except on Saturdays, when they leave at 5 p.m.

There are very few boys employed, and I have never seen any necessity for a restriction on their employment. There are no gangs in this neighbourhood.

There is a National school now very well attended, but I should like to see a night school established for young men, say, from 15 to 21 years of age, as it would keep them from the public house. We have two villages in our parish. The houses are good of their kind. There village children go to school or are employed in the woollen factory and paper mills.

The greater number of cottages have gardens either adjoining the houses or at a short distance therefrom.

Cottages.

61. Property of Archdeacon Davies.—Not satisfactory as to repairs or internal condition. One room and back house downstairs, two bed rooms, with garden. Rent, 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* a year.—[E. B. P.]

Wives of Labourers.

62. *Mrs. Williams.* —My husband is a hedger. He earns 13*s.* a week, and pays rent for his cottage, The ordinary rate of wages is 12*s.* a week, with sometimes a house rent free. No extras in harvest.

63. *Mrs. Jones.*—My husband is an old man, and earns 10*s.* a week, paying rent for his cottage. My boy of 13 years old gets 4*s.* a week in summer and winter.

64. *James,* labourer and rate collector.—The rate of wages is 12*s.* a week for regular men; 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for job men. Some boys are employed scareing birds. Girls who are farm servants turn out to work in the fields, setting and digging potatoes. Women work in the fields at 1*s.* a day and "find themselves." There are only a few in this parish who work in the fields.

School.

65. *Williams,* 12 years old, son of a farmer who holds 300 acres.—I have three brothers. I was absent from school from 22 Feb. to June, and have just come back to school (10 Nov.). My father keeps one servant; employs no labourers. We, the sons, do the work of the farm.

[One of his brothers 9½ years old had also been at work, and had then been in school for six weeks since the summer, and apparently had not been at school at all during the spring.—E. B. P.]

66. *Emily Salter.*—My mother works in the fields and earns 1*s.* a day. She does not work much in winter. Her husband works in the paper mills. I have never been to field work myself, but am kept at home to look after the little ones. There are seven of us in family.

67. A *boy* said, that boys are used for scareing birds;

Breconshire.
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m.

are out wet and dry from 7 a.m. to dark, and get food, but no money; that he went to the farmhouse for his meals, and while away from the field "I do put a flag in the field" to keep the birds away,

68. *Andrew Doyle, Esq.*, poor law inspector and owner of land in Llangenny.—The rate of wages for a regular labourer is 12*s.* a week; for a job man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and 20*s.* at harvest. The wages of boys living in the farmhouses vary according to age; from 11 to 14 years, meat, and from 3*l.* to 6*l.* a year; but the practice of having lads in farmhouses does not prevail.

Women earn 1*s.* a day, and work in the fields for about 24 weeks out of the 52.

Boys are never employed under 10 years of age. When employed at from 12 to 15 years the wages are 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

The earnings of a steady skilful labourer, such as a good hedger would be, all told, about 13*s.* a week; this, however, does not include cider, and 20*s.* for four or five weeks in harvest.

Extract from Letter from A. Doyle, Esq.

"Plas Dulas, 17 November 1869.

"Dear Mr. Portman,

"* * * * * * * * * I was much struck in talking to labouring men with the very marked preference they have for piece work rather than day labour. As an employer who pays by the day is ever doubtful whether he gets a fair day's work, so the labourer is doubtful whether he gets a fair day's wage. This is particularly so of Welsh labourers. They like too the freedom of working by the piece, but above all the chance of lighting upon 'a good thing,' as navvies sometimes do upon a sand pit. Where children are taken into farmhouses (so called) they rarely go to school. The farmers, however, and some above the class of farmers, are persuaded that they make better labourers when kept from an early age wholly at work.

"The rent of a cottage if taken from the employer and deducted from the wages is from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. I fear that throughout Breconshire labouring men walk long distances to their work; this, however, is to some extent their own fault. Not wishing, as one of them expressed it to me, 'to be bound,' they prefer to live in the place that will be the most convenient for jobbing over a wide circuit.

"Yours, &c.,

"Andrew Doyle."

69. *Rev. H. Bevan, Llangenny.*—In this parish there are no boys under 10 years of age employed; there are 10 between the ages of 10 and 13, and 8 between 13 and 18 years so employed, and 13 women, of whom three only are unmarried. They are used in spring for cleaning meadows, in summer for haymaking, in autumn for potato-picking, and in winter for topping turnips. They all live either on or near the farms. Most of them are the children or members of the family of the farmer himself. Hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an hour allowed for dinner. There is no injury to health arising from such employment.

Field work has the effect of making women rough and coarse. Immorality too prevails considerably among this class, but owing chiefly to the bad accommodation provided in the houses, and not to the nature of their work.

I do not think any restriction on the employment of females necessary, as the outdoor work is only occasional and done *chiefly* by the servants who live in the farms, or by married women. I do not see how you can prohibit the female servants on a farm from going out to work in the fields at setting and picking potatoes.

The demand for boys' work is not so great as to require restriction.

Of the three plans suggested for enforcing school attendance the third (viz., that adopting the principle of the Printworks Act) seems to me the most satisfactory, if, as I understand it, it means that for six months in the year the children were compelled to attend school; these months might be the winter and spring months when their work is least in request.

I only know of one house in the parish, the position of which renders it rather difficult for children to attend school regularly; there are five or six children who go to school in neighbouring parishes.

I think that the cottage accommodation generally is far from satisfactory. There ought to be at least three bedrooms where there is a family, whereas it is a rare thing to find a house with more than two, and some have only one. If certain regulations could be introduced, regulating the size and number of rooms and the number of those who occupy them it would be an immense advantage; there is no doubt that as things are at present the want of sufficient accommodation produces much discomfort as well as an injurious effect on morals.

The cottages have good gardens and outhouses; drainage is tolerably good; the water has often to be fetched from some distance, as it is difficult to sink wells, in consequence of the hilly nature of the ground. They are owned partly by the landowners and partly by tradesmen. Rent averages 4*l.* a year. There has been a great deal of cottage building of late years in this parish.

To the best of my belief there are not above four or five young persons of the agricultural labouring class who are not able to read fairly. There may be a few more among the farm servants, but they are such a rambling set that it is difficult to keep them in view. Those that are in the parish at present are scarcely any of them *natives* of the parish.

There is no evening school.

LLANBEDER.

70. *Bessie Powell*, schoolmistress. [On November 10 there were 20 children in school.]—I have been here 11 years. From November to April in the first year I was here *the average attendance was four, and in summer no children came for some time.* The average attendance now is 28, and the highest number on the books has been 56.

The parish is large, and there are two hamlets besides. The distance to school is in some cases very great; I have known children come five miles, but the little ones cannot come when the older children are at work, because the parents cannot trust them to go alone.

The school has an endowment, and is attended by children of farmers as well as labourers. Boys do not come back to school after harvest till the middle or end of November, and leave again at the end of March, or sometimes earlier. The girls are quite as irregular in their attendance as the boys, they work on their parents' farms, few farmers employing any labour besides that of their children.

The parents are, as a rule, very uneducated, but I think they are now more anxious about the education of their children than when I first came here.

Children during their absence from school go back very much in learning; the farmers' children keep up their education a little at home.

I think that 100 attendances in the year might be obtained, but I am not in favour of a compulsory system.

LLANGATTOCK AND CRICKHOWELL.

71. *Mr. Fowke*, agent to Sir J. Bailey, Bart.—Women are employed at 10*d.* a day, and 1*s.* a day in harvest. Children are very seldom employed, except perhaps for three weeks in bird keeping. Wages for ordinary labouring men are 2*s.* a day, and 1*l.* in harvest; they pay house rent.

There is no need of legislation here for the agricultural labouring class. Parents are quite awake to the advantages of education, and will make a sacrifice to send their children to a good school, but will not send them to a bad teacher.

It is very much the custom to have farm servants living on the farm premises, and when lads are so living they have an opportunity of saving money.

The labourers are, in my opinion, well off, and are good workers. Hedging, &c. is done by the day.

72. *Mr. Price*, actuary, savings bank, Crickhowell.—Very few farm lads are depositors in the bank. I do not think there are above 12 agricultural labourers who have money in the bank, but many of the servant girls are depositors. The rate of interest is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There are many clubs here.

BRITISH SCHOOL, CRICKHOWELL.

73. *Mrs. Bennett*, wife of schoolmaster.—There were from 25 to 30 boys of 16 to 20 years of age in attendance at the school last winter, and five or six young women of 18 years of age.

The school is attended by the children of farmers and labourers; some come from a distance of 4 miles. There are no boys in the school who have worked in the fields for hire, but many are away picking potatoes.

74. *Mrs. Sanders*, occupier, Crickhowell.—I farm 200 acres. I do not employ many labourers; my sons do the work, and I have two boys in the house, one of whom is 15 years old, and gets 6*l.* a year, board and lodging, for looking after the cattle; the other is a ploughman, and has 12*l.* a year, board and lodging. These boys cannot read very much; they never had much chance of schooling; they *might* go to night school, but there is a deal of work to be done on the premises on a winter evening, cutting roots, chaff, &c. and looking after the colts and the stock.

HAY.

75. Rev. W. L. Bevan, vicar.
Mr. Partridge, } farmers.
Mr. Yeomans, }

Small boys are used for bird-keeping. If boys were prohibited from farm work under 10 years of age the loss to the parents would be nothing, the destruction of clothes being greater than the incomings. Boys are not of much use on farms till 11 years of age. We do not have them living in the farmhouses if we can help it. A boy of 11 or 12 years of age will earn 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. The employment of children is only for a few weeks, and they can attend school in the winter.

Girls are not employed in the fields here. Some women are employed for topping turnips, but it is not the usual custom. It is difficult to get women to work in the fields; the wife of a good labourer will not go out. There is no arrangement between the farmer and labourer as to the work of the wife, such used to be the case formerly.

Mr. Partridge and *Mr. Yeomans* stated that, in their experience, women who work in the fields are industrious, and have homes tidy and well kept.

The weeding of corn is chiefly done by horse hoes. Turnip hoeing is done by men by the piece; boys are very rarely employed for singling, the reason being that *in task work the boy must work up to the man*, which his strength will not permit.

The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour allowed for dinner. Wages for men are in some cases 6*s.* and 7*s.* a week and food, and 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, taking into consideration *privileges*, *e.g.*, house rent free, potato ground, wood, cider, and run of a pig. A job man gets 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and expects cider besides.

A woman gets 4*s.* a week for light work, and 1*s.* a day for machine work.

Mr. Partridge said the *privileges* here are much the same as in Devon, but the cottage gardens are not so large as in that county.

Women are occasionally employed in "barking;" they strip and pile the bark; it is only occasional work, depending on a fall of timber, and is done by the piece.

It was thought that there would be no objection to placing a restriction on the employment of boys under 11 years of age.

All parishes in the valley have schools, most of which are under Government inspection, but the distance to the schools from outlying cottages is sometimes great. These schools are certainly taken advantage of by the labouring class. The parents, though often themselves uneducated, are becoming aware of the advantages of education for their children.

It was thought that time must elapse before the benefit of schooling becomes realised by the poor, which will not be till the parents see that the children who have neglected school are in an inferior position to those who have attended regularly.

The feeling was against a compulsory system, at any rate till a sufficient number of schools for the population have been established in convenient localities.

Education among the farmers was said to be very deficient.

The hill country is wild and thinly populated, principally devoted to sheep-runs, which are attached to the farms.

The cottages are built of stone or brick; they are generally bad, though when they are being repaired some improvement is usually made. A few have three bedrooms.

Mr. Yeomans stated that he had 10 attached to his farm.

Some farmhouses are worse than the cottages, being often without any partition in the sleeping rooms, except a bit of drapery.

The gardens are about one-eighth of an acre. Potato ground is often given free and manured.

Some cottages have privies, but not all. Cost of building a single cottage was estimated at 80*l.*, that of a double one 125*l.*

76. *Henry Allen, Esq.*, Oakfield, near Hay.—Boys are not often employed under 12 years old. I think it would be very desirable to place a restriction on their employment before 10 years of age.

Further Government aid is much wanted for the schools in small rural parishes.

LLANIGAN, near HAY.

Population, 429 - Acreage, 4,456.

77. *Rev. W. J. Thomas*, vicar, owner and occupier.—The cultivation is mixed. The upper part of the parish consists chiefly of an extensive unenclosed sheep-walk.

There are few boys employed in agriculture under 14 years of age. Girls are seldom employed except as indoor servants at from 14 to 15 years old.

Labourers' wives are employed out of doors generally, and it is expected that where labourers are engaged their wives when required should work on the same farms as their husbands. Women are scarce, and when employed receive 8*d.* a day. They go but short distances to work, as the cottages are near the farms where the husbands are employed. The hours of work are generally from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I would limit the age for boys' work at 14 years, but in my parish such limit would not be needed.

There is a good National school under a mistress, which is well attended. The boys leave about 12 years old, and seek a school with further advantages as regards the higher and more advanced arithmetical knowledge.

The cottages, as a rule, are in good repair. I think they are sufficient for the supply of labour and conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Where there is a large family of both sexes the sleeping accommodation is not sufficient. There is, as a rule, a garden attached to each cottage.

The pay of labourers varies from 9*s.* the lowest to about 12*s.* the highest per week. The former sum is sometimes given even for a young able-bodied man, but he would in that case be employed throughout the year. I have paid 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for labour

Breconshire.
Mr. Portman.
m.

near Builth, where I have given employment for some months together.

78. *Mrs. Fryer*, schoolmistress.
8 November 1869.—On books - - 50
In attendance - 35

There is no Government aid given to this school.

I have been mistress for 20 years. Children are taken away from school occasionally for potato-picking, cider-making, and pulling turnips. They do not leave school altogether till 12 years, but before that age they lose a great many days. A boy of 10 years gets 6*d.* a day.

Women work in the fields on small farms, and the children often work with them.

If children were prohibited from working till 10 years of age, I think the loss of earnings by errands and odd jobs would be serious.

Cottages.

79. (1.) 1 room and backhouse, down; 2 bedrooms, garden, and privy. Rent 5*l.* 10*s.* a year.

(2.) Next door to No. 1, has 3 bedrooms, and the rent is higher.

(3.) 1 sitting-room and a bedroom on the ground floor; no upper floor; garden and cart shed. Rent over 4*l.* a year.

BUILTH.

Population of union - 8,305.
Acreage of ditto - - 102,953.

The following returns were made by the relieving officers of the Builth union after a discussion at the board of guardians, and under the supervision of the union clerk.—E. B. P.

(No. 1.) Builth Poor Law District,

Containing 15 parishes.

80. *John Powell*, relieving officer.—Boys are employed in agriculture at about 12 years of age. In this district girls are not employed in the fields, except occasionally at harvest time.

Women are employed during hay and corn harvest. The distance to work is very short, as the cottages are generally on the farms. The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Boys should not be permitted to work on the land before 12 years of age.

There are 15 parishes in my district, some of which are very thinly populated. There are schools in eight of these, and children from the adjoining parishes attend these schools. In very many instances children of the labouring class do not take advantage of them; poverty is, I think, the only cause for their non-attendance.

The condition of the majority of the cottages is bad; they are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. I have not met with any overcrowding, but the ventilation is in most cases bad. Rents vary from 30*s.* to 4*l.* a year. All have good gardens, but in many instances they are not cultivated.

Wages for a man 12*s.* a week without maintenance; for a woman, 6*s.* a week; for children, 40*s.* per annum and maintenance.

(No. 2.) Abergwessin District,

Containing 15 parishes.

81. *John Jones*, relieving officer.—Boys are employed in agriculture at 12 years of age; girls are not so employed, except occasionally at harvest time. Women are not much employed. The distance to work is not great, and the hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are schools in seven out of the 15 parishes in my district, but the children of the labouring classes do not take advantage of them in many instances.

The condition of the cottages is not good; ventilation is defective; they have for the most part good gardens, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Rent from 30*s.* to 80*s.* a year.

[The wages for men, women, and children were said to be the same as stated in Return No. 1.—E. B. P.]

82. *The Rev. R. Lister Venables.*

"Dear Sir, "Clyro Vicarage, Hay.

"I send the paper of questions with such answers as I could give. They refer to a district of Breconshire in the Hundred of Builth, where I do not reside, but where my brother and I have some property, with a residence which he occupies, but where I spend a good deal of time.

"The farmers being of the same class with the labourers, and intermarrying with them, do most of their own work assisted by their children, and where necessary by 'young persons' of both sexes living in the house. They live very frugally, making their profits chiefly by cattle and sheep, especially sheep. There are sheep walks of immense extent on the hills in the manor of Builth, which is identical in area with the Hundred. There are singularly few cottages independent of land. The work in which boys and girls engage is chiefly that which is best suited to them, not hard bodily labour, but helping to tend and look after sheep and cattle, milking, &c."

Hundred of Builth.

The inhabitants are chiefly small farmers; there are very few labourers not occupying land. There is, I think, no systematic employment of boys; they assist their parents in looking after sheep and cattle when old enough, or they go out as servants, living in farm-houses as "young persons."

The girls are employed in farm service, either hired or under their parents, in house and dairy work, feeding pigs, &c.; seldom in the fields, except in harvest time. There being few mere labourers, there are few mere women living in cottages unconnected with land in their husbands' occupation. They chiefly work on the farm or premises where they live. The hours for those regularly hired would be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with intervals for meals.

There is no need in this district for any restriction on the employment of boys or females.

An excellent school, well attended, has been in operation since 1st January 1868, at Newbridge, in Radnorshire (close to the borders of Breconshire). It supplies the wants of Llysdinam in Breconshire and Llanyce, the adjoining parish in Radnorshire, being the locality in which I am immediately interested. Excellent school buildings are complete, or nearly so, in Llanagan Fawr, the parish of which Llysdinam is a hamlet.

The cottages are, I think, sufficient for the supply of the ordinary labour demand, because the farmers are themselves almost exclusively working men. Some, especially those occupied by shepherds, are *mere hovels*, but they are in process of improvement. As cottages are built or rebuilt they are made fairly comfortable and decent. There is no water supply by pipes, and sometimes the well or stream is inconveniently distant. All new cottages have casements to open, but there is generally plenty of fresh air, as the house door usually stands open. They are not often overcrowded, but there is not much delicacy as to mingling the sexes. Most cottages, if not all, have gardens, but the people seem to take little pleasure or interest in them.

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. NORMAN'S REPORT.

Mr. Norman.

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ANGLESEA.

Anglesea.

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1. *The Rev. Daniel Rowlands, M.A.*, Principal of the Bangor Training College.—I have been principal of this college since January 1868, but I am a native of Anglesea, and am well acquainted with all North Wales.

Women are not employed at all in agriculture in North Wales, except very occasionally in hay and corn harvest.

Children are not employed to an injurious extent. The larger farmers generally employ a boy of about 12, who acts as an errand boy and serves in the house. His work is light and he is kindly treated.

The education of the agricultural classes is often deficient; this is very generally owing to the want of schools, and that arises sometimes from the difficulty which the people find in obtaining land to build schools upon, *e.g.*, at Port Dinorwig there is only a small National school which is badly attended. All the population are Nonconformists, and they are anxious to build a British school but cannot get a site. There is at present a small undenominational school there, but too paltry to do any good. The only land which would afford a suitable site belongs to a nobleman, who has more than once refused to let them have a piece for that purpose. There is also a great want of schools in Lleyn, the portion of Carnarvonshire which lies to the west of Pwlheli. There are a few districts in Anglesea destitute of school accommodation, and so, in fact, here and there, throughout North Wales; a considerable proportion of the children of agricultural labourers don't go to school at all; but those who do go attend very irregularly and leave at too early an age; that is chiefly owing to the apathy of the parents, but also to their poverty. They cannot afford to pay the fees or to provide proper clothing. I am accustomed to examine rural schools, and think that the children of agricultural labourers generally attend up to the age of 10 or 12; but their attainments, owing to irregularity of attendance, the early age of which they leave school, and the fact that their education is given in a language which is almost entirely foreign to them, are generally too inadequate to be of any practical use to them.

They are only very occasionally kept at home to earn wages and not to such an extent as to interfere with their education. The people believe that the clergy want to bring them back to the Church by means of National schools. The poor send their children to the National schools because they prefer their children having that education to none. They cannot afford to build a sufficient number of British schools. They have to support their ministers, build chapels, and contribute towards their various missionary and benevolent schemes, and all that without deriving any help from the aristocracy of the country, who, generally speaking, evince but little sympathy with their countrymen who speak the Welsh language and attend Nonconformist places of worship. The people would not be satisfied with a Conscience Clause, they think it an insult to be offered a National school with liberty to object to the religious instruction when nine-tenths of the population are Nonconformists. Nor would they be satisfied to have unsectarian education with the clergyman *ex-officio* chairman of the school committee. They would object to this, because they will have nothing whatever to do with the clergy of the Establishment as their religious teachers, and the clergy often treat them and their ministers with contempt.

If the half-time system were applied to agriculture farmers would not employ the boys to whom it applied. The services of boys are not so important to

Anglesea.

Mr. Norman.

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farmers as to induce them to employ boys if by so doing they had to incur any inconvenience. The education would be improved if the people knew that they could have no outlet for their children if they were uneducated. This could be effected by making proficiency a condition of employment.

Very many of the people of Wales can read, and a considerable number write Welsh, who cannot read and write English. They learn to read Welsh at their Sunday schools, and those who learn to read and write English often do it quite mechanically, without understanding what they read. I believe that the circumstances of Wales, in particular, demand that no Government grants should be given to schools which are not strictly undenominational. I do not mean that the Bible should be excluded from them; with a people so religious as the Welsh I believe that the exclusion of the Bible could not but be to the prejudice even of the best schools. But they are jealously anxious that no denominational dogmas should be taught in the day schools, and hence they are deeply prejudiced against the use of the Catechism and the enforced attendance of the children at church on Sundays, which are inculcated at the National schools. If the clergy were to relinquish the idea of making the day school a seat of proselyting agency for the church, and meet the people in a broad, undenominational, and truly national ground, like that of the British schools, they would most gladly co-operate with them. And this would do a great deal towards perfecting the education of the country. From the want of this we have now in many neighbourhoods two schools where there might be no more than one, and as those are visited by different inspectors, and are patronized by different persons, there is frequently a feeling of jealousy between them, which produces a deal of mischief. The Government would confer an immense boon upon Wales by withholding the grants from all denominational schools, and by making it illegal to apprentice children to any trade or engage them in any kind of service without a certain minimum of education.

2. *Dr. Briscoe*, Holyhead.—I have had charge of the parish for 11 years. It is 10 square miles in extent. There are no schools in it except those in the town. The most distant part of the parish is about four miles from the school, but the population residing more than 2½ miles from the school is very sparse. There is no school at Rhoscolyn, the other parish on this island, *i.e.*, there was none there a short time ago. The agricultural population form 26·7 of the whole population of this parish, but the agricultural children at school form only 3·8 of the whole number of children there. There are therefore a great many who never come to school at all. The occupations are very small, not above 30 acres of cultivable land. There is a great deal of rock. About half the parish is grass. The occupiers are very little raised above the position of labourers. The women don't work in the fields, except occasionally when potatoes have to be got up. Young children very seldom find any work to do in the fields. They hang about at home and do nothing. There is no reason at all why they should not come to school. The fee for labourers' sons would be 2*d.* a week, and wages for labourers are 15*s.* per week in the town, and possibly rather less in the country, so that they cannot be prevented by poverty from sending their children.

The small farmers do not employ labourers, they do all the work themselves, or by their families, but their wives and children don't work much.

I cannot see how it would be possible to apply the Factory Acts to the agricultural population.

The cottages are tolerably good, substantially built, but small; they generally contain one sitting room and two bedrooms. They are built with upper floors. They belong to the landowners and are let with the farms. They have small gardens. There is rather a superfluity of cottage accommodation, because 1,500 men were formerly employed in constructing the breakwater, and cottage accommodation was provided for them. Now not more than 200 men are employed there.

3. *H. B. Hughes, Esq., M.P.*, Plas Coch; *Mr. Pearce*, schoolmaster, Llanedwen.—The population of the parish is about 280. There is a factory for framing slates here. The farms vary in size from 600 acres to 30 or 40. Probably about half in grass.

Women are not at all employed in field work; girls may be occasionally employed in picking stones, &c., but to a very trifling extent.

Boys are employed in thinning turnips, picking potatoes and stones; those operations will last off and on for about three months in the year, but boys under 10 years of age are not employed at them. The farmers hire the boys individually to do that work. It is never done by the piece. The continuous work for boys begins at about the age of 13 or 15.

The school is a mixed school; between 70 and 80 in average attendance, and 130 on the books. Almost all are the children of agricultural labourers who belong to four neighbouring parishes. The most distant part from which children come to attend our school is about 2½ miles, but there is a small infant school to which the youngest children who live at a distance can go. They prefer anything to education, the parents are indifferent about it; the children remain in school until they get some fixed work. They leave at an earlier age to work in the slate works than in the fields. There are a great many in the four parishes who don't go to our day school at all, but they go to the Sunday school, and can most of them read Welsh.

Mr. Hughes pays 11*s.* a week, but farmers generally hire men by the half year and board them. They receive from 10*l.* to 12*l.* for six months. Lads when they first go out get 4*l.* to 6*l.* and their meat. All the cottages belong to the landowners. The rent is from 3*l.* to 5*l.* with gardens.

There are scarcely any cottages which belong to either speculators or the labourers themselves. The farmers generally allow their men a piece of potato ground.

4. *The Rev. William Wynne Williams*, rector of Llangeinwen and Llangaffo, and rural dean.—Women and children occasionally work in the fields about here, but only in taking up potatoes and turnips, picking stones, &c. They work quite voluntarily. They get about 1*s.* a day and their meat. They do no work which is at all injurious to them. The attendance at school is very irregular in consequence of the occasional employments in which the children are engaged. This district is well supplied with schools. There is no locality in my rural deanery (which includes nine parishes) which has not a school within access of it. The girls go to service and many of the boys to sea. Both the girls and boys leave school at about the age of 13 or 14. All the parents send their children to school, except those who are indifferent about education. The agricultural labour in which children are employed does not seriously interfere with their education. There is a good deal of grass in this neighbourhood and much stock is bred. The population has decreased lately in consequence of the increased quantity of machinery used in agriculture. The cottages are sufficient in number. The rent is from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*, with gardens. Many labourers keep a cow; the farmers let them a sufficient amount of land to enable them to provide keep. The holdings are nearly all large.

There are two schools in this parish, a National and a British school, within a quarter of a mile of each other. The rivalry between the two is very injurious to education, because if the children take offence at the treatment they receive at one, they can always get taken in at the other. No new law is at all necessary here to secure the attendance of the children. All that is necessary is that the parents should be impressed with the importance of education. I am rather averse to compulsion in any form, but the only form in which I think it could do any good is by making the permission to work depend on the

proficiency of the child. I employ two men and pay 13*s.* a week, but I think that is rather higher than the farmers pay.

5. *Mr. Davies*, schoolmaster, Llanidan. — This school is supported entirely by Lord Boston. The fee is 1*d.* a week; it is a mixed school. There were 72 present this morning [27th September]. The boys leave finally at the age of 12 to 14, the girls rather earlier. The attendance is better in winter than in summer; the village is close to the school. The attendance is irregular for about two months in the summer. About 30 are generally absent. Some come two miles to school. The boys are generally in the second class before they leave; they can read decently and work money sums. Many in the neighbourhood don't come to school at all. I don't know why.

6. *John Williams, Esq.*, Treffos, Llansadwrn, has been chairman of the Quarter Sessions, Beaumaris, since 1822; *Rev. James Williams* has been rector of Llanfairynghornwy for 48 years, diocesan inspector of schools.—The parishes in Anglesea are most of them small. 200 acres would be considered a large farm, and the quantity would be certainly under 100 acres and possibly under 50. It is a cattle breeding country; no cheese is made. The quantity of grass is increasing.

Women are employed very slightly in planting potatoes, and a little in the hay and corn harvest. Children under 13 are employed in planting and a very little in getting up potatoes, but never in other occupations. All the ploughing is done with reins. Boys are never employed to drive. At about the age of 14 they get places in the farmhouses. They probably get their food and scarcely any wages for the first year. The boards of guardians never provide for children after the age of 14; they provide for them up to that age, except in the case of very big boys. It cannot be said that women and boys are employed more by the small than by the large farmers, but the small farmers employ their own families to a greater extent than the larger farmers. The practice of thinning turnips by contract is gradually coming in; none but men with families contract for that work, and they bring their own children to assist them.

We think that the island is tolerably well supplied with schools. There are very few villages. They are increasing in number, but the increase has ceased since the passing of the Union Chargeability Bill. There may be a few cottages in out-of-the-way districts which are out of access of a school.

The Rev. James Williams has been in the habit of inspecting eight rural schools and thinks the instruction given is tolerably satisfactory. They are generally under masters, assisted by a woman to teach sewing. He thinks that they may be taken as fair samples of the general run of schools in the island. The people are beginning to send their children very generally. The people find that they cannot get good places for their children in after life unless the latter can speak English. Formerly the English language only was used in schools. Now the Welsh language is more employed for the purpose of giving instruction in the English language, and the education is not nearly as mechanical as it used to be. There is no agricultural work which interferes with the education except the planting of potatoes, and there is nothing else to interfere with the education except the apathy of the parents.

The Rev. James Williams thinks that education would be stimulated if the grant were occasionally given where fewer than 200 attendances had been secured, supposing the irregularity caused by some special circumstances, such as an epidemic.

Cottages are generally sufficient in number, and conveniently situated; but the accommodation is very limited. As a general rule they consist of one room only, used for both sleeping and living purposes, although usually the beds are so placed as to form a separation between the sleeping from the living portion.

Mr. John Williams thinks that one sleeping apartment partitioned as above leads to less immorality than separate bedrooms, as all, males and females, are then under the eyes of the heads of the family. The cottages are always substantially built of stone and slated, but they have no ventilation, because the windows are not made to open. The rent is generally about 2*l.* to 2*l.* 12*s.* a year, with a small garden, let yearly. They belong principally to the landlords and are let to the farmers to be sub-let by them; but we have never heard of the farmers making use of the cottages which they hold for purposes of oppression.

All the unmarried men whom the farmers employ are lodged and boarded on the premises. They are very badly lodged. They sleep in lofts over the stables and cowhouses, and are under no control at nights. The married men lodge themselves and are boarded by the farmers. Not many of the labourers occupy land beyond their garden. Some of them own cows, which are pastured either on the roadsides or are taken into pasture by the farmers. Buttermilk is a universal article of diet for persons of all ages; but they, the labourers, are mainly dependent on their employers for milk. Very little animal food is consumed: the chief articles of diet are bread, butter, potatoes, and milk.

It does not pay to build cottages; a very indifferent cottage cannot be built for less than 50*l.*

Mr. John Williams pays his labourers 12*s.* a week all the year round; but they have no increase in harvest. The men who are boarded in the houses are hired by the half year. In the large farms the best men get 9*l.* to 10*l.* for six months, the second men about 7*l.*, and the third about 3*l.* 10*s.* at least. The hirings take place in the towns and principal villages on the 13th of November and 13th May. They get nothing extra at harvest time, but are a little better fed.

The supply of labour is rather short. The quarry men never come to work in harvest. It is very difficult to get extra men to assist at that time.

The Rev. James Williams has had opportunities of observing the comparative powers of English and Welsh labourers when the railroad was being made through the island. He observed that the English navvies always did more work than the Welsh labourers for the first fortnight that the latter were employed; but after the Welshmen had become accustomed to the work and had lived for some time on the meat diet on which the navvies lived the Welshmen became the hardest workers. He attributes this to the Welshmen having had a more nutritious diet when they were young. That the Welshmen are the larger men is proved by the fact that the Welsh militiamen require a larger proportion of the larger sized clothes in proportion to their height than the English militiamen of corresponding heights.

The great engineering works which have been executed in the country by English contractors, *e.g.*, the Menai bridge and the Holyhead breakwater, have been constructed by Welsh labourers.

[I read the above statements to Mr. Lawrie, Sir R. Bulkeley's agent, who agreed with it in the main, but gave me the following additional information.]

7. *Mr. Lawrie*, manager of Sir R. Bulkeley's property in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire.—On Sir R. Bulkeley's home farm, which contains 900 acres, near Beaumaris, and on three or four large farms in the neighbourhood, women and children under 13 years of age, both boys and girls, are employed in collecting weeds, spreading manure, singling and hoeing turnips, and cutting thistles. That work lasts from the 1st April to the middle of August. The youngest children have 6*d.* a day, and we never pay more than 1*s.*; if the boys are dissatisfied with that they must go and obtain places for themselves. Sometimes from 20 to 40 are employed on Sir R. Bulkeley's farm at once. They are employed in gangs of about 15 under the superintendence of a labourer. The small boys who get only 6*d.* a day are perhaps only 8 or 9 years old. They are only employed in singling

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turnips and cutting weeds on the pastures. Women receive 1*s.* a day. We could employ many more women than we do, but they are not disposed to come out to work. We employ many children, because we are near a town and can get them; but the small farmers employ the same number of labourers all the year round. They never have extra hands.

The cottages, both in Anglesea and Carnarvonshire, are extremely bad. They require to be entirely remodelled. All cottages should have three bedrooms each. There are a good many cottages belonging to squatters on the commons who are not better off than common day labourers.

The Nuisance Acts are very imperfectly carried out; the inspection of nuisances should be made compulsory.

The large farmers feed their labourers better than the small, but the men who are boarded in farmers' houses very seldom get any meat except bacon. Their families can generally purchase milk from the farmers. It costs 90*l.* to 100*l.* to build a cottage with three bedrooms here; but it can only be roughly done for that. Coal costs 14*s.* a ton including cartage, but most of the farmers cart the coals for their men.

During harvest extra men are engaged by the month at 18*s.* or 20*s.* a week, including beer. The men who are hired by the year get no extra money for harvest, but they are paid rather higher during the last half year than during the first.

I am a Scotchman, but have often seen English labourers work. I think they are better workmen than the Welsh; they are better fed and are more energetic.

We pay 11*s.* a week to common labourers and 12*s.* to carters, and they all have milk worth about 1*s.* a week, and 16*s.* extra for harvest. They live on home-made bread and butter and milk; they have nothing else.

Women and children are employed to a greater extent in Anglesea than in Carnarvonshire.

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8. *Mr. H. B. Jones*, master of the British school, Bethesda.—I have been here eight years. This is a mixed school. There are 300 on the books, including the evening scholars. There are not half-a-dozen agricultural children in the school. There are no farms about here, but there has been a great influx of agricultural labourers to this place. The parents exchange agricultural for quarry work. The children of the agricultural labourers who settle here from other places come to this school. I should expect the son of a quarry man to pass about Standard V. at the age of 12, but I find that children who come from agricultural districts are not as forward as the children of quarrymen. Some I have had to put in Standard I. at the age of 12.

I have a night school here three evenings a week all the year round. Boys attend from the age of 13 to 21 at least. The average number in attendance is about 80 in winter and 30 in summer. They are all boys who are anxious to improve themselves; and those who have been living here are generally the best scholars. According to my experience and that of my fellow teachers in the neighbourhood, night scholars make quite as satisfactory progress as day scholars. I have some lads in the night school whose education has been entirely neglected. I have about 12 now in Standard I. It is very difficult to teach them. I had much sooner teach an infant of 3 his alphabet than a boy of 13. They make but little progress compared with those whose education has been attended to when young. I think it would be very difficult to teach a lad in a night school who could not pass Standard II. when he joined it. If he could not pass Standard I. I should consider his case hopeless.

I am a Dissenter. I think that education would advance greatly in Wales if the assistance of dissenting ministers could be secured. They take more interest in the schools than they used, but not as much as the clergy of the Establishment. The interest of the ministers would increase if they were allowed to give dogmatic religious instruction in the British schools. I do not think the Welsh would ever consent to purely secular education. They would undoubtedly sooner send their children to National schools than have their education altogether neglected. I believe they often send their children to National schools in country districts, because otherwise they would have to deprive them entirely of education; but I have often heard Dissenters complain of the religious instruction their children have received in the National schools, although they have made no formal objection.

I have always thought that night schools would suit agricultural districts better than any other plan. If proficiency were required children would easily be taught to obtain the required proficiency mechanically. I should prefer regular attendance at night school.

9. *Owen Jones, Esq.*, land-agent, Carnarvon.—I have lived here all my life, and have management of landed property in the counties of Anglesea, Denbigh, and Carnarvon. The whole of Carnarvonshire is an agricultural county, with the exception of the quarries. The farms contain on an average about 100 acres of arable land each, but those adjoining the mountains generally have a large sheep walk attached to them. In some cases the landlords have not enclosed the portions of the mountains which have been allotted to them, and in those cases the mountains are treated as common land, and each farmer has the right of pasturing a certain number of sheep. The sheep walks are many hundred of acres in extent.

Women are very slightly employed in agriculture. They are employed a little in haymaking and harvest, as well as during the spring of the year, but not in winter. Young children of about 10 years old and upwards are also employed in light agricultural work during the spring, but their work is occasional and not continuous. They are not employed in large gangs, although two or three are occasionally employed together. It is not the practice here for men to take work by contract, and bring children to assist them. The boys get places in the farmhouses at 12 or 13 years of age. They are hired by the year. A good labourer gets about 20*l.* a year and his board and lodging, and if hired by the week a man gets 15*s.* a week in this neighbourhood. Boys begin at about 3*l.* a year. They sleep in lofts over stables and cowhouses, which are generally ill-lit and ill-ventilated. Where new farm buildings are being put up better accommodation is generally provided, but very few farm buildings are being erected at present. The practice of annual hiring is not going out at all.

There are plenty of cottages; they are substantially built, but they are small. As a general rule the whole family sleeps and lives in one room. The cottages are thus often very much crowded. They are generally scattered about the country, and are let with the farms. I see no objection to that plan. The cottages almost invariably belong to the landlords; the rent is 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* They have gardens if let at the higher price. The occupiers of cottages very rarely hire enough land to enable them to keep a cow, but they always obtain milk from their employers both for themselves and their families.

I don't think that the state of education at present is satisfactory. There are not enough schools, and the children are taken away too young. There are an immense number of children now growing up without the power of reading and writing. There is

no agricultural work which really interferes with the education. The main obstacle to education is the indifference of the parents. Education never will be satisfactory as long as it is left to the option of the parents whether they send their children to school or not.

It is very desirable that a law should be passed requiring a certain amount of education as a condition of employment.

10. *Mr. W. W. Roberts*, surgeon.—I have practised here as a medical man for nearly 30 years, and to a great extent among the lower classes. Neither the women or children who are engaged in agricultural employments are employed in any occupations which are injurious to their health. I don't think women are employed with threshing machines. Boys occasionally meet with accidents from machinery, but I don't think that these accidents are sufficiently numerous to form a ground of serious complaint. The principal disease in this county is consumption. I attribute that to the low diet. They do not take a sufficient quantity of meat. They all drink buttermilk, but that contains very little nourishment, and cannot be looked upon as a substitute for meat. The chief articles of diet are tea, buttermilk, bread, and potatoes. They probably only eat meat on Sundays, and then either bacon or salt beef. The boys in a farmhouse usually get meat (probably salt beef) every day. They formerly only ate barley bread, but they have lately begun to eat bread of a better quality. They generally mix the barley and wheat flour now. They also sometimes eat oat bread and oatmeal porridge for supper. The cottages are very small, but are substantially built, stone and slate being cheap. The inhabitants don't suffer much from want of ventilation, because the cottages are unceiled, nor from want of drainage, because they are not generally collected in large villages. The principal fault to be found with them is the want of privacy. The lowest class contain one room only for living and sleeping purposes. The next class above that have a small portion of the room partitioned off to form one or two bedrooms, and in some cases the portion which is thus partitioned off is divided into an upper and a ground floor. The upper floor is reached by a moveable ladder from the portion of the cottage which is used as a living room. The class of cottages rather better than these have regular upper floors, containing usually two rooms. They generally have gardens, but the farmers very commonly allow their labourers to manure a piece of their own (*i.e.* the farmer's) land and plant it with potatoes. The labourers always use four-post beds, which are boarded up on three sides; these are useful to keep off draughts in the open cottages which contain no partitions, but are very close in other cases. I have reason to believe that the want of privacy in the cottages leads to great immorality.

11. *Miss Smith*, schoolmistress, Bontnewyd, Carnarvon.—I have been here two years. It is a mixed school. Last year the average number in attendance was 88. The children are mainly agricultural children. Both boys and girls remain at school up to about the age of 11. The attendance is tolerably regular. Some irregularity is caused by stone-picking, planting potatoes, and hay and corn harvest; nearly half the school go away for stone picking and potato planting. Those two operations last about five weeks. Girls don't go away much for that work, but they do for hay-making. The younger children go away for stone-picking, but the elder ones for potato planting and hay-making; they either toss the hay or mind the house when the parents are out. Those who have attended school from an early age will generally have passed Standard IV. by the time they leave, but many who live at a distance don't come to school until they are 7 or 8 years old, and they of course are not so far advanced when they leave. There are many in the neighbourhood who don't come to school at all.

The occasional agricultural employments are not sufficiently numerous to prevent the children learning to read, write, and cipher, if they would attend regularly at other times.

12. *The Rev. J. W. Ellis*, rector of Llanaelhaiarn and chairman of the Pwlheli bench of magistrates.—I am well acquainted with this peninsula, and in fact the whole county. Some farms here are very large (400 or 500 acres), but on an average they are about 60 acres; they vary from 30 to 150. The greater part of the land is undrained and meadow gorse. The labour of the farm is chiefly done by labourers hired for the half year on 12th May and 12th November. There are hiring fairs in all the large towns. Women are hired as well as men, but women are scarcely ever employed except for domestic purposes. They generally feed the pigs, milk, plant potatoes, and make hay.

I don't think that much harm arises from the hiring fairs. Occasionally, when the weather is wet, they are obliged to go to the public houses for shelter, and then immorality ensues. I think it would be very desirable to provide a covered building, in which the hiring could take place, so as to render it unnecessary for them to go to the public houses. The men's wages vary from 12*l.* to 15*l.* for the half year, and sometimes more, besides board and lodging.

Boys begin to go to work at about 12 years of age. They then get places in the farm houses. They may be worked occasionally under that age, at such things as stone-picking, but the work done by boys under that age is not important to the farmers, nor is the sum they can earn sufficient to be of value to the parents. Neither women or children are physically injured by any work which they do in the fields.

The supply of schools is, I think, very insufficient in this county generally, except just in the neighbourhood of towns. In many parishes where there are schools at present they are of too low a quality to be really useful. In parishes where the landlords won't subscribe to the schools it is impossible to comply with the requirements of the Privy Council for the purpose of obtaining the grant. I think it very desirable that power should be given to impose rates for the purpose of supplying school accommodation. The parents and children are very desirous of having their children educated, and would consider the supply of good schools the greatest boon; no compulsion is necessary in this district. The boys could well acquire a satisfactory education if they attended regularly up to the time at which it is customary for them now to earn wages.

The cottages generally belong to the landlords, and are let with the farms. Rent is about 2*l.* to 3*l.* a year; they have gardens as a general rule, and have usually the privilege of planting potatoes in their employer's land. They have not proper conveniences. They usually consist of only one room with a division extemporised by means of the box beds.

13. *R. Lloyd Edwards, Esq.*, Nanhoran, Llangian.—I farm about 320 acres of my own land. The farms here range from about 15 to 150 acres; there are a good many of large size, running up to 300 acres. The rent of the county averages 10*s.* 6*d.* an acre, including the mountain, but the average rent of this district is probably about 12*s.*

The lower land is best suited for oats, but there are also some good barley farms, also well suited for root crops and potatoes. Almost all the work of the farms is done by men who are hired by the half year and boarded by the farmer. That system is pursued both by small and large farmers. The number of men they board depends on the size of the farm. These labourers are generally unmarried men; but occasionally they marry and continue to live in the farm houses, visiting their families occasionally until they can get a cottage or small farm. The best men get as much as 15*l.* for the half year, an ordinary man from 9*l.* to 12*l.*, but if the farmer requires extra men in winter for draining, repairing fences, &c. they sometimes do not board them but give them about 1*s.* a day, and the run of a cow, or of half a dozen sheep.

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and some corn, or 1*s.* 6*d.* without allowances. I don't think many boys go out to service under the age of 14 or 15, and at that age they get 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* for the half year. I have never heard any objection raised to the hiring fairs here. At about the age of 12 boys sometimes get employed by the farmers as errand boys or to mind sheep, cows, or to harrow, &c.; they then generally live at home and receive no wages in money, but are fed by the farmer who employs them. They are never employed to drive plough, very little to scare birds, or to single turnips. In fact the farmers hardly employ any labour except the men whom they hire by the year. Women scarcely do any work in the fields. Sometimes old maids or widows go out to assist in seed time and autumn, but they do no work at other times of the year. I employ one such woman.

I think that the supply of school accommodation is generally quite sufficient. I know of one district near this place where a school is wanted, and a proposal has been made to put one up there. The poor are very desirous of having their children educated, and there is no agricultural work done by children in the fields to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory education. The district is extremely healthy. I don't think it at all necessary to apply the Factory Acts in any form to the agricultural population.

I hire labourers by the week, and pay 13*s.* a week to the best man, and 12*s.* 6*d.* to the ordinary men. They have extra for mowing hay, but for no other work; if they work overtime they have 2*d.* a hour.

The cottages are sufficient in number and are conveniently situated with respect to the work to be done; I think that many of them are crowded. I always let land varying from six to about 15 acres with my cottages. The occupiers generally keep one or two cows and grow a little corn and potatoes. They occasionally have to leave their work for a day to work on their own land, but not often enough to destroy their usefulness as farm labourers. The ploughing on these small holdings is done either by men who go about making a living by letting out ploughs and horses, or else two men, each of whom keeps a horse, join together and plough one another's land. The larger farms have a cottage or two let with them, and they screw the occupiers far more than the landowners. I think that the system of letting land in small pieces which I have described answers well. The men when they don't work for themselves go to work for the larger occupiers.

A regular labourer ought not to have more than two or three acres of land. They can keep a cow and pig on that. The smallest amount of land which a farmer can live and do well upon is 40 or 50 acres.

[I read the above statement to Mr. B. T. Ellis, chairman of the Pwlheli Board of Guardians, and manager of Lord Penrhyn's estate in this neighbourhood. Mr. Ellis agreed to the correctness of Mr. Lloyd Edwards' paper, but made the following addition to it as the result of his own experience.]

14. *Mr. B. T. Ellis*, Pwlheli.—I have managed Lord Penrhyn's property here for eight years. I farm about 100 acres of my own land. I pay 12*s.* to ordinary labourers all the year round; I employ two women constantly; I pay them 1*s.* a day; no extra allowances to either men or women. I don't think the cottages are at all sufficient either in number or accommodation; many have only earthen floors, or are badly thatched, and the pigsties are badly placed. The holders of small pieces of land generally pay more rent per acre than the larger occupiers. I am very much opposed to a man occupying more land than enough to keep a cow on; if he does he is apt to remain at home idling instead of going out to regular work. Except in the above points I agree with the statements contained in Mr. Edwards' paper.

15. *Mr. Jenkins*, master of the grammar school, Llangian.—I have been here 15½ years. There are about 60 boys in ordinary attendance, about two-thirds of whom are the sons of labourers or small farmers. They come at the age of 5. They are rather irregular, owing to their parents keeping them at home to assist in the seed time and autumn; perhaps one-sixth are absent at those times. The boys of all ages are irregular at these times. They remain at school up to about the age of 14 on an average. I don't think any boys ever leave the school until they have acquired a sufficient knowledge of the three R.'s to enable them to perform the ordinary transactions of life. A few children don't come at all, owing to the carelessness of their parents. The small farmers' and labourers' sons are more irregular than the others. We have power to discharge them if they are irregular, but we don't do it, as the parents are all desirous of education, and don't keep their children at home except in urgent cases.

16. *Mr. Evans*, schoolmaster, Llannor.—This is a mixed school. Last year there were 103 on the books, and 52 in average attendance. By far the larger proportion of the children are the children of agricultural labourers. The fees are 2*d.*, 1½*d.*, and 1*d.*, according to the class in the school in which they are. Some come as far as three miles to school, and are quite as regular in attendance as those who live nearer. The majority live within one mile. They generally come to school at about the age of 6. I think that the sons of agricultural labourers attend on an average up to the age of 13 or 14. The girls leave rather younger than the boys in order to go to a sewing school at Pwlheli. They are all very irregular, but the farmers' sons more so than the labourers'. The irregularity in the case of the farmers' sons is caused by their being kept at home to work, but in the case of the labourers' sons it is owing simply to the indifference of the parents. The farmers' sons are irregular all through the spring and summer, but the labourers' sons are only kept at home to plant and get up potatoes in their parents' gardens in spring and autumn.

There are a good many children about who never come to school. Last year only six were presented in the three higher standards, and 43 in the three lower. I am afraid that many of these 43 will have left before the next examination.

The average attendance last year was better than it has ever been before. The average attendance in former years has been 30 or 35. They begin to be irregular about the age of 9 or 10. There are a great many bastard children, who are more irregular and careless than any others.

17. *Mr. J. W. Roberts*, master of the British school, Nefyn.—I have been here four years. This is a mixed school. There are 120 on the books, and about 90 in average attendance. About one-fifth of the children are the children of agricultural labourers or small farmers; the remainder are chiefly the children of mariners. They remain at school up to the age of 12 or 13. The small farmers' sons are kept at home to assist their parents in hay and corn harvest, but they are not hired to work for wages. The attendance is best during winter. The agricultural children attend better than the mariners'. When the agricultural children leave they can generally pass not lower than the fourth standard. The occasional employments do not interfere much with the education. They can obtain a satisfactory elementary education if they attend regularly at times of the year when there is no work to be done in the fields.

18. *The Venerable Archdeacon Evans, Llanllechid.*—Population 2,724. Acreage 17,630. Cultivation, arable 2,938, pasture 8,326, wood 70, common or mountain 6,296. Very little wheat grown at present, though portions of the parish lying near to the Menai Straits are favourable to its growth.

The production of turnips and root crops is considerable as compared to that of former years. As the farmers have the run of the mountain common, a large number of sheep are kept, but as they are all allowed to wander at random over the fields in winter and early spring, this circumstance renders it impossible to cultivate clover and artificial grasses on a large scale.

This and the neighbouring parish of Llandegai compose what is styled the quarry district. There

is in this district a population of nearly 11,000, depending mainly upon the production of slate in the Penrhyn quarries. Agricultural labour forms but a very small portion of the employment of the lower classes; as soon as a boy is capable of work, he is placed upon the quarry books, and it is considered a great advantage to initiate boys in the manipulation of slates at as early an age as possible. It must be allowed, to the credit of the parents, that they are anxious to give their children all the education that can be compressed within the short time limited to the purpose, but it is emphatically the complaint of school managers in the slate districts that the boys are taken away at too early an age to receive more than the rudiments of an English education. There are, however, ample means of education in the National and British schools, and as quarry men have more hours of leisure in the evening than agricultural labourers, the elements of education in the English tongue received in early years are developed as the boys grow up in a fondness for reading, and result in stamping the character of the quarry men with an intelligence equal, if not superior, to any other hard-working class in the country.

It can scarcely be said that boys and girls are employed in agricultural labour in the fields; the children of small farmers may be, perhaps, employed in some handy operations, but not so as to interfere with their going to school. It is probable that some are kept occasionally at home to pick stones from hay-fields, or to raise potatoes, or to weed turnips, but they are seldom seen so employed. Some boys also are employed in driving the carts of the small carriers to and from Bangor. Women are not employed in agricultural labour; it is difficult to get women to weed gardens or to raise potatoes. If any agricultural work is done at all by children, young persons, and women it is done at home, and there are no stated hours.

No restrictions need be placed on the age at which boys should be permitted to work in regard to land labour, or on the employment of females and the young in this district.

There are very good schools within easy reach of all. Early labour in agriculture is no perceptible impediment to their attending them.

There are very few children without some amount of education in English.

They are all taught to read in their native tongue at the Sunday schools, and scarcely any are unable to write in Welsh.

The cottages are eminently clean and comfortable. Hundreds of quarry men are owners in fee of their cottages.

Lord Penrhyn has built and is building a large number of a superior class of cottages upon the farms; there is no overcrowding, except in very few instances. The air is pure, the water excellent, and the slope of the parish towards the sea favourable to natural drainage.

Generally they have good gardens, and there is no difficulty in obtaining potato land from the farmers.

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19. *Mr. J. R. Jones.* Denbigh, farms 300 acres (140 grass).—I don't grow any peculiar crops. I don't employ women; cannot get them to work. May employ them a little during hay harvest. The weeding is done by men; they take it by the acre. I don't employ boys at all; the youngest of my lads is between 17 and 18. I let my turnip hoeing, and the men who take it generally bring a woman and a boy to single. My own staff of men do not take that work. There is no other work done on my farm in which women and children are employed under men. I don't board any men, but some lodge in my house; the farmers here usually board some of their men. Men's wages here are 13*s.* a week all the year round, without increase in harvest, or 1*s.* less, with increase in harvest.

20. *Mr. Davis,* Henllan, occupier of between 400 and 500 acres; *Mr. Evans,* Denbigh, occupier of between 400 and 500 acres; *Mr. Parry,* occupier of 420 acres, St. Asaph.—We none of us employ women, and never employ boys under 13. Boys are generally first engaged between the ages of 14 and 20. They receive about 3*l.* a year at first. We don't think that the smaller occupiers employ women to a greater extent than we do, but boys may be employed younger by them than by us.

Some cottages are generally let with each farm, but the number so let varies greatly. The rent paid is about 3*l.* a year.

[I had an opportunity of conversing with *Mr. Lloyd,* occupier of 240 acres, Llanrhaiadr; *Mr. Barber,* occupier of 150 acres, Llangwyfan; and *Mr. Roberts,* occupier of 330 acres, Henllan. These gentlemen stated that the labourers were well contented and settled, and that 12*s.* was the ordinary wage paid; they thought that the extra earnings amounted to about 2*l.* for harvest, and 1*l.* for hay, including the beer allowed in both cases. In other points their statements only went to confirm the statements of the other witnesses I have examined in this neighbourhood.]

21. *W. Hanmer, Esq.,* Bodnod, Eglwys Fach.—This parish is about seven or eight miles long and four wide. The supply of labour is about equal to the demand. The population has not increased materially within my recollection (about 50 years). The parish is purely agricultural. The farms are from 50 to 100 acres in extent. Crops of all kinds are grown. The farms in the valleys are rather larger than those on the hills. The general form of the parishes in the neighbourhood is that of strips of land, embracing portions of both the hills and the valleys.

Women are scarcely at all employed in farm work; they don't like it. Boys are not employed below the age of 12 or 13; at that age they generally go out and get placed in farmhouses, where they are well treated; they lodge in the farm houses. The children remain at school from the age of 6 to about 12 or 13, at which age many go away and get places in factories, on railroads, &c. All those who go out to work in the fields go out at about that age.

The cottages are excellent, and are very conveniently situated with respect to the work to be done.

Girls are not employed in out-of-door work; they are only employed in domestic service.

I should strongly object to the Factory Acts being applied to agricultural districts. I think it is unnecessary, and would be impracticable.

I know the district well, and do not think that this parish is different from others in the neighbourhood in any of the points here described.

22. *Mr. Beverley.*—Was schoolmaster at Eglwys Fach for 30 years; resigned last spring. The school was accessible to all in the parish. The fees for farmers' children are 4*d.* for those in the first class, 3*d.* for those in the second, and 2*d.* for those in the third. The fees for labourers' children was half the above sums in each case. All those who sent their children were anxious for them to get into the higher classes, although they had to pay a higher fee in consequence. The school is inspected. It is a mixed school. Average attendance last year 65. Rather more than half were the children of labourers, the remainder were farmers' children. The farmers' children remained longer than the labourers'. The labourers' sons attend up to about the age of 12. They were generally in the second class when they left, and could work in the

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fourth standard. The attendance was regular, except in bad weather. Some irregularity was caused by the operations of planting and raising potatoes, when the children went to work for the farmers, and eight or nine days were occupied for each operation; rather longer for raising than for planting the potatoes. The farmers give straw and milk to the parents in return for the children's labour.

Scores of children never attend school at all, on account of the carelessness of their parents. After the age of 12 boys can earn 8*d.* a day, but they don't work before that age. There is nothing in the work about here to interfere with the children learning the three R.'s satisfactorily.

The cottages let for 3*l.* to 4*l.* They belong chiefly to the landowners. They mostly have gardens.

23. *Mr. W. M. Clarke*, agent to Mr. Hughes, Kinmel.—I am well acquainted with the north of Denbighshire and Flintshire, as well as with the island of Anglesea. About two-thirds of the lower land is under the plough, and a great deal of the land higher up the hills. This is mainly a corn growing country. The breeding of stock is not well understood here, but a large proportion of Anglesea is particularly adapted to the breeding of stock. Very few women have been employed in out-of-door work during the last 15 or 20 years, but they were more extensively employed formerly. The turnips were formerly weeded and the hay made chiefly by women, but it is not so now. A few boys are occasionally employed in singling turnips and gathering stones, but to a small extent. Their hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour from 12 to 1 for dinner. Boys are seldom regularly employed under 14 or 15 years of age. They were formerly employed younger. I don't think it necessary for farmers to employ boys under 12 or 14; the use of machinery obviates the necessity of having them.

The farms here are from 10 to 600 acres; the average is about 200. The small farmers do all the work on their farms themselves. Mr. Hughes has built many cottages within the last 10 years; they always have two and sometimes three bedrooms, and are scattered about the country so as to be at a convenient distance from the farms. Two or three are let with each of the principal farms. I find that three-bedroom cottages built economically in blocks cost 120*l.* to 130*l.* each. There are a good many squatters in some parts. When cottages are let to the farmers we always put a rent on them ourselves, which the farmer may not raise when he sub-lets the cottage. All the cottages in the country have gardens. Men's wages here are 15*s.* for casual workmen; 13*s.* for ploughmen; 12*s.* for ordinary labourers; women 1*s.* a day; and boys of from 12 to 15 have 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day; scarcely any allowances are given.

There are schools in almost every district, and a far stronger desire for education than formerly existed.

24. *H. R. Sandbach, Esq.*, Hofodunos, Llangerniew.—This parish contains 7,753 acres. The average size of the farms is 120 acres, but there is one of 600 acres, and two or three of about 400. Fully half is grass. The supply of labour is about equal to the demand, except just during harvest. I have built many new cottages, which I let for 4*l.* a year. I let very few to the farmers, and where I do let them to farmers I prohibit lodgers being taken in. Almost all have gardens. A few in the village who have not have allotments of about a quarter of an acre each. There were formerly many squatters on the common here; their cottages were thatched without an upper story, and without any boarding or pavement on the floor. Most of these have been pulled down. I formerly always built cottages with three bedrooms; I now build them with two bedrooms, because I find more families who require cottages with two than with three bedrooms.

25. *David Davis*, foreman to Mr. Sandbach.—Been here 24 years. Boys are first engaged by farmers at about the age of 12 to 14. They are engaged by the year, and receive from 30*s.* to 50*s.* a year and their board and lodging. They are not employed with the horses, but mind the cattle and sheep, and learn to milk. Girls don't go to farm work. The school breaks up about June and July, in order to allow the children to thin and weed turnips. That occupies them for about four weeks. The farmer hires the children himself, and pays them about 10*d.* to 14*d.* a day. That work is not let out to be done by contract.

Very few women go out to work. I don't think there are a dozen in this parish who ever go out. More used to go out formerly. They work at hay and harvest and hoe turnips. They do no other work. Many of the farmers don't employ any women. I think it a bad thing that women should work in the fields; they have quite enough to do at home. Mr. Sandbach employs about five boys under 14 on his farm, on condition of their attending school for three months at least each year; if they do not they are discharged. Last year they were at school for five months. I can spare them without inconvenience. A farmer could not spare his boys as well as Mr. Sandbach, because a farmer employs his boys to feed his sheep and stock, and Mr. Sandbach employs men for that purpose. The boys who have been to school are more useful on the farms than those who have not; they are more intelligent. Wages for men are 7*s.* and their meat. In harvest a fresh agreement is made every week. This year one week the wages were 1*l.* 1*s.* and the meat, and 18*s.*, and 16*s.*, and 12*s.*, and 9*s.*, for the other weeks. They have not been as high as that for 20 years. The farmers and labourers fix the amount between them, and then cry it out in the street. They don't earn any extra money by piecework at other times of the year, except for special operations, such as draining. Women get 1*s.* a day. The boys who go into the farm houses are very well taken care of.

Women and children never have to go above 1½ miles, except in the case of the children to go to thin turnips.

[The children referred to above were paid 10*d.* or 14*d.* for turnip thinning, because some of them had to come 3½ miles, otherwise the ordinary wage for children of that age is 6*d.* or 8*d.* a day.]

26. *Mr. Barnwell*, schoolmaster, Llangerniew.—I have been here 17 years. The average attendance last year was 86, and there were 118 on the books during the last quarter. There are 86 present to-day [September 22nd]. At least two-thirds of the children who belong to the school are the sons of labourers. The fee is 2*d.* apiece for one or two children, and the remainder are admitted free. The sons of labourers attend school up to the age of 12 or 13; they seldom reach 13; boys leave before girls, and labourers' sons attend regularly longer than farmers' sons, although farmers' sons attend during a part of the year to a later age than labourers' sons. The latter, when they leave, leave once for all. Some of the children go away in the spring for picking stones and for planting potatoes. About one-third of the children may be absent on and off for about three weeks for that work. The potato planting is done either for the farmers or for the labourers to whom rows of potatoes are assigned. Most of the labourers' children are in the first class when they leave, and could pass in the fourth standard; some are in the second class, and could only pass the third standard. Only a few children can speak English when they come. I can only speak Welsh slightly. Welsh is only used for explanation; my wife, who teaches the lower classes, can speak it. Nine-tenths of the children are Dissenters, but all learn the Catechism; I have never had an objection from a parent to a child's learning that. There is a British school in another part of the parish. The attendance there is about as numerous as it is here; but that is a more populous neighbourhood than this. Some few children in this parish who live at too great a distance from the school don't attend long enough to enable them to acquire a useful education; but

with that exception the state of education in the parish is satisfactory.

I had a night school for two years, nine attended, aged from 14 upwards. They were youths whose education had been entirely neglected. They were farmers' sons.

There are very few night schools in this neighbourhood in consequence of the scattered distribution of the population.

[This school was a very favourable specimen, owing to Mr. Sandbach, the principal landowner, being a zealous supporter of education.]

27. *H. R. Hughes, Esq.*, landowner, Ystrad, farms 300 acres of his own land; *J. Hewitson*, bailiff to Mr. Hughes.—Hewitson formerly had the superintendence of a farm of 500 acres at Bodfarry, Flint, about half a mile from Caerwys. That was a very large farm for that district. The holdings about here are generally 30 to 100 acres in extent. The farmers grow a good many potatoes. Women are a good deal employed at certain times of the year. In spring they are employed in weeding, and occasionally in some other small job, as assisting to thrash or sow; they are also employed in setting and raising potatoes, and in hay and harvest. There is very little for them to do after the potatoes are raised. They occasionally assist to thrash during winter, but do nothing else. Their wages are never less than 1*s.* a day, and from 10*s.* to 14*s.* a week during harvest. More boys were employed on the farm at Bodfarry than on any other in this neighbourhood. Those who came for work were seldom turned away. They were employed in singling turnips between the ages of 8 and 12. They were not employed for above two months in the year under the age of 12. Sometimes as many as 12 boys were employed together with one man to overlook them; they earned 6*d.* to 15*d.* a day; the man who overlooked them usually paid them their wages, but the work was not done by contract. The small farmers scarcely ever employ women or boys under 14, at which age they are able to take charge of horses. Men's wages are 13*s.* a week, and carters' 14*s.* Two horses only are used for ploughing in this neighbourhood, except occasionally when it is necessary to plough very deep. Boys are not generally employed with the horses in the stables. The small farmers generally "meat" their men. Perhaps a farmer of 50 acres will "meat" a man and a boy. A man receives about 7*s.* a week and his "*meat*," and boys receive about 2*l.* a year besides their board and lodging when they first take a place. Cottages are occasionally let with the farms, but not in sufficient numbers to supply the whole of the labour required by farmers. The cottages are generally let half-yearly at a rent of about 3*l.* a year; all have gardens. The supply of labour here is sufficient except just during harvest time. During harvest men and women occasionally have all allowed them, but that is exceptional. The drink of the country is buttermilk and water. The tops of the Clwydian hills are covered with heather; this land fetches a small rent, perhaps 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre. It is either let to the farmers who hold the adjoining land in the valleys, or a number of the farmers have the right of turning out cattle, &c. upon it, in which case it is frequently overstocked.

[Mr. Hughes, who knows this district well, thinks that this description applies to the whole of the vale of the Clwyd.]

28. *The Rev. Canon Thomas*, vicar of Llanrhaiadr.—Has been here 7 years, and before that lived at Carnarvon. I do not think that any evil, either moral or physical, arises to women from the work they do in the fields. I have never observed that the women who work in the fields are less respectable than those who do not.

The extent to which children are employed is described in Mr. Williams' [the parish schoolmaster] letter to me. All the work they do under the age of 12 to 14 is done for the parents and not for the farmers. They do nothing which is physically injurious to them. There are three schools (two Church and one British) in this parish. There are no inhabitants of this parish who have not a school within access of them. Every parish about here has a school. The Dissenters attend the Church school. We have a great many Dissenters in the Church schools. The parents never object to their children learning the Catechism. The parents are more and more anxious to secure education for their children, and wish to have them taught English, without which they find that they cannot get good places. I do not think that any Act is necessary to improve the education in this neighbourhood. Whatever evil exists will cure itself.

The occupations here are large (about 300 to 400) in the valleys, and much smaller on the hills.

The cottages are not as good as they should be, the rent is not very high, but the accommodation is insufficient. A good many of the cottagers occupy two or three acres of land with their cottages. I think they are more respectable and independent if they occupy a little land than if they do not.

I think that there are fewer obstacles to education in Carnarvonshire than there are here, and that the children are naturally quicker there than here.

I was vicar of Ruabon for three years. The employment of the children in connexion with the coal mines has a bad effect upon the education there, but very few are employed in agriculture.

29. The following is a copy of Mr. Williams' letter referred to by Mr. Thomas in the above statement:—

"Llanrhaiadr,

"Dear Sir, September 17, 1869.

"To comply with your wishes, I beg to state my humble opinion with regard to the effect the employment of children out of school has on their education. Children are sent to country schools generally at the age of 6. They attend pretty well (but not very regularly) till they reach the age of 9 or 10, during which period they attain a fair knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but not to such a degree as to be able to make but very little use of what they have learnt.

"Welsh children may at this age (9 or 10) be able to read fairly, but they cannot understand what they read; they may be able to work the first rules of arithmetic, but they cannot comprehend them so as to be able to apply them to common and domestic purposes; they may also be able to write a neat handwriting, but they cannot spell very well. This is both an important step in the education of children, and one that they cannot do without, and one also that would be most useful to them if they were regularly kept in school, but their parents begin to employ them at about this age (*i.e.*, 9 or 10), and continue to do so until they are taken from school at the age of from 12 to 14. They are kept at home to assist the parents in harrowing, hay and corn harvest, &c., &c. (girls employed in feeding pigs, milking cows, planting potatoes, raking hay and corn, weeding, &c.). Consequently the children cannot possibly progress, so that when they leave the school they have but a very slight knowledge of even the essential subjects; the bulk can only pass Standard III.; a few are able to pass Standards IV., V., and VI., and because they are not impressed upon their minds they soon forget what they have learnt; the only thing retained is a little of writing.

"This is the pitiable state of education of all country children (with the exception of a very few).

"Hoping you will have some satisfaction in the information I have given,

I remain, &c.

"The Rev. Canon William Williams."
"Thomas."

[There were 103 children on the books, and 64 in average attendance at this school.—F. H. N.]

30. *R. O. Moulslade, Esq.*, landowner, Bryndyffryn, Llanrwst.—There are no manufactures or quarries in this immediate neighbourhood. The occupations are small, about 50 to 100 acres; no peculiar crops are grown. Very little cheese is made; it answers better

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to make butter. Women are very little employed; a few are employed during harvest, and for hay-making, but they are not employed at all as a general rule at other times of the year.

No children are employed. Boys first go out to work at about the age of 12 to 14, when they obtain places in farmers' houses. The farmers always feed all the labourers necessary for the cultivation of their land. The married men received 8*s.* a week and their board, and the unmarried men 16*l.* to 20*l.* a year and their board and lodging. If a man is engaged by the week he receives 14*s.* a week and no food. At harvest a new agreement as to wages is made every Monday morning. There are central spots all about the district called "crosses," where employers and labourers meet together every Monday morning to agree as to wages. Boys are employed for a few weeks a year under the age of 12 for singling turnips, weeding, &c., but with the exception of those occasional occupations there is nothing to prevent their remaining at school regularly up to the age of 12 at lowest. This district is very well provided with schools. I am unable to point to any spots in this neighbourhood which are out of reach of a school. The attendance is generally good. There are a few indifferent parents who never send their children, but with the exception of those the education of the young is not defective. There are a few scattered cottages on the mountains, but almost all are within reach of a school. The wages are high in this neighbourhood in consequence of its being near quarries. There is a great deal of work to be done in quarries which anybody can do, although the skilled quarryman must be brought up to it from his childhood.

The cottage accommodation in the neighbourhood is very fair. The cottages belong chiefly to the landlords, and are not crowded, but are, in most cases, let with farms. Rent about 2*l.* to 3*l.*, with gardens. There is not much waste land about here. Coals cost about 14*s.* a ton.

It is not customary for the farmers to allow potato ground to their men. The mountains above the cultivated land are let in large tracts as sheep walks. The farmers who take these farms never employ women and children; they only require shepherds.

31. *Rev. R. O. Hughes*, rector of Lysfaen.—My parish is very small, only about 1,500 acres, but the population is between 800 and 900. There are some quarries in the parish, where most of the population are employed. The land is chiefly arable, but there are about 300 acres of common land. The majority of the farms are under 50 acres. Women are not employed in agriculture except for a few days during harvest, and children are never employed except occasionally for a few days during harvest, and occasionally for turnip thinning. The farms are so small that almost all the work is done by the farmer and his family. Occasionally a boy is hired by the year by a farmer, but never under 12 years of age. These boys are well fed; they dine with their employers.

We have no school; there never was one in my parish, but we are on the point of building one. There is no school in any adjoining parish within a convenient distance. I don't suppose one-fourth of the children in my parish attend school. There is a great desire for education among the people; they are pressing for a school, although there are numerous instances of indifference in the matter.

We have plenty of cottages. A large proportion of cottages in my parish belong to the Crown (the lord of the manor), who let them to the occupiers in consideration of their keeping them in repair. They are not crowded, *i.e.*, they are only inhabited by the one family each, but the family may occasionally be large. The rent is, I think, about 1*l.* a year. The cottages consist of one, and sometimes two bedrooms, and one sitting room. Most have gardens. The labourers have not to go a great distance to their work.

I have had experience in a great many parishes in North Wales, and I feel sure that there are a great many families who are very indifferent about education, and I feel sure that education will never be generally successful until it is made compulsory. Compulsory education would, I think, be a great blessing to the country.

32. *Mr. Wm. Jones*, Plas Newydd, Ruabon.—I have been agent to Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., at Wynnstay, for six years. I have lived in Flintshire for above 30 years. The population here is mainly engaged in mining.

The farms are generally small; the number which contain less than 100 acres is greater than the number which contain more than that amount. Rather more than one-third of the district is grass, exclusive of the mountains, which are either let to particular farmers as sheep-walks, or in some cases several proprietors have the right of pasturage on particular mountains in common. This is the case with the mountains in the south of Denbighshire, of which Sir Watkin is lord of the manor. Sir Watkin has farms in the neighbourhood containing only 12, 20, 34, 35, 36, 41, and 43 acres respectively. None of the men occupying these small amounts of land ever go to work as labourers. I myself think many of them would be better off if they worked as regular day labourers; but they think that they acquire an independence by occupying small holdings which they would have to sacrifice if they gave them up. The larger occupiers (of 70 acres and upwards) make cheese, but the remainder depend on growing corn and making butter. The general rule is for the farmers to board their labourers; but the smaller farmers don't hire any men except during the summer months, from about April to October. The rest of the year they do all the work in their farms themselves and their families. You will scarcely see a woman at work on a farm at any time of the year. The wives and daughters of small occupiers assist to milk cows, &c. and work a little during the haytime and harvest; but it is quite exceptional for a farmer ever *to engage* a woman to work for him for wages. Boys are occasionally engaged by the year from about 14 and upwards. Perhaps there would be one boy on every farm of over 50 acres. His work would probably be to fetch and drive the cows and do odd jobs about the yard. You don't see any boys at work at particular times of the year under that age; little boys are useful in the turnip season, but they don't take to farm work; they prefer going to the works in the neighbourhood; the supply of labour now is sufficient, though we were short some time ago. The ordinary wages are 12*s.* for an ordinary labourer, and 13*s.* for a carter. Where the man is engaged by the year he gets 6*s.* a week and his keep during the winter months, and 8*s.* and his keep during the summer, from April to October. There are no hiring fairs here, but there are stated seasons for hiring. The hiring is generally for the year beginning in May. In the better class farms a waggoner would get about 20*l.* a year, and an ordinary man about 16*l.* These yearly servants are not generally married. When they do marry they generally become weekly labourers. The boys get about 3*l.* or 4*l.* a year when about 14 years of age.

The cottages are generally very much overcrowded. They generally have two bedrooms, and belong mainly to the landowners. As a rule the cottages are not let with the farms. The rent ranges from 2*l.* to 5*l.* Those which are in the country always have gardens attached to them, about one-eighth of an acre each, and some of them which are situated in Ruabon have pieces of land assigned to them outside the town. We have also a few small holdings of about two acres each, sufficient in amount to afford keep for a cow. Those men work as labourers, and a good many are colliers. Where the man is industrious I think it a great assistance to his family to hold two or three acres of *grass* land, but I would prefer letting a small amount (say three acres) to letting as much as 15 acres to one man, because the latter amount would prevent his working as a day labourer. These

mall holdings are let at the ordinary rent for agricultural land.

The school accommodation is fairly sufficient in this neighbourhood; and if the children are uneducated it s entirely owing to the neglect of the parents. I am pretty well acquainted with Denbighshire and Flintshire, and I don't know any place in those counties in which young boys are employed in agriculture. I found that where cottages were let with the farms the farmers generally sub-let them at an increased rent.

33. *The Rev. H. Humphreys*, curate of Ruabon.—I have been here two years. There are three schools (girls, boys, and infants) in the town, and two outlying schools in this parish. The town schools are attended mainly by the miners' and tradesmen's children. But one of the outlying schools is attended entirely by the agricultural labourers' children.

I don't think that children are employed in agricultural labour in this district at so early an age as to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory education. I lived formerly near Ruthin, in the vale of Clwyd, and the same observation, with respect to the age at which children begin to work, is applicable to that district as to this. I don't think that children are employed at as early an age in the vale of Clwyd as they formerly were. Women are not much employed in the fields, and I have not observed that those women who are so employed are injured by the work they do, or that their cottages and families are less well cared for than those of other women. I have observed that *young* women, when so engaged, are exposed to immoral influences; but young women seldom are so employed. Women are more employed on Mr. Hardcastle's estate than elsewhere. I don't think it necessary to apply the Factory Acts to the agricultural population in this neighbourhood for the purpose of improving the education.

I think the cottages in which the agricultural population live are generally sufficiently commodious. At one place in this parish there are about a dozen very bad mud huts built by the people themselves on the mountain, and inhabited by a population of about 100 miners and agricultural labourers who never send their children to school, but with that exception the cottages are tolerably good.

34. *Mrs. Millington*, Pen-y-lan school, Ruabon.—This school is supported entirely by Mr. Hardcastle. It is a mixed school. The children pay 1*d.* a week. There are 42 on the books now [October]. I generally have about that number in winter, and about 20 to 25 on the books in summer. I have about 30 to 35 in ordinary attendance during winter, and during the summer the number sometimes falls as low as five. They are all the children of labourers in the employment of Mr. Hardcastle. They come at the age of 3 and stay until 10 and 12. Their attendance is not very regular up to that age. I don't see many of them after they pass 10. Children of all ages (girls and boys) are employed for potato planting, haymaking, corn minding, acorn picking, weeding, and stone-picking. The children don't go away to gather the potatoes themselves, but sometimes stay at home to mind the house when their parents are so engaged. The parents think they have done very well if they leave the children here until the age of about 11 or 12; many boys don't stay as long as that. The girls generally stay at school until they get a place. I don't think there are any children within reach of the school who don't attend. The ladies make them come. Most of those who have left lately have known the first four rules of arithmetic simply, and could write a letter. But they were very backward when I came, and are much more forward now than they were.

The obstacle to education is rather the irregularity of the attendance than the early withdrawals. The parents are ignorant themselves; they don't appear to interest themselves in the progress of their children, and don't know the importance of regular attendance.

35. *Mr. R. C. Roberts*, surgeon, Ruabon.—I have lived here all my life, and have practised in the parish about 30 years, and have been parish doctor above 20. Women are very seldom employed in the fields. The only women I ever see at work are the women who are employed, as an act of charity, by Sir Watkin Wynn, sweeping up leaves in the park. I never see very young children at work. They always plough with a pair of horses and reins about here. I am confident that neither women or children are employed in any work which is injurious to them. A short time ago a boy of 14 was killed when at work with a threshing machine; he went upon the part of the machine where he should not have been, and was warned several times; that is the only accident I ever recollect occurring with a threshing machine to a boy.

The cottages are tolerably commodious. They generally have only one bedroom, but many have two. Mr. Hardcastle's and Sir Watkin's cottages are very good. Generally built of stone, and slated or thatched. Most of them have an upper floor. There are many freeholds here among the mining population, but not among the agricultural. I cannot often trace illness to insufficient cottage accommodation. I know of no cottages without separate bedrooms. I think that the young men who are boarded in the farmers' houses are sufficiently well provided for. The people live chiefly on bread, potatoes, oatmeal porridge, and buttermilk. They don't eat much meat, but have a little bacon, and are generally healthy and ablebodied. A good many Staffordshire and Lancashire men come to work in the mines here; but I am inclined to think that the Welsh are stronger than these Englishmen.

36. *Mr. James Maurice*, Ruthin.—In this neighbourhood boys are not employed earlier than 12 or 13. Girls are employed in household work generally. Women are occasionally employed in the turnip and potato season, and generally work for 12 hours a day. It would be desirable for boys to remain longer at school than they do, but legislation is scarcely needed in this part of the country. It is not desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females in agriculture in these parts.

There are National and British and village schools. For the most part advantage is taken of the schools; when not taken the parents are to be blamed.

The condition of the cottage accommodation in this neighbourhood is bad. There are not sufficient for the supply of the labour required. The situation with respect to the farms varies. They are overcrowded, and without naming specific cases the general tendency is to immorality. They are fairly supplied with water. Ventilation is obtained by the door. There are no allotments, but they generally have gardens.

37. *Mr. E. A. Jones*, schoolmaster, National school, Ruthin.—I have been here $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. There were 305 children on the books last year, and the average attendance was 205·7. More than one-half of those in the school are agricultural children; 203 attended 200 times each. The agricultural children remain at school up to the age of 13; very few leave before they get into the first class. The first class work in the fourth, fifth, and sixth standards; but the agricultural children cannot generally work higher than the fourth. The sons of labourers are less regular in their attendance than farmers' sons. The year before last the average attendance was 113, and the year before that 76. Nearly all the children in this school are the children of Dissenters. I always ask the parents when the children are admitted whether they object to their learning the Catechism; very few do object. There are a great many children growing up about here without education; quite as many do not attend school as those who do; they are simply indifferent about the matter.

[The accuracy of this statement about the great number of children who were absent from school was doubted by two or three other gentlemen to whom I spoke on this subject.]

38. *Mr. Joseph David Jones.*—Was schoolmaster of the British school, Ruthin, for 14 years. Gave it up four years ago. About 260 boys and girls attended that school, and about one-half of those were

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the children of agricultural labourers. I think that during the last four or five years that I had charge of that school the labourers' sons remained at school up to the age of 12 on an average. They both came and left rather earlier when I left than when I came. Most of them were in the second class when they left. The charges were regulated according to the position of the parents; labourers' sons paid 1*d.* a week. They could pass when they left what was equivalent to the fifth standard, besides having some knowledge of geography and grammar. I never allowed the boys to be absent without asking my leave. I dismissed them if they were. I found that there was a sufficient desire for education to prevent them incurring the risk of dismissal. There was really no work which the boys did for the farmers which interfered with their education. It was very rare for a boy to stay away to scare birds, but they sometimes remained at home, with my leave, to assist their parents in planting potatoes. There were many sons of small farmers at my school, and they were kept away to work on the farms far more than the sons of the labourers. The girls left at about the same age as the boys. They were very regular in their attendance. I do not think it desirable that boys should go to work under 14; but I don't think they are wronged as things are at present, and that it is unnecessary to place any restriction upon the age at which they should be permitted to work. There are not many night schools about here; but great importance is attached to Sunday schools. The adults, both male and female, attend.

FLINTSHIRE.

Flintshire.

39. *J. Scott Bankes, Esq.*, Loughton Hall, Northop.—I have lived here 10 years. I farm about 200 acres of my own land. The holdings are small, under 70 acres rather than over. As a general rule the farmers board all the labourers whom they employ, but they employ very few men, because many of them are little better than working men themselves, and there are times of the year when a man and his son can do all the work on a farm of 50 or 60 acres.

There is no regular employment for women. In fact the women are hardly ever employed by the farmers at all; but it is the custom for the farmers and landowners to let land for potatoes in small amounts to anybody who likes to take it at the rate of 7*l.* 10*s.* an acre. This is generally accommodation land near the towns and villages. About a quarter to half an acre is let to each man. The lessor cultivates and manures the land, and the lessee plants and gets up the potatoes. Both women and children work in planting and getting up the potatoes on these plots of ground; they are generally members of the lessee's own family and are not *employed* for wages. But with the exception of that work these women scarcely ever work in the fields. Here they are not disposed to work. I should have great difficulty in getting six or seven women to work if I wanted them.

Boys are not employed as a general rule until they are 16 or 17 years old, except when they work for their own families as above described. Some jobs, such as singling turnips, are sometimes done by men by the piece, but they do not bring children to assist them.

The holdings are so small that the occupiers don't like to spend money in wages and do all they can themselves.

There is no agricultural labour for children except the potato work above mentioned to prevent them attending school as a general rule up to the age of 13 or 14.

The wages for day labourers are 14*s.* a week if hired regularly, and 15*s.* if hired for an occasional job. They have extra money for harvest. I give 1*l.* extra for each harvest, but I suppose the farmers give piecework. They have no allowances, and earn no extra money except in harvest.

I think the supply of cottages is sufficient; but this is a great mining district, and the number of people employed in the mines is constantly changing, so that although generally the cottages are sufficient if new mines were to be opened more might be required. Many belong to the landowners, and most of them have small gardens, but there are many freeholds belonging chiefly to men who have made money in trade. These are to be found mainly in the towns.

The accommodation is generally sufficient; they all have separate sleeping and living rooms, and I myself am building all mine with three bedrooms. The lowest rent is, I think, 3*l.* for the ordinary class, and more if three bedrooms.

The supply of schools is, I think, sufficient. I know of no district where there is any population, except perhaps isolated cottages, which is not supplied with school accommodation. If the people are not educated it must be owing to their own carelessness.

I don't think there is any district within eight or nine miles of this place in which women and children are employed to a greater extent than I have described above.

40. *Charles R. Cotton, Esq.*, Knolton Hall, Overton.—I have lived here for 12 years, and am well acquainted with this portion of Flintshire (the hundred of Maelor). I formerly occupied a farm of about 250 acres near Wrexham. There are no mines or manufactures here, but there are in the neighbourhood of Wrexham. The agricultural condition of this district is very similar to that of Wrexham. The proportion of grass to arable is above half. The farms vary from 150 to 250 acres in extent; they are almost all dairy farms, although some of these have been broken up in consequence of the cattle plague. Every dairy farmer has a certain proportion of arable, and grows corn as well as stores for the cattle. No peculiar crops are grown here. Both men and women are employed for milking, but men rather than women. There is no employment for young children. The farmers let small portions of land to the labourers, amounting to one-quarter or one-eighth acre to each family at 2*s.* 6*d.* a rood. The farmer prepares the land, and the occupier grows potatoes upon it, and employs children to plant and gather them. The farmers always plough with two horses, and do not require boys to drive. They do not grow potatoes as a crop themselves. The cottages are not usually let with the farms; they are generally scattered about the country, but some of the principal landlords are now pulling down the scattered cottages and rebuilding them in the villages. The rent is about 4*l.* with a small garden. Wages are 11*s.* a week, or 12*s.* a week if the man has to come on Sundays. Women are very seldom employed, but when they are they have 1*s.* a day, and more in harvest. I think the supply of school accommodation in this district is sufficient; few have to go as much as two miles to a school, and attend well during summer. There are a great many dissenters, and there is no difficulty in securing their attendance at school. The parents never object to sending them on account of the religious instruction which is given.

41. *Mr. J. Dawson*, agent to Sir Pyers Mostyn, Talacre.—I have lived here for above 30 years, and am well acquainted with all the country between this place and Holywell, Caerwys, and Rhyl. The farms are of all sizes from 10 to 500 acres. About one-third is grass. No peculier crops are grown; turnips, wheat, and beans are the ordinary crops

long the coast. Higher up the hills the land is more adapted for turnips, barley, and oats. Some of the larger farms make cheese, but more in the Vale of Clwyd than here. Just here no women are employed, but towards Rhyl on one side, and Holywell on the other, some of the farmers do employ some few occasionally, never in winter. Children are employed for singling and weeding turnips in May and June. They are not employed under 12 to 15 for that work. They are employed by the farmers. They are also employed for picking potatoes. The boys are generally of from 12 to 15 years of age when they commence regular work, but more are required in the weeding and potato picking times than at others. Ploughing is chiefly done with two horses, occasionally four when we want to plough deep. I don't think that farmers require boys about here under 14; and that they make quite as good labourers if they begin to work at that age as if they began earlier. The boys are not generally boarded in the farm houses; occasionally they are, but very seldom. Men's ordinary wages are 12*s.* a week, and carters have 13*s.* During harvest it is customary to make a new bargain with the men every Monday for the current week. Last harvest my wages amounted to 14*s.*, 15*s.*, 17*s.*, 17*s.*, and 13*s.* 6*d.* a week for the five harvest weeks, besides 5*s.* a week extra for "*meat*," which some of the farmers allow, but I prefer to pay in money at 5*s.* a week. The women have 1*s.* a day and boys about from 2*s.* to 3*s.* at first. Not much piecework is done except at harvest. I do not hoe turnips by the piece, but some do. The population in this neighbourhood is chiefly collected in villages. Sir P. Mostyn lets some few cottages with the farms, but not many.

The supply of schools is generally sufficient; there is only one district in this neighbourhood which is destitute of school accommodation, and a school is about to be built there.

Cottages let generally for about 3*l.* per annum; they all have a small garden. Some of the cottagers hold two or three acres of land, generally in grass, on which they keep a cow. That does not prevent the man working as a labourer, because his wife generally looks after the cow.

42. *Mr. E. Tench*, Wrexham.—I was agent to Sir W. W. Wynn at Wynnstay for about 20 years. I don't think that there are many occupiers of such small amounts of land in this neighbourhood that they would be better off as day labourers. It is quite true that many of them don't live better than labourers, but in comparing their condition with that of labourers the fact that they are under less control must be taken into consideration, and the price at which they value this independence must be set off against the possibly rather better living of the labourer.

I think it would be a public loss to interfere with the great variety in the extent of the holdings in this neighbourhood. It is desirable to enable men to rise by gradual steps from the condition of labourers to that of farmers. I have now the management of the properties of Mr. T. L. Fitzhugh, Mr. S. Yorke, and Capt. Godfry in this neighbourhood.

A few women are engaged by farmers, and employed principally in preparing the land for green crops and in making hay, and to a less extent at other times of the year; but I don't think that the employment of women is attended by any bad results to themselves, although their families sometimes suffer, and the house is less comfortable than it otherwise would be. It would be desirable not to employ women with families, although it is a charity to employ widows. I have not observed that the employment of women leads to immorality. Women receive 1*s.* a day. I think some of the strong lads are employed under 14, at perhaps the age of 13. I am now giving my labourers 13*s.* a week, and carters 14*s.* The yearly servants never have piecework, but employers who hire by the week give piecework to do at harvest, and some of them pay an additional 1*l.* or 22*s.* for the harvest in lieu of piecework. The piecework here is almost confined to mowing, reaping, laying hedges, and a little turnip hoeing.

I don't think you will find many cottages here with two bedrooms, most have only one. I don't think that the gardens of agricultural labourers contain more than from 8 to 16 perches each. The cottages are very much overcrowded, but I don't see that they can be improved by law; I should rather trust to the effect of education to improve them. The farmers about here generally cultivate land for their labourers to grow potatoes on. The farmers prepare the land and draw the labourers' manure, and the labourers plant and get up the potatoes, and pay 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* for a rood of 8 square yards. Scarcely anything except potatoes and onions are grown in the gardens.

I don't think it necessary that the Factory Acts should be applied to the agricultural population. Neither women or children are employed in unhealthy employments in the fields, and I think that sufficient progress in education is likely to be attained by voluntary efforts.

With the above observations I agree with Mr. W. Jones' statement [No. 32].

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. CULLEY'S REPORT on the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

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PPENDIX A.—CONTAINING EVIDENCE APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

. ANSWERS to COMMISSIONERS' CIRCULAR of INQUIRY, given by MR. T. T. MOUSLEY, Agent to the Earl of Cawdor, &c.

As to the Employment of Children, &c.

"There is a general disposition throughout the two ounties (Pembroke and Carmarthen) to send boys ut to farm-work, to earn a little money in aid of heir parents, either as regular farm-house servants or o tend cattle, &c. at a very early age (say 9 or 10), nd too often they are taken for this purpose from a ood school before they have learnt more than to read nd write. This is often a necessity where there is a arge family, owing to the low wages earned by the ather (10*s.* to 12*s.* a week). If children could as a ule be kept at school until they are 12 or 13, and afterwards by some means be prevented losing all they had up to that time learnt, no doubt a higher standard of education amongst the labouring class would soon be the result; the difficulties however of compulsory education are doubtless very formidable.

"Girls are forced from their homes very much in the same way as boys, and almost as early in life. They generally do most of the rough out-door work, as well as in-door work, connected with the management of cattle. It is too much the rule on the part of employers, I am sorry to say, to pay but little attention to the moral condition of these servant girls. They lose their characters to a deplorable extent and become mothers at a very early age. The insufficient size and convenience of the Welsh farm-houses is one of the causes of this disgraceful state of things."

Employment of Women.

"Women are generally employed in farm labour, which need be no hardship, if it is not compulsory. In some districts (though I believe not extensive) the labourer's wife is bound to give a certain amount of labour to her husband's employer. This may be made a great hardship and ought to be discouraged."

Farm Employment generally.

"In Welsh farming it is not the habit to employ many day labourers. The work is chiefly done by young men who live in the house, and by members of the farmer's family. This deficiency of labour may be partly attributed to the want of good comfortable cottages, partly to the absence of capital and enterprise on the part of the Welsh farmer class."

Hours of Work.

"From 6 to 6, I believe is the rule, and when this is required of women, I think it is a hardship. To commence work at 8 a.m., and finish at 5 or 5½ p.m., except in harvest, are long enough hours for a woman who has domestic duties to perform."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be employed.

"I think no restriction is necessary in these counties as the occupation is generally healthy."

As to Supply of Schools, &c.

"Most neighbourhoods are well supplied with schools, but unfortunately in the thinly populated agricultural districts they must be few and far between, so far that little children have a sufficient reason for being kept from school. Many parents are very indifferent to the advantages of an early education for their children, forgetting that if they miss the first few years of their lives, they are not likely to have leisure for education in after life. Teaching of the English language is now very general; and the increasing knowledge of it is remarkable."

State of Cottages, &c.

"The state of cottages throughout the country is most disgraceful, and the loss to the agricultural interest of the best labour may thus be accounted for. Cottages are too frequently built without any regard to the health, comfort, morality, and convenience of the occupiers; generally badly ventilated and as badly lighted, damp and unhealthy floors and walls, the former often of earth. Frequently, especially in Pembrokeshire, with two rooms on the ground floor and no upper rooms; overcrowding is the universal consequence and gross immorality the result. Privies are very unusual, and oftener than not the piggery is attached to the dwelling. No attention is paid to sewerage, which is constantly to be seen stagnant at the cottage door."

How Cottages may be supplied.

"For the benefit of farmers, the building of good commodious cottages need not be a bad investment for the landlord, as he might, supposing his cottage cost 100*l.*, charge say 5*l.* per annum to his farm tenant, who would recover the greater part by weekly or monthly rent from his labourer, who should never be required to pay more than about 3*l.* per annum, unless he happened to have an unusually good house, or more garden ground than is really necessary. All cottages should have a good sized garden and a pigstye."

"Some of the formidable hindrances to an improved state of agriculture in Wales are the want of capital, and of agricultural education and enterprise. The great proportion of farms are small, and occupied by men who really belong to the labouring class, and who too frequently have to struggle harder for existence than the cottager who has his weekly wage to depend upon. Landlords ought by degrees to merge their small holdings, to save themselves the perpetual expense of restoring so many small farmsteads, which would enable them to give better accommodation for larger holdings, and thus making them more attractive to men of capital and enterprise.

"If they do not the country must remain as at present, very little in advance of a state of nature as regards farming."

Statute Fairs.

"The system of hiring farm servants at the statute fairs is one of the greatest curses to the country, and a general system of engaging them only by their producing a good character from the last employer ought to be established. This would encourage good servants and deter bad ones, and operate much to the advantage of employers.

"Welsh children are generally healthy, quick, and apt to learn."

2. *The Venerable Archdeacon Clark*, in answering a circular of inquiry as applicable to the archdeaconry of St. David's, which is very nearly co-extensive with the county of Pembroke, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed (more pastoral than arable). In my own neighbourhood there are extensive oak woods in the parishes of Narbeth, Robeston, Newton, Minwere, and Slebech, which afford occupation to a large proportion of the neighbouring population."

Employment of Boys and Girls.

"In my own experience there is not much employment for boys under 14 or 15, except during the season for "pilling" in the oak woods. Girls are similarly employed from 12 or 14 upwards, their business being to assist their elders in the work of barking and stacking bark."

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

o.

Employment of Women.

"Besides the employment in woods, a good many women are employed in field work throughout the county, but not in my own immediate neighbourhood."

Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land, &c.?

"If this question refers only to my own neighbourhood and its needs no restriction as to age is required, there is no reason why boys should not attend school during the greater part of the year, if their parents would send them.

"But, from what I have observed elsewhere, in England, I think it would be desirable to protect boys under 14 by requiring them to attend half a day at school, as a condition of employment in farm work.

"The above answer would apply also to restrictions on female labour."

Schools.

"The school attendance throughout the archdeaconry is generally good, where there are schools conveniently near. I think, that when children do not attend school, the cause is chiefly the indifference and neglect of parents.

"I enclose a tabular return for the archdeaconry."

Condition of Cottages.

"The cottages generally throughout the county are not good; small, ill-ventilated, with plaster or flagged floors, and with only two rooms on the ground floor, the upper rooms (if any) being dark lofts or attics under the roof, not fit for occupation. There are, I think, not enough for the supply of labour required. They are generally too small for even a small family, and therefore over-crowded, and the usual results to morality have followed. The cottagers generally have to go to the village well, or stream, or ditch, for water, and few cottages have decent privies.

"The condition of the cottages may be mainly owing to the exceedingly low rents which the agricultural labourer is willing or able to pay. The usual rent of a cottage and garden in Pembrokeshire is 50*s.* a year."

Do you consider the state of the agricultural labouring class in Pembrokeshire generally satisfactory?

"*Morally*, no; there is a great deal of drunkenness, and immorality and improvidence. Bastardy is common, unchastity, in the youth of both sexes, the rule rather than the exception. This greatly owing to the conditions under which the farm lads and servant girls are hired (at fairs without a character very commonly), and to the excessive liberty allowed them when in service.

"Very few of the farm labourers save anything out of their wages. They live generally from hand to mouth, and have no provision for a 'rainy day.' If I except the payment made to and received from the benefit club in sickness, the labouring man seldom thinks of laying by anything.

"In many respects the labouring class in Pembrokeshire are well off. They are clothed comfortably and well fed; the wages being generally (I believe) 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week. The population is not excessive, perhaps the reverse; it is diminishing in the rural districts, and there is generally no lack of employment."

3. Copy of a letter addressed to George Culley, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, by the Rev. William Owen, Baptist minister, Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

Dear Sir, Narberth, Aug. 2, 1869.

Having a tolerably good knowledge of the county of Pembroke (especially the Welsh part of it), I shall not confine my answers to your questions to one district, but endeavour to answer them as applicable to the county generally.

Field labour of women and children.

In pastoral districts the labour of *extra* women and young persons is not much wanted, except for a few weeks in harvest and about turnips and potatoes.

In corn-growing districts women and young persons are more employed in the fields, working out for months in the year.

The hours of labour are usually 12 hours, with a little interval for dinner.

Wages.

Wages are very low. Women at harvesting get 1*s.* a day, and 8*d.* a day (finding their own board) at the green crops. Children from 10 to 15 years of age get half a woman's wage. They have not far to walk generally, as the cottages and villages are pretty numerous.

Cottages.

The state of the labourers' cottages generally is very bad; badly constructed; one floor, and *one* room on that floor, partly divided by some article of furniture; damp walls; earth floors; smoky chimneys; a small window or two, often no more than a square foot, and never opened, the only ventilation being by the door or chimney; no out-offices or any accommodation whatever.

In such a cottage, where a family of six or eight are huddled together, it is impossible to inculcate that *decency* and modesty which is the chief ornament of a woman. There is of necessity such familiarity growing up between the sexes as is very subversive of true propriety. This want of proper home accommodation vitiates their tastes and lays them more open to moral corruption and sensuality. Hence, with their custom of farmers domiciling the male servants in out-houses, barns, and hay-lofts, &c., entirely removed from the control of the master, from whence they prowl about in the night, about neighbours' houses, seeking and obtaining intercourse with the girls through the night, arise the many cases of bastardy which we hear of in the county. A sad subject to mention, and a delicate one to treat.

Remedy.

I would suggest a cottage inspection instituted *authoritatively* in every parish or district, and that no cottage be allowed to be inhabited unless it be *certified*; something similar to the Board of Health regulations in towns.

Education in rural districts is very backward through two or three causes.

1st. In many localities schools are very far from the children, two, three, or four miles perhaps. The schools are generally located near some church or chapel, without any regard to the distance of one school from another. According to the present system of Government aid, the most active (and able perhaps too) of the religious bodies will get up a school in connection (locally so) with their place of worship, which will be partly supported by Government aid; and we not unfrequently find three or four such schools within a radius of as many miles, while one or two would meet the requirements of the district if properly located.

If a general educational system were adopted by Government, regard should be had to *distance* and *population*, and not, as at present, assisting individuals to gratify their whims (or perhaps spite a rival), and thus waste their energies and the *public money* without rendering equivalent service to the public.

2nd. The present educational appliances are not made use of as they might be for the following reasons:—

(*a.*) The great poverty of the agricultural labourers, whose earnings amount to 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week (on their own board) for the year round, with the exception of a month or so during harvest, when they get 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; out of such a pittance it is impossible that they can pay much for the education of their children, and many are kept at home because the parents cannot provide proper clothing in which to send them to school.

(*b.*) The want of appreciation of education on the part of the parents, where the school is free, or others pay for their children. The parents being uneducated themselves do not sufficiently appreciate education for their children, and from this cause many children in the rural districts are uneducated.

Along the sea coast most of the boys go to sea as ship apprentices, between the ages of 12 and 15, whether educated or not. Here, perhaps, some wholesome restraint might be put upon shipowners, such as the necessity of obtaining a certificate that a boy can read and write before they take him on board.

All these causes combined by a natural course of events tend to demoralization, and in the end to augment the poors' rate, which is becoming oppressively heavy, especially in Pembrokeshire, where there is scarcely any employment for a man who is past the prime of life; employers will choose younger men, and the old, before they are past service, are cast upon *their estate, the parish.*

A more equally distributed means of education, *free and unsectarian*, and some *compulsion* on landowners to provide a better class of cottages, would, in my opinion, tend to promote morality, health, and happiness in the country.

I have the honour to be
Your most obedient servant,
WM. OWEN.

4. *Mr. C. Bishop*, landowner and Clerk of the Peace for Carmarthenshire, speaking of the county generally, says:—

"The cultivation is much varied. In parts tillage prevails; but on the whole the largest portion is pasture for sheep and young cattle.

"*The sons of labourers and small farmers* generally go out to farm service at 13 or 14, according to their age and strength, and reside with their employers all the year round.

"*Girls* also go out to service generally at 13 or 14, when they become dairymaids, and in the smaller farms they, at seed and harvest times, assist in the cultivation of the land.

"Except in harvest time and the oak barking season *women* are not much employed. They, however, assist in hoeing potatoes, turnips, &c., where they are grown.

"I am not aware that any evil results, at all events in this county, arise from the employment of either boys or girls on the land; but on the contrary, I think that generally speaking when taken to a farm they get better fed, and so benefit by being employed on a farm as early as they can be useful, and a limit, unless education be compulsory, would be injurious."

"I should say also that as regards this county a limit in the case of females would also be injurious. There are none of the evils, &c., of hop picking, &c., in this county. If it be considered *necessary* that all should be educated to a certain extent, then of course a limit must be placed."

Schools.

"In most parts of the county, except in remote localities, there are either National or British schools within reach, and the labouring class is not indisposed to take advantage of them; still, when the children are able to undertake employment, and can obtain it, the parents will not lose the chance for the sake of schooling."

Cottages.

"The condition of the old cottages and the smaller farmhouses is not conducive to health. They are small and badly ventilated, but a great desire for improved dwellings prevails, and at present a better class of cottage and small farmhouse is being built. Of course where the family is large the cottage will be overcrowded; but in this county the dwellings are scattered, and no great evil results."

Cottage Gardens.

"Most cottages, especially in the country, and indeed in the smaller towns and villages, have gardens attached to them, but I do not think that the allotment system of gardens prevails."

Labourers and small Farmers.

"In my opinion the labourer with constant work is better off, and enabled to command more of the necessary comforts of life than the small farmer who pays from 10*l.* to 20*l.* a year for rent, and who lives harder than the inmates of the workhouse."

5. Children of small farmers in Pembrokeshire by *Mr. H. P. Goode*, land agent, &c.:—

The farmers generally do not employ children under 14 or 15 years of age; when they do, their work is attending to cattle and sheep and light farm work generally.

The smaller farms, whose tenants occupy from 5 to 100 acres, of which there are a great number in this country, employ their own children, both boys and girls, at a very early age to look after their cows, watch over their crops to keep off birds, watch their bees, and the little girls do the house work, whilst ther parents are employed in the fields. They are generally a very industrious race; and when the girls and boys come up to 14, 15, or 16 years they go to service, some to farms, others to families. Girls as nursemaids, under housemaids, and maids of all work to small establishments; they carry with them their industrious habits, and in good considerate families they make first rate servants.

The children of labourers are not generally half so useful, they spend their early years up to 10 very idly and acquire slothful habits, and are drafted off as soon as work can be got for them; they do not make such useful servants as the others, and often prove very worthless and deceitful, which can only be accounted for by their early training.

The children of the small farmers have to rise early, do a morning's work before school hours, and often return and assist their parents about the farm work.

6. *Mr. J. L. Phillips*, owner, occupier, and chairman of the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, answering for the union, says:—

"*The cultivation* is chiefly corn and grass, very few green crops are grown: this will explain why children are so little in demand at an early age; at harvest time small children give a little help, but they have no work to task their strength, or requiring skill, or continuous exertion.

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years of age; when of that age they go to service for one year certain at low wages, and are boarded and lodged at the farmer's expense.

"*Girls* are employed as under dairymaids and in the general working on a farm, and the nature of their employment depends on the kind of farming practised; if green crops are cultivated, besides attending to the dairy, girls go out to weed turnips, haymaking, corn harvesting, &c.

"*Women* do all the work necessary upon a farm in common with the men, except ploughing, carting, spading, and hard work on a farm generally considered too heavy and laborious for females."

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

o.

Hours of Work.

"Labourers generally work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Hired men generally work from 6 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m.

"Women get up at 5 a.m. to milk, &c., and continue till about bedtime (9 o'clock) to serve in the general duties expected on a small farm.

"I really do not think any restriction whatever is necessary as to the employment of children in farm labour."

Schools.

"We have almost in every parish National schools under the control of the clergyman, or in connexion with the chapels of dissenters. Generally advantage is taken of the means of instruction. Where three or four children of the same poor parents go to school sometimes, 2*d.* or 3*d.* ahead is felt a heavy charge on small wages. No shoes or no clothes fit to go to school in is often the excuse to keep children at home."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is very bad generally; they are generally sufficiently numerous where farmers will give winter labour to men, but the practice is to hire young men by the year, and when they marry they leave the neighbourhood and go to the mining districts."

Gardens and Potato Ground.

"Most of the cottages have small gardens, and in addition it is very common for labourers to have potato ground where they work, or to give work in harvest in return for potato ground, the labourer finding the potato seed only and weeding the ground."

Rate of Wages and Feeding.

"*Men's* wages vary according to the locality; when near a town, or in coal, lime, or manufacturing districts, wages are higher, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week; 9*s.* in the more rural parts, or 1*s.* a day and food.

"*Women* earn 6*d.*, 8*d.*, and 9*d.* a day, working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. In harvest time they make 10*d.*, 1*s.*, and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day. Men and women live alike when on the farmer's finding.

"Breakfast, a 'broth' made of water, oatmeal, and potatoes, and a piece of bacon or roof beef, or milk and wash-brew, or coffee and bread and butter. Dinner, 'the broth;' tea seldom; supper, 'the broth.' When on their own keep they have the three first meals, tea or coffee, and for supper, the broth."

LLANDOVERY UNION.

Population, 14,775 - Acreage, 154,572.

7. *Mr. G. Jones*, landowner and occupier, and Vice-chairman of Board of Guardians, answering for the union, says:—

"*Boys* are employed, from 12 years old, chiefly in spring and summer.

"*Girls* are seldom employed, except as nurses.

"The employment of *women* is very limited, except in harvest and the barking season.

"*Women* work from 9 till 6.

"It is decidedly not desirable to place restrictions on youthful labour."

Schools

"In every parish there is a school, in many two or three, of which the labouring class are always ready to avail themselves."

State of Cottages.

"Very deficient in accommodation with reference to the separation of the sexes, otherwise they are very comfortable, especially the old-fashioned ones. Most of them have large gardens."

Wages and Mode of Hiring.

"Labourers receive from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week if employed all the year round, but during harvest the wages are much higher. Farmers generally hire servants by the year, paying, with keep, from 14*l.* to 20*l.*, when they can afford to keep servants, but the holdings are so small such is not generally the case, and labourers receiving 10*s.* a week are far better off than tenants paying up to 20*l.* a year rent."

Character of Farm Servants.

8. Copy of letter addressed "to the Freeholders and "Tenant Farmers of the County of Carmarthen," by *Sir J. J. Hamilton, Bart., and Mr. W. R. H. Powell*, landowners.

"You are all, doubtless, aware that at the late Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Society of this county the present condition of our farm servants excited considerable interest. The subject has subsequently occupied anxious attention, and we are of opinion that without your kind and influential aid all their endeavours to effect an improvement will be unavailing. We earnestly, therefore, invoke your cordial co-operation in accomplishing the object which we have so much at heart, and we cherish the hope that it will not be withheld. We would suggest that you should all unite in a fixed determination not to engage into your service any candidate for employment who cannot produce a *bonâ fide* written character from the situation in which he or she has last lived, and we would enjoin the greatest circumspection in granting such certificate. A form somewhat similar to the following might beneficially be adopted:—

"'A. B. has been in my employ as a servant in 'husbandry for —— years (or —— months). I 'believe him, or her, to be honest, sober, cleanly, 'and industrious, and (in the case of a female) I have 'reason to believe that her moral conduct has been 'irreproachable.'

"The attempt, however, to ameliorate the condition of our farm servants would be altogether hopeless did not you, freeholders and tenant farmers, adopt such measures in your respective households as may tend to restrain among the young people in your employ those habits of free and irregular intercourse to which, at present, much unnecessary licence is given in farm houses, and which only produce their natural results in the unhappy cases which are so frequently brought before the magistrates of the county at their Petty Sessional Meetings. We are induced to bring this subject under your consideration from our conviction that you recognize no obligation more imperative than the endeavour by every means in your power to improve and elevate the moral and social condition of those over whom you can exercise a control."

9. EXTRACT from an Article in the *Welshman Newspaper*, written in anticipation of an interview between the Assistant Commissioner and Carmarthen Board of Guardians.

"Education is not yet what we should like, and what we hope to see it. The cottage accommodation is in many parts of the country of the most wretched description. Much has been said and written on both these questions, but what means the commissioners may recommend to improve either the one or the other we have at present no conception. There was a time when the owners and cultivators of the land considered that to educate the children of the poor was to unfit them for the station in life in which their Creator had placed them. Now, without entering into the question whether the Creator did or did not intend a person to occupy this or that particular position, we may at once congratulate the country upon the great change of opinion that has taken place

specting the education of the people, particularly
ie children of the poor. That this has not been
ithout its effect upon the labour market, in agricul-
ural districts, must be admitted. As soon as a boy
eceives a moderate amount of education, he begins to
el, like his first parent, dissatisfied with his position.
Ie feels that he is fitted for different circumstances
o those by which he had been surrounded in his
ildhood. No doubt numbers of labourers have in
at way been lost to the agriculturist; but as civili-
ation advances the ingenuity of man steps in, and
us manual labour has been very largely superseded
y machinery. Where machinery has been adopted
ie farmer, as a rule finds himself in a better position
han he was before; and as he now requires intelli-
ent skilled labourers, he has become the friend and
romoter of education. To increase the number of
ublic schools in the country, and to induce—perhaps
o compel—parents to send their children to them,
ill, we expect, be the work of the legislature at no
istant period. With regard to cottage accommoda-
ion, it is not only deficient in many places, but of the
ost wretched description. There was, until a few
ears ago, something to be gained by sending the
abourer to reside out of the parish in which he was
mployed; and few cottages were for that reason
rected on the farms; but though the cause which
ed to this state of things has been removed, the evil
still remains. To whom are we to look for a remedy?
Hitherto it has been a question between landlord and
tenant, and we still doubt the ability of the Govern-
ment to deal with it arbitrarily. The effect of im-
proved dwellings on the *morale* of the people would
be something considerable. It would give such an
impetus to education as we at present have little
conception of; for many a labourer's cottage, now the
home of misery, by being converted into a place of
comfort, would become a night school for the young.
But we will not anticipate the discussion of these
points at the next meeting of the guardians, to which
we look with much interest."

Pauperism.

10. The following passage, which occurs in an article published in the *Welshman Newspaper* on the 4th of September 1869, tends to show, that the same action which I pointed out to you in my Report on Oxfordshire and Berks, is going on in South Wales to the increase of pauperism:—

"Underlying, however, all those minor difficulties in the way of controlling the expenditure of the union, there is one which is apparently inseparable from the system generally, and one for which we feel great diffidence in suggesting a remedy. Every step in the recent legislation on this subject has been made in the direction of spreading the cost of maintaining the poor over the whole surface of the union; and perhaps, all considered, the steps taken have been in the right direction. Still, however, an abuse has sprung up, the remedy for which can only be found in the good sense of the guardians. As long as each individual parish felt the burden of maintaining its own poor, there existed a strong inducement for the guardians to see that the relief of individual paupers was not excessive. Now, however, since the relief of the individual is borne by the union generally, the fact that the aggregate of the expense to the union is increased is lost sight of in the desire of many good-natured and easy-going guardians to see that their own poor are tenderly, we were going to say too tenderly, cared for. The result has been that many persons figure as paupers, who, under the old system, would not have been paupers at all, and that the measure of relief dealt out in other cases has been in excess of what it would have been had the case been otherwise. There is in the minds of many guardians a feeling somewhat akin to that spoken of by Sydney Smith when describing a sort of pseudo-benevolence which led the person affected by it never to see a case of distress without wishing that somebody else would relieve it, the somebody else in this case being represented by the union at large. It is difficult to counteract this tendency, and we almost fear it can only be done by the appointment of a sort of supervisor of the relief list, who would have no local sympathies to sway him in the pursuit of his duty. The appointment of a new salaried officer is one that we suggest with diffidence in the face of the rapidly increasing expenditure of the union, but judiciously made we are far from thinking that it would not be a saving to the pockets of the rate-payers.

Tenby.

11. *Evidence of a quarryman* working in a limestone quarry near Tenby.

"We work by the piece, and get 1*s.* a ton for the lime when burnt; it takes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of stone to make a ton of burnt lime. We find our own tools and powder and can clear about 18*s.* a week. All the quarrymen are from the English part of Wales. The Welsh don't understand the work and cannot make a living at it."

(*Note.*—There are a large number of men employed at the lime quarries in the neighbourhood of Tenby, natives of the English or Flemish quarter, and these men appeared to the Assistant Commissioner to be a fine class of workmen.)

Resolutions of Boards of Guardians.

12. Narbeth Union.

Population, 21,344 - Acreage, 124,903.

At a meeting of the *Board of Guardians for Narbeth Union*, held on the 19th of July 1869, in answer to a question put to the Board by Mr. George Culley, it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That there is no need of restricting the labour of children employed in agriculture in this union, inasmuch as children under 13 years of age are very little employed; any pressure necessary for the sake of education should be put directly on the parents, amongst whom however there is a growing appreciation of the benefit of educating their children."

The following is the rule of the Board as to the age at which relief to the children of widows ceases:—

"That all widows requiring relief be allowed one shilling weekly for each child until they attain the age of 13 years, provided they are kept at school."

Haverfordwest Union.

Population, 37,343 - Acreage, 170,861.

13. Answers given by the *Board of Guardians for Haverfordwest Union* to the questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner at a meeting held on the 28th of July 1869.

1. *As to Employment of Boys in Farm Labour.*

Boys are not employed in this union under 12 years of age, except for short intervals, any child up to 12 years of age might attend school for eight months in the year.

Children receiving parochial relief are allowed such relief and payment for schooling up to 14 *years* of age. The Board allowed 47*l.*, in payment for such schooling, during last year (1868).

2. *As to the Employment of Girls.*

Girls are employed about the same age as boys and in the same manner, though not so extensively.

3. *As to the Employment of Women.*

Adult women (chiefly married) are employed in all kinds of farm work.

4. Labourers are generally near their work, cottages being let with the farms.

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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5. *The hours of work are,*
For men, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 1½ hours for meals.
For women, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour for dinner.
Horses work from 7 a.m. till 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. *No legislative restrictions* as to the age at which children should be permitted to work are needed.

7. *The provision of schools* throughout the union is good; the neglect of education arises from the indifference of the parents.

8. *The condition of cottages* is generally bad; our agricultural labouring class are diminishing in number.

9. All cottages have *gardens.*

10. *Wages.*

Some labourers are boarded by the farmers, others board themselves and are allowed potato land, the leadage of coal, &c. The whole value of a man's earnings, including all perquisites, will average 12*s.* a week for the year.

CARMARTHEN UNION.

Population, 36,675 - Acreage, 172,546.

14. ANSWERS given by the *Carmarthen Board of Guardians* to questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner at a meeting held on the 31st of July 1869.

1. *As to the Employment of Boys.*

Boys begin to be employed at about 12 years of age.

2. *As to the Employment of Girls.*

Girls are employed in light farm work in some parishes of the union from about 12 years of age.

3. *As to the Employment of Women.*

On arable farms women (usually married) are employed in all light farm work, but female employment is more generally confined to harvest and hay time.

4. Labourers have *no extreme distances* to go to their work.

5. *The hours of work* are for *men* from 6 to 6, with 1½ hours for meals; for *women,* from 8 to 6, with one hour for dinner.

6. *As to restricting the age at which children should be permitted to work.*

It is not desirable that children should be employed under 12 years of age, but no legislative restriction is necessary in this union.

7. *As to Provision of Schools, &c.*

Schools are provided in almost every parish of the union. The parents generally take advantage of the schools, where (as is usually the case) there is no difficulty on the score of religious teaching.

8. *Condition of Cottages.*

The cottages in the union are as a rule *bad.*

9. All cottages have *gardens.*

10. *Wages.*

The average earnings for 12 months at the command of an able-bodied labourer amount to about 12*s.* a week.

For men who receive their food, wages vary from 6*s.* a week and food, to 7*s.* 6*d.* and food, 1*s.* a day and food being the most usual pay. Wages vary considerably in this union.

LLANDOVERY UNION.

15. ANSWERS given by the *Board of Guardians for Llandovery Union* to questions proposed to them by the Assistant Commissioners, July 24th 1869.

"Except on hill farms looking after cattle or sheep, boys are not usually employed in farm labour in this union till they are 11 or 12 years of age.

"Girls are very little employed in farm labour, and never under 12 years of age.

"Women are not much employed except in hay and corn harvest; they are much less employed now than formerly.

"The hours of work for men are from 6 to 6 with 1½ hours for meals. Where women are employed they work from 9 till 6 with one hour for dinner. Hired servants (male) who form the majority of farm labourers in this union have irregular hours.

"There is no need in this union to place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land, as their employment does not interfere at all with their school attendance up to 10 years of age and very little up to 12.

"There is no parish in the union without a school; all who can (and most parents can) send their children to school.

"Cottages have been greatly improved of late years; the old cottages and old farm-houses are deficient in accommodation, but they are fast disappearing.

"Every cottage in the union has a garden.

"The farm labourers who find themselves are a small class; including all allowances their average earnings for 12 months would be about 12*s.* a week.

"Where men (which is not common in this union) get so much a week and their food, living in their own cottage, the wages usually are 7*s.* a week with food and a cottage rent free.

"Most of the farm servants are lodged and boarded on the farm premises, and an able-bodied man will command from 12*l.* to 18*l.* as wages.

"Nearly all cottages keep pigs and many rent a little field and keep a cow.

"A labourer with 10*s.* a week is better off than a small farmer paying a rent of say 20*l.* a year." *

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

16. EVIDENCE given by *Mr. T. G. Bush,* Surgeon, Medical Officer of Narbeth Union.

1. Is any physical injury done by the way in which boys and girls are employed in farm labour?

None; because as a rule they are not employed in heavy work, so that there is no taxing of the strength beyond the physical capability of the child. My experience for the last 25 years, especially with union children, is that if they are not sent out by the age of 13 they do not take so readily to work and are apt to come back to the workhouse.

2. What is the state of health of the agricultural labouring class?

In this district it is very good.

3. Is the change of food gradually taking place for good or for evil?

Most decidedly for good; I find that since the potatoe and porridge diet (which was up to the time of the outbreak of the potatoe disease the prevalent food of the agricultural labourer and cottager) has been to a great extent abandoned and replaced by bread, butter, and cheese; that the labourer is more able to resist the influences of weather, and when he is struck down by disease there is a far greater rallying power in the constitution than formerly, so

* These were given as the answers of the Board after discussing each of the questions proposed by the Assistant Commissioner.

hat he is able soon to resume work. It may also be dded that the board of guardians now give a larger mount of relief to the sick poor than was formerly he case.

4. Is the state of cottages such as to injure health ?

There is a decided improvement in cottages within he last few years ; some will always be found unhealthy, as much owing to the habits of the inmates as to the construction of the buildings.

17. *Mr. John Hughes,* surgeon, &c., Carmarthen, says, "Children are not generally employed before bout 12 years of age, the girls chiefly in housework. Women are not employed to any great extent except in harvest time.

"I do not believe that either boys or girls are overworked."

18. *Mr. D. Lloyd,* surgeon and medical officer of Carmarthen Union, says, "I visit three parishes of the union. There is nothing injurious physically to the children of the agricultural labouring class in the manner of their employment.

"The agricultural labourers are as a class much more provident than town labourers. It would be a great benefit to this district if we could get the labourers to join provident societies more than they do."

19. Evidence of *Mr. William Philipps,* Relieving Officer, Narbeth Union.

"The condition of the labouring class is much improved since my recollection both as to wages and position. The usual rate of wages for agricultural labourers about 25 years ago was from 3*s.* to 4*s.* weekly and their food ; there were some privileges in addition, such as manure for setting potatoes and employment for the wives and any of the children who were able during haymaking and harvest, but in those days the children were badly clad and if sickness came to the house the family were some time before recovering. Barley bread and potatoes were their chief food and schooling was little thought of. I believe the turning point in the labourer's advanced condition was about the making of the South Wales railway, the demand for labour and the offer of more wages induced many to accept the opportunity, and a large number of agricultural labourers were employed on the line. On the completion of the railway great advantages were opened for labourers to visit the coal mines in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth which they could formerly only reach on foot. Some return occasionally to their native homes, while large numbers with their families settle on the hills and some emigrate to America and the colonies. Under these circumstances the present condition of the working class is much superior to what it was. The usual rate of wages are now 6*s.* per week and food and from 9*s.* to 12*s.* on their own finding : wheat bread is now almost universally used, but the present high price of butcher's meat is rather beyond their means. Applications for relief by the able-bodied without being afflicted by sickness are very rare in these days, and under these circumstances, together with privileges of educating their children at a small charge, the present general condition of the labourer is much improved."

Cottages.

"The major part of the cottages of the labouring class are wholly unfit either for comfort or morality, being much too small and not having proper partitions so as to make them convenient and decent. The damp mud floors must be far from conducive to health especially in the winter season. In many small parishes cottages were discontinued for the purpose of preventing parties becoming chargeable to the poor rates ; this evil has now been remedied by the Union Chargeability Act. At present there are not sufficient dwellings for labourers. Several large estates have few cottages, and those that have fallen into decay are seldom or ever replaced."

Health of District.

"The general health of the district is good, and I believe the rate of mortality is as small as any district in Wales."

Bastardy.

"The rate of bastardy is, I believe, on the decrease ; and the cause of its being at the present rate is from the great levity allowed to farm servants in spending nights together courting, not always from love or affection, but usually from an old foolish custom of the country, and from which evil results are often produced ; but since the improvement in the bastardy laws marriage is more often the result of *courting.*

"Benefit societies have in this locality been the cause of greatly assisting the poor rates, and also the independent position of the working man ; but the great failure in those societies, and which is now growing, is the want of proper management—tables for *different ages* on entrance,—as well as to direct in what manner a safe and certain sum weekly could be paid, according to the amount of contribution received, are greatly wanted. There is at present no provision for old age, and when members from age continue on half pay (of which there very often are many) then commences the downfall of the society, as the income is not sufficient to meet the demand. There is also another reason for the breaking up of societies, and that is the division of part of the capital; although this is illegal, yet unless the power is taken from those locally concerned in the matter, there will never be sufficient guard against its continuance, as a few zealous members would hardly fight against the major part of the members, who are generally in favour of a division."

Employment of Labour on Farms.

"Farms are usually let by the year, and in some cases agreements are so stringent that the tenant finds it an impossibility to sign, and therefore is obliged to leave the farm. Under these circumstances there is no encouragement to farmers to lay out capital and employ labour ; and this, I think, is the chief reason why our labourers are driven to seek their living elsewhere. If farms were properly cultivated, and fair remunerative inducements given to farmers to improve the land, I feel certain that the present supply of agricultural labourers would be found to be wholly insufficient."

Employment of Women.

"The field labour in which women are generally employed is haymaking, harvest, and turnips ; and I find invariably the most willing to work in assisting their husband to maintain their families are the best and most thrifty housewives."

20. *Mr. W. J. Rowe,* relieving officer, Narberth Union.—My district is partly Welsh and partly Flemish or English. The labourers' cottages are generally bad ; built of mud or stone and thatched, with mud floors. Each cottage has a pigsty, and most of the cottagers keep pigs. The cottages are generally let with the farms, and sublet by the farmers.

In the agricultural part of my district the wages of labourers are 6*s.* a week and meat, or from 9*s.* to 10*s.* without meat. The man with 6*s.* and his meat is the best off of the two. In the colliery part of my district the wages are higher, but cottages are dearer. Rents are about 42*s.* a year in the agricultural district, and 70*s.* in the colliery. Our labourers are much better off than they used to be.

21. *Mr. J. Griffith,* relieving officer, Welsh district of Narbeth Union, says :—

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

A.

C.

"The cottages in my district have generally two rooms on the ground floor. The floors are usually mud.

"Rents seldom exceed 2*l.*; some pay as little as 1*l.*

"Some parents send their children to school, some do not. I think the major part of the children are not at school."

HAVERFORDWEST UNION.

22. Evidence of *Mr. J. John Johnston*, relieving officer, Milford district:—

"The cottages are bad in my district, and many have tumbled down. There is much less manual labour in the country than there used to be, and the men go off to the works or emigrate; they can get 20*s.* a week in the mines.

"Farms run from 20 to 300 acres. Unless a 20-acre farmer works for other people he is not so well off as a regular labourer.

"These 20-acre farms in my district are generally poor land, and pay about 10*s.* an acre rent. Unless a man with 40 acres of such land has something else to do he isn't better off than a labourer.

"There is only one parish in my district without a school."

23. Evidence of *Mr. D. J. Vaughan*, relieving officer, Fishguard district:—

"The cottages in my district are very poor. Farm labourers get their victuals and 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week. Their wages are worth about 10*s.* a week in the country, and 12*s.* a week in Fishguard.

"Wages have risen very much of late years, but the young men leave the district a good deal; such men are very scarce. Mine is the poorest district of the union. There are 11 schools in my district, for 20 parishes; five of these schools are in two parishes, and there are therefore 12 parishes without schools. These parishes are:—

	Population.	Acreage.
Castlebythe - - -	227	2,537
Henry's Moat - - -	287	3,166
Jordanston - - -	131	1,876
Llanllawer - - -	117	1,202
Lanstinan - - -	174	1,579
Lanvair-nant-y-Gof - -	245	2,597
Lanychaer - - -	194	2,053
Manorowen - - -	186	1,263
Morvil - - - -	125	2,551
Newcastle, Little - -	354	2,712
St. Nicholas - - -	284	2,141
Pontfaen - - -	32	695
Walton, East - - -	223	1,893

(*Note.*—I have added the population and acreage of these parishes, the names of which were given by Mr. Vaughan.—G. C.)"

24. Evidence of *Mr. E. Evans*, relieving officer, St. David's district:—

"Wages are the same in my district as in the rest of the union. In four out of 14 parishes in my district there are no schools; but they are small parishes (St. Edrins, St. Elvis, St. Lawrence, and Llanrythan), and there are plenty of schools in the district. I should think wages have trebled in my district during the last 20 years."

(The population of the four parishes named by Mr. Evans are, St. Edrins 118, St. Elvis 33, St. Lawrence 205, and Llanrythan 188.—G. C.)

25. *Mr. J. Lloyd*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says, "The farms in my district are usually small, especially in Abernant and Treleach.

"Many farmers would hire by the year two lads and a boy (the lads 17 to 18, and the boy 12 or 13 years old). Boys don't get wages much before they are 12 or 13; they get food and old clothes. Lads of 17 or 18, hired by the year, would have their bed and meat, but not washing, and from 7*l.* to 9*l.* a year. A man hired by the year would have 12*l.* to 13*l.* and his board (the wages 15 years ago for such a man would have been 6*l.*).

"Able-bodied men go off to the works in Glamorganshire, and leave the old men and lads to do the work here; that is the cause of our poors' rate increasing.

"A boy from 12 to 13 would get 50*s.* to 3*l.* and his meat. Such a boy, with the hired men, would usually sleep over the stables in a loft on clothes spread on clean straw in the body of a cart.

"We have farms of 12 to 15 acres, where the farmers family does the work of the farm. There are several places about Treleach where the farms have been divided into these small holdings for the sake of getting more rent. As a rule the labourers' cottages are of one story, with two low rooms on the ground floor, and a loft where the children sleep. The floor of the loft is made of wattle, like a wattled hurdle. The rooms are very ill-ventilated, and the beds are close box beds.

"The wages of farm labourers who are not hired into the house are 6*s.* a week and their food. For about a fortnight at each time in haytime and harvest they get 9*s.* a week and their food.

"In cutting hay in hot weather the farmers give weak beer and coffee twice a day; the beer is very poor, with a good deal of treacle. The dinner in harvest is milk and flummery (flummery is made of oatmeal) with cheese and butter. At 6 or 7 o'clock they have bacon, potatoes, and cabbage, done in a pot, and rice pudding.

"Very few labourers in my district find their own food. I hardly know their wages.

"Those farmers get the best men who feed them best. Some give a pennyworth of tobacco or a penny to the men, and a candle to the women each night in harvest.

"Girls do milking and light farm work in my district.

"A dairymaid, having charge of the dairy has about 6*l.* wages; but the farmer's wife generally does the work of a dairywoman.

"A second maid, say a girl of 16, would get 4*l.*

In haytime a labourer's wife gets 6*d.* a day and food, and in corn harvest 1*s.* a day and food.

"The farms are larger in the lower district towards Langharne (*i.e.* towards the coast), and wages are higher.

"Mine is the poorest district in the union, but my relief is the lowest of the lot."

26. *Mr. John Jones*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says,—"The wages are rather better in my district than in some parts of the union, we are rather nearer the collieries, though colliers' wages are not so good as they were.

"An able-bodied man going to the collieries can command 12*s.* a week and may get 15*s.*

"Farm lanourers have 6*s.* a week and their food in winter, and 12*s.* a week and food for about two months in summer. These men live in their own cottages and pay from 2*l.* to 3*l.* for their cottage and garden.

"The labourers on the south-east of Towy live rather better than those on the other side.

"Women do light farm work, but labourers' wives do not work out much, except in harvest when they get from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day and their food.

"The cottages in my district are generally bad, they usually have two rooms (sometimes one) on the ground floor, with nothing but the open roof over them, they are generally built of stone and thatched."

27. *Mr. J. Thomas*, relieving officer, Carmarthen Union, says:—

"Labourers' cottages in my district are rather indifferent; they are small, with two rooms and no

upper story, except in a few cases of new ones. A good deal of arable land has been laid down to grass in my district on account of the great rise in the price of butter and milk, and the labour has been reduced.

"Too few labourers are employed in most farms; nothing pays better than employing plenty of labour.

"Men who keep themselves don't average more than 9*s.* a week wages. Those that are fed by the farmer and sleep at home, average 6*s.* a week.

"Women working 10 hours a day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., commonly get 6*d.* a day and their food; if they get no food they get 1*s.* a day.

"If a farmer hires three men and lads into his house they would get, say,—

"1st ploughman, 16*l.* wages.

"2nd ploughman, about 18 year's old, 12*l.* wages.

"3rd ploughman, about 16 years' old, 6*l.* to 7*l.* wages.

"In this union we give relief to children up to 13 years, and most labourers' children remain at school till they are over 10, and are better educated than farmers' children were a few years ago, or indeed are now."

28. *Mr. Daniel Williams*, relieving officer, Llandovery Union, says:—

"The average wage of the union, taking the year throughout, for men, finding themselves and paying rent for their cottages, is 13*s.* a week.

"I think our labourers are better off than small farmers, say, than farmers paying 20*l.* a year rent, and they educate their children better. The children of small farmers are often sent to work before they are fit for it.

"The union is well supplied with schools. There are often two schools doing what one might do; a state of things arising from religious differences.

"It is very difficult to get occasional labourers now; we have to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day. Labourers are much better off than they used to be, simply because the labour market has been thinned by men going off to the works and emigrating to America.

"In one parish alone there are 40 cottages less than when I first remember it.

"The cottages are usually let with the farms, and there is no inclination on the part of the farmers to take advantage of this.

"Very few of our farmers keep labourers (who are not yearly hired men) throughout the year, such men work first for one farmer and then for another.

"Hired male servants who are good men get from 15*l.* to 18*l.* a year.

"Lads from 18 to 20 get from 12*l.* to 14*l.*

"Boys of about 12 are employed in summer minding cattle and are at school in winter.

"Hired servants when they marry generally emigrate."

APPENDIX B.

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Pembroke Union.

Carew.

Population, 993 - Acreage, 5,636.

Cultivation mixed.

29. The *Rev. John Phelps*, vicar, says:—

"*Young persons* under 18 years of age are employed all the year in agriculture.

"*Children* are employed from March to October.

"*Girls* under 18 are hired from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, board and lodge in the farmhouse, milk the cows, and work at the usual work of the farm; in the fields in spring, summer and autumn.

"*All the women* who are not nursing infants are employed in field work."

Distance Labourers go to work.

"The women go to work some within a mile and some within two miles."

Hours of Work.

"Women and girls who live at home in their own cottages go out to work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Restrictions as to Age of Employment.

"Parents who have large families are glad to eke out their own maintenance by the small earnings of their children."

As to Restrictions in Labour for the Sake of Education.

"Children ought to be kept at school until they are 11 years of age. If parents will not send their children to school, the children had better be employed at work than permitted to remain at home in idleness and dirt."

Schools.

"All the children may attend school by paying one penny weekly, but parents keep their children from school and offer any trivial excuse for doing so."

Cottages.

"The cottages have gardens. If the cottages had more space and accommodation the occupiers would try to take lodgers."

Stackpole Elidor.

Population, 273 - Acreage, 2,845.

30. *Mr. A. Trotter*, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, says, "The cultivation is mixed in four course husbandry.

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years of age, chiefly in spring and summer.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age as boys in turnip hoeing and haymaking.

"*Women* are employed in hay and corn harvest, and in pulling turnips, &c. in winter.

"Men work for 9 hours; women for 8.

"Boys should not be allowed to work till they are about 12 years old.

"There are good *schools* in the neighbourhood and they are fully taken advantage of.

"The *cottages* generally are in a very bad state of repair; but in the property of the Earl of Cawdor they have been very much improved of late.

"The cottagers have all good gardens and generally 1 cwt. of potatoes planted in their employer's field as well."

Wages, &c.

"Labourers' wages in the Hundred of Castlemartin or South Pembrokeshire, including all earnings, will average 14*s.* per week.

"They have all free houses and gardens, are allowed to keep a pig and some of them a cow. They have 1 cwt. of potatoes planted for them, fuel hauled for them, and they get the grain they use for bread at a reduced rate."

Food.

"Their food chiefly consists of barley meal made into bread, sometimes mixed with flour. They generally have for breakfast cold tea and bread, and for

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

o.

dinner generally the same thing; for supper, bacon and potatoes.

"There is a great difference between the Welsh and southern Scotch labourers.

"The Welsh labourer is not so trustworthy as the Scotch, he is less punctual and more careless, and shows a great want of interest when doing anything for his employer and a double portion in anything affecting himself. He is physically inferior to the Scotchman, as the food he uses is not calculated to promote muscular development."

HAVERFORDWEST UNION.

DALE.

Population, 463 - Acreage, 1,709.

Cultivation mixed.

31. *Mr. J. A. P. L. Philipps*, landowner, and occupier, and chairman of Haverfordwest Board of Guardians, says, "Neither *boys nor girls* are employed in farm labour under 14 years of age.

"*Women*, married and single, are employed in hay and corn harvests, turnip hoeing, and in the barn in winter.

"Labourers reside generally on the farms on which they work or in the village close adjoining.

"*Women's hours of work* are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with one hour for dinner at noon.

"No restriction is necessary on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land."

Schools.

"We are to have one of Madam Bevan's masters at Michaelmas; at present there is no school.

"*Cottages* are not good except those *recently* built; they are sufficient in number for the labour required. They have plenty of water; the ventilation is bad.

"All the cottages have gardens."

Wages and average Earnings of Labourers for 12 months.

"20*l.* a year. They kill every winter one good pig from 18 to 20 score lbs. weight, and also make money by selling butter."

LLANHOWELL.

Population, 184 - Acreage, 1,381.

Cultivation mixed.

32. *Mr. John Reynolds*, occupier and guardian, says, "*Boys* are employed all the year as plough boys, carters, and errand boys.

"Girls are employed in farm-houses as servants all the year round, and by the year to attend calves, cows, milk, pigs.

"*Women* are very little employed all the winter; in summer they are employed in hay and corn harvest and hoeing turnips. Women never go off the farms where they get houses."

Distance.

"Labourers do not go at furthest more than two miles to their work; this is exceptional, not the rule."

Hours of Work.

"From 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; all of them on their own finding.

"*It is not desirable* to place restriction on the labour of children."

Schools.

"There are two British schools at a convenient distance, one at Croesgoch, the other at Solva; they are generally taken advantage of. Labour does not prevent children attending school."

Cottages.

"Cottages are improving; they are sufficient for the supply of labour required; they are situated on the farms; they are not badly overcrowded, and I have heard of no evil results to morality in consequence; they are well supplied with water. Our workmen do not care to have big houses; they require more fire to warm them. Workmen like a snug thatched cottage; it is much more comfortable."

Gardens.

"Cottagers have good gardens, and most of them have from four to six acres of land to keep a cow or raise corn."

WISTON.

Population, 713 - Acreage, 7,030.

Cultivation mixed.

33. *Mr. R. P. Davies*, landowner, occupier, and high sheriff of Pembrokeshire.

"*Boys* from 12 to 15 years of age are employed in summer.

"*Girls* from 13 to 18 years of age are employed at hay time and harvest and weeding and turnips.

"*Women* are generally employed on farm labour.

"They go from ½ to 1 mile to their work, and work 8 hours a day."

As to restricting the Age of Employment.

"*Boys* should not be permitted to be employed under 12 years of age.

"As to girls, I do not think any restriction is required in this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school not generally taken advantage of from the carelessness of parents."

Cottages.

"The condition of cottages is bad in general; they are not sufficient for the supply of labour; they are not generally overcrowded, and no causes of immorality have come under my notice. They are well supplied with water but badly ventilated. All have gardens."

33*a*. *Mr. James Kello*, bailiff to Mr. R. P. Davies, says:—

"*Boys* of from 12 to 15 years of age are employed in summer and autumn.

"*Girls* of from 12 to 18 years are employed in hoeing turnips and harvest work.

"Women are generally employed in farm work.

"Men work from 7 to 12 and 2 to 6.

"Women from 8 to 12 and 2 to 6.

As to restricting the Age at which Children should work.

"I would limit the age for boys to 12, but for girls I see no need of restriction in this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school not generally taken advantage of, simply from the negligence of the parents."

Cottages.

"The cottages are generally in bad condition, but all have gardens."

Wages, &c.

"Including all allowances labourers wages average about 12*s.* a week; they are hired by the year and paid fortnightly.

"Labourers here at the wages they receive are fully as highly paid as southern Scotch labourers, taking the quantity and quality of work done.

"The families of labourers are not generally well treated, being principally fed on barley-bread and weak tea. Milk is *not* generally an article of diet with them."

Small Farms.

"Small farms are undoubtedly a great hindrance to the progress of agriculture. Small farmers generally have neither capital nor skill to farm profitably, and in a great many instances live harder than labourers."

CARDIGAN UNION.

ST. DOGMELLS.

34. *Mr. R. D. Jenkens*, landowner and occupier, says:—

"The *cultivation* is mixed, partly arable and partly pasture. That part of the parish which lies between the town of Cardigan and the village of St. Dogmells is altogether pasture.

"*Boys* generally go out as herd boys to look after sheep and cattle when about 13 years of age, but the great bulk of the male population of this parish are employed as sailors.

"*Girls* are employed about the age of 13 also to assist the farmers' wives in taking care of their children, and to go messages and make themselves generally useful. They begin working in the turnip fields when about 13 years of age.

"*Women* are employed entirely in domestic work, in milking the cows and principally in picking couch preparatory for turnip sowing, and also in hoeing turnips and mangolds and in hay and corn harvests."

As to Distance.

"The females employed on my own farm are the wives and children of my labourers who live on the farm, and also young persons residing in the village of St. Dogmells, which is distant about two miles.

"*Women work* from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. generally.

"I see no occasion for restricting the age at which children should work in this part of the county."

Schools.

"There are two schools for the poorer classes in the village of St. Dogmells, viz., a National and a British and Foreign school which are principally attended by the children of the village, viz., the sailor's children; but others go there also from the agricultural districts. There are some two or three other small schools in the village, and in addition Sunday schools belonging to all the churches and chapels."

Cottages.

"I do not consider the cottages generally are so well arranged as they should be with regard to the comfort of the labourers. I think they are pretty nearly sufficient for the supply of labour in this parish and generally conveniently situated with respect to the farms. I cannot say that any evil results to morality have come under my notice from the overcrowding of the cottages, but as a rule I consider them overcrowded; I think they are generally well supplied with water, but good ventilation is the exception.

Gardens.

"I think all the labourers' cottages in the agricultural parts have good sized gardens, also the great majority of the cottages in the village of St. Dogmells have gardens."

Wages and mode of Hiring.

"I can speak of those in my own employment. I have some labourers who have 1*s.* a day on their own finding excepting during the harvest, when I give them all their food in addition; those men also have 3*s.* a day when cutting hay; they pay me 3*l.* a year each for their cottages, gardens, and a sufficient quantity of land to keep a cow each and sometimes rear a calf and to grow corn, but not sufficient corn to maintain their families. I allow my teams and men to cultivate their land for them and to haul their fuel and manure free of expense for haulage. I also pay rates and tithes charged in respect of their holdings.

"To other labourers I give 8*s.* a week on their own finding with food during harvest time and the same wages for cutting hay as the prior class referred to; they live on my farm. I charge them 1*l.* a year for a cottage and garden, but they have no land to keep a cow. I haul their fuel free of charge.

"To a third class I give 8*s.* a week from November to March and 9*s.* from March to November, with the same regulations as to food during harvest and also the same wage for cutting hay as the others; they do not live in my cottages, therefore pay rather a higher rent than mine do. I allow my labourers to plant potatoes on my land, giving them six or eight cart loads of my farm manure for which they or rather their wives give me a day's harvesting for each cart load of manure, no other charge made for the load; the women have their food when so harvesting.

"I pay girls and women 8*d.* a day on their own finding excepting during harvest when I give them their food.

"I pay my ploughboys who follow the team from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year wages and their board and lodging.

"The usual way of hiring *farm servants* not labourers in this and the adjoining counties is at fairs held in the months of October and November. Males and females hire at such fairs as servants in husbandry, the male portion are principally engaged to follow the teams and the females to attend to dairies, feed the cows in many places and also the pigs, and to shake the straw when thrashing.

"I think the agricultural labourers are as a class in South Wales honest and industrious and of sober habits. They are not well housed as a rule and the food they eat is coarser than the English labourer. They do not eat so much animal food as the English, in many parts they eat barley bread, but wheaten bread is much more consumed now than it used to be. In my replies I ought perhaps to have stated that I never charge my labourers more than 4*s.* a bushel for barley; when it is to be had under that price they have the advantage, but it never exceeds that price to them."

NARBETH UNION.

AMROTH AND CRUNWERE.

Population, 1,150 - Acreage, 4,568.

35. *The Rev. W. D. Phillips*, rector, says:—

"*Boys* are employed in the spring and autumn, when they assist in hoeing turnips, planting potatoes, and in harvesting the corn; this is nearly the extent of their work."

"*Girls* are employed in my two parishes; without professing to be accurate, I think from 40 to 50 children between 12 and 15 or 16 years of age are employed (at 15 or 16 they generally go to service); their work is planting potatoes, weeding turnips, and harvesting.

"As there are a great many small holdings in my parishes, most of the *women* are occasionally engaged in field work; the number who work for hire are few."

Distance.

"They rarely go more than a mile to work."

As to restricting the Labour of Children or Women.

"The field labour is so inconsiderable in these parishes, consisting chiefly of grazing lands, that the time occupied by it is no material interruption in their attendance at school under the age of 13; after that period they are no longer found (I speak generally) in the school.

"Neither health nor education is in the slightest degree prejudiced by female field work in this locality."

Schools.

"In Amroth there are two schools, both fairly attended, not to the extent they should be. The attendance of children is irregular; the parents desire their children to be educated but seem careless as to the amount, and ignorant that it can be obtained only by diligence and regularity of attendance; the indifference of parents is the great obstacle to education."

Cottages.

"Cottages lately built provide for the separation of the sexes; the cottages of an earlier date are wretched, with no regard to decency or the accommodation of human beings; they are very much over-crowded, affecting unfavourably the morality of the people. They are generally located on the farms. Water is in plenty, but the cottages stifling."

Gardens.

"There are gardens attached to nearly all the cottages. As to allotments, until horticulture shall have made some advance amongst the rural population in this part of the country they would be of no advantage.

"Most of the poor are enabled to plant their potatoes on the ground of some neighbouring farmer, for which the latter receives help in harvest time, or the manure which has accumulated near the cottage."

35*a*. In a letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Phillips, who is diocesan inspector of schools for his district, says:—

"In the 12 schools which come under my notice, I should pronounce four efficient and doing really good work. The remainder certainly are the means of diffusing knowledge around, but not to the extent or of the accuracy which is desirable. The causes are not far to seek, but to describe them would need not a letter, but a report of a somewhat elaborate character.

"I may say, as a general proposition, that agricultural labour does not attract the children from school under 12, or more than other employments after that age.

"There are some in every parish, but their number is diminishing, who do not avail themselves of a school, whatever may be the character of it. A good school attracts more than an indifferent one.

"The general advance in wages, offering the children remunerative employment generally, is the great impediment to education, as they are thus withdrawn too early from school."

35*b*. *Mr. John Rogers*, schoolmaster, Amroth, 27 years standing, says:—

"This is a church school; it was built in 1860. There is an endowment of 15*l*., and I am paid 20*l*. a year in all, *i. e.*, 5*l*. is added by subscription to the endowment. I have also a house and small garden. We have about 60 children on an average.

At Crunwere the school is very small; the tollgate keeper is the teacher and the school is in his house. Some of the children from Crunwere come here, some go to Tavernspite, and some to Marros.

"We are able to keep very few children after 12 years of age, and the attendance is very irregular. This irregularity arises from the carelessness of the parents.

"The collieries take the children from about nine years of age; they get from 4*d*. to 5*d*. a day at that age. The agricultural labourers get about 12*s*. a week, chiefly paid in money. Colliers make from 12*s*. to 15*s*. a week. There are not nearly so many men employed in the collieries now as there used to be, and there are likely to be fewer. The cottages are generally very bad. The usual form of cottage is one long room with a door in the middle and small window on each side of the door, with a partition reaching from the door across or nearly across the room, and as high as the wall of the cottage. The room is open to the roof, and there is generally no loft or upstairs.

"We have a good many small farmers who pay about 30*l*. a year rent. These men keep their children at home to work, and are worse off than the regular labourer; their children leave school very early, and attend irregularly."

35*c*. *David Scurfield*, an able-bodied man working on the road, says:—"I am paid 10*s*. a week, with no "extras."

Another man working in the adjoining parish on the roads, said he had 9*s*. a week. (This was during hay time.—G. C.)

BEGELLY.

Population, 1,311 - Acreage, 3,878.

36. *The Rev. R. Buckby*, rector, says:—

"Neither women nor children are regularly employed in this parish in agriculture. The population are colliers and miners."

Across that portion of the circular of inquiry which refers to schools, cottages, gardens, &c., Mr. Buckby writes:—

"Mr. Culley, who is paid for it, had better go round and make these inquiries himself, as it is invidious to sit in judgment on a neighbour's property."

(On the day on which I called on Mr. Buckby and visited his school and one or two of the cottages in the village and neighbourhood of Begelly, I was told that he was engaged and could not see me, and in the circular which I left at his house I marked for his special attention the question referring to the provision of schools and attendance of the children; with the circular I left a form for a return of the attendance at the school.—G.C.)

36*a*. *Mr. Thomas John*, teacher of parochial school, says:—

"*Boys* seldom remain with us after 10, they go to the collieries, not to farm work. *Girls* remain till they are from 12 to 14.

"The attendance is bad, as the parents complain "that the school is too close." (The schoolroom is about 25 ft. by 14½ ft., with a low open roof and bad floor, very unfit to represent the chief, if not the only school of the parish.—G. C.)

"I have had as many as 65 children in this room in this weather; if I had a better room I could get a regular attendance of 70.

"I have no certificate, but I would like to sit for examination.

"The children pay 1*d*. for reading, and 1½*d*. for writing and ciphering, but I seldom get them to ciphering, and they soon forget their reading when they get to work.

"I am paid 12*l*. a year, besides what I can get. I can't get 30*l*. altogether.'

36*b*. *Griffith Thomas*, says:—"I am an invalid. I "was a collier. My cottage is freehold, and I rent three "acres at 7*l*. from Captain Child, and I keep a cow "on the common. I have 10 children; some of them "are grown up, the others go to Sunday school, but "not to day school. This girl, who is 12, cannot "read or write. The boy Richard, who is 10, cannot "read or write either; he herds cattle for Captain "Child, and gets 1*d*. a day and his victuals. They "won't take children at the parish school under five "years old."

CILMAENLLWYD.

Population, 640 - Acreage, 4,381.

37. *The Rev. R. B. Jones*, vicar, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed, the arable gradually becoming subservient to the pastoral; the produce of the dairy is rising in importance, and the corn lands gradually becoming of less and less value in many respects.

Employment of Boys.

"Whenever the children can be made useful without injury to themselves they are allowed to help, and allowed to fancy they are of very first-rate importance. Any act of oppression or cruelty towards the young would arouse the indignation and resentment of the whole country.

Employment of Girls.

"Whatever the mother can do, the daughter is ambitious to be thought equally clever. Girls are employed, and thus properly brought up to the manifold duties of after life, and much better educated than if confined over much to the three rules, without the necessary precautions against being spoiled.

"*Restrictions as to the age at which children should be permitted to work* are certainly not applicable to this neighbourhood; the idea in my opinion is absurd. Unless they could be made a little more in earnest, and a little more thoughtful and faithful, they had much better be left alone. Females and males do in this country pretty well as they like, they are masters and mistresses of the situation.

Means of Education, &c.

"Unfortunately, at present we are confined to such contrivances as our extreme poverty can devise. Whilst the millions are voted, and massive heaps of money wasted, England, while adding ten millions every year to her treasure store, cannot give one single penny in the pound to educate the children of her bold peasantry, the country's pride."

Condition of Cottages.

"The more attention can be directed to this subject the better. The greatest national benefit ever conferred on this country was the recent Highway Act introduced by the late Earl of Cawdor, and the present Earl, by his *cottage scheme*, bids fair to emulate his predecessor. Some cottages have gardens, whilst others have not.

Desire of Eucation.

"A good school would inevitably secure a good attendance. Let it be as free as the light of the sun, in the old-fashioned paths of good will, charity, and affection, and let every patriot for ever bury every vestige of *Odium Theologicum* in the charity that suffereth long and is kind."

CLARBESTON.

Population, 191 - Acreage, 1,588.

NEWMOAT.

Population, 311 - Acreage, 3,101.

38. *The Rev. Thos. Thomas*, answering for the parishes of Clarbeston and Newmoat, says:—

"*Boys* are employed in farm labour from 15 or 16, principally in spring, summer, and autumn."

"*Girls* are not generally so employed."

"*Young women* from 17 or 18 years of age are employed in setting potatoes, making hay, and binding corn."

"*Elder women* are employed in the same manner."

"They live near their work."

"*Boys* should not go to farm work under 14 or 15 years of age, but I am not aware, after much inquiry, that any legislative restriction is needed either in their case or that of *females*.

Schools, &c.

"In Clarbeston there is only a Sunday school. In Newmoat there is a day as well as Sunday school. These schools are generally taken advantage of; in cases where they are not, the neglect arises from the indifference of the parents.

Cottages, &c.

"Our cottages are sufficient for the supply of labour required, and have gardens or allotments of land."

EGLWYSCUMMIN.

Population, 260 - Acreage, 3,740.

39. *Mr. Cornelius Davies*, occupier and guardian, says:—

"The cultivation is chiefly arable.

"*Children* are sometimes employed during harvest time, and for weeding turnips, from 8 to 10 years of age.

"We employ all the *women* we can get during harvest time.

Distance.

"Generally the women, young persons, and children live in cottages on the farm.

"The *hours of work* are from eight to nine hours.

"I do not consider it necessary or desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys or females should be permitted to work."

Schools.

"There is a very good school in our parish, and the teacher is partly paid by Mrs. Jones, of Penlan, Cardiganshire. The agricultural labourers are permitted to send their children to the school at 1*d.* a week; and I believe they take the advantage offered them by sending their children regularly, except during harvest time."

The Cottages.

"The cottages in this parish and neighbourhood are very good; they are built of native stone, and are roofed with tiles. There are some old mud houses thatched with wheat straw. The cottages are sufficient in number for the supply of labour. They are conveniently situated. There is no overcrowding here. They are well ventilated; and the parish is remarkable for good wells near the cottages."

Gardens.

"All the cottages have good gardens; and the labouring class are generally allowed a large breadth of land for setting potatoes on their employer's fields."

Wages.

"I consider the value of wages to men, including allowances, all the year to be 2*s.* a day, and during harvest time 3*s.* a day. The wages of women are worth 1*s.* 6*d.* a day all the year."

HENLLANAMGOED.

Population, 445 - Acreage, 3,651.

Cultivation chiefly pastoral.

40. *Rev. Thos. Johns*, curate in sole charge, says:—

"Farm servants are hired for the *whole* year, and are generally either *young persons* or grown up men."

"Very young girls are not employed. Only two or three women are employed (more or less) in each farm, according to the size of the farm.

"There are no stated hours of work, as the servants sleep on the farm premises.

"So far as I am aware of the custom in this parish there is no need to place any restriction on the employment of children in farm labour.

"There is a day school in the parish, and two Sunday schools. They are well attended as a rule.

"The cottages are humble enough in appearance, but upon the whole they are pretty snug and comfortable. They are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. As a rule the cottages are not over-

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

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crowded. They are generally well supplied with water, but not well ventilated.

"I should say that every little cottage has its little garden."

ST. ISSELLS.

Population, 2,022 - Acreage, 3,830.

41. *The Rev. Jas. Dalton* says :—

"*The cultivation* is mixed; about equally divided. There are several collieries in the parish. Iron ore is also procured, and clay for making fire-bricks. At one or other of the works the younger portion of our population find employment.

"Very few *boys* are employed on the farms in my parish, perhaps half-a-dozen to assist in the hay or corn fields on each farm in harvest time.

"No boys or *girls* are employed on the farms in my parish, excepting the children of labourers who are tenants to the farmer and work on his farm. There is no employment for children except in harvest time.

"Women are very little employed.

"*Women* work from 8 to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I should not think it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land."

Schools.

"There is a National school for boys and girls, and a fair proportion of children attend the schools. There are also two small private schools in different parts of the parish, of which children avail themselve whose parents live at a distance from the National schools."

Cottages, &c.

"I cannot speak favourably of the condition of the cottages in the parish of St. Issells, or its neighbourhood; they are built of mud, and roofed with thatch, and consist of two rooms on the ground floor from 8 to 12 feet square. They are sufficient in number for the supply of labour required, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Some of them must be overcrowded when the family is large, but I have never heard of any evil results to morality from this cause. They are well supplied with water from some spring near or running water. There is no ventilation except what enters through the doorway and passes out through the chimney. The cottages are without out-houses or drainage of any kind. The cottages are generally underlet by the tenant farmer to the labourers who work for him all the year round. Sometimes they are let by the landowner. The rents vary from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year, according to the size and condition of the cottage and garden."

Gardens.

"There is scarcely a cottage in the parish without a tolerably good garden for potatoes and other vegetables."

41*a*. *Mr. John Gunter*, 12 years teacher at St. Issells.

"We seldom keep children to 12 years old. They sometimes leave us at 9 or 10, as they can get work at the collieries. A boy of 10 can get from 4*d*. to 6*d*. a day at the collieries. Farm labour only interferes with young boys at this time of year, when they are wanted to herd cattle and pigs in the stubbles. I have about 45 boys on an average to teach, and I am paid 10*s*. a week. I have no other privilege. 15 boys and as many girls are taken free."

41*b*. *Mrs. Elizabeth Merriman*, teacher of the girls school, St. Issells, says :—

"I have from 60 to 70 children, girls until they leave the school, and boys under 6 years of age. We keep a good many girls till they go to service, and teach them plain needlework and knitting. Some go to work at the collieries, separating the culm from earth, &c. at the pit-mouth. I am paid 12*l*. a year."

JEFFRESTON.

Population, 634 - Acreage, 2,343.

The *Rev J. D. Palmour*, vicar, says :—

As to Employment of Boys.

"There are very few boys in the parish employed in agriculture. Some enter service at from 12 to 14. and are generally employed all the year."

As to Employment of Girls.

"None are employed under 15 years of age; after 15 chiefly in the summer months, unless they are hired by the year.

"Women are only occasionally employed."

Hours of Work.

"Working hours on farms about here are from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an allowance of two hours at noon. The labourers live at the farm houses.

"*No restriction* as to the age at which *children* should be permitted to work is desirable as regards this parish."

Schools, &c.

"There is a National day school and Sunday school, also a Wesleyan Sunday school. I am sorry to say from the neglect of the parents, the attendance of the children is anything but what it ought to be; and the remark applies more particularly to parents who have themselves received the benefit of early instruction."

Cottages.

"Generally speaking in my parish the cottages have greatly improved within the last 20 years, and every care has been taken to make them comfortable and convenient, being for the most part rebuilt.

"All the cottages have *gardens* attached."

LAMPETER-VELFREY.

Population, 951 - Arceage, 5,667.

Cultivation, one-half arable and one-half pastoral.

43. *The Rev. R. Lewis*, rector and rural dean, says :—

"*Boys* are employed from about 13 or 14, when they are generally hired by the year, at first to do odd jobs such as driving cows to and from pasture, looking after pigs and poultry, cleaning out stables and cow-houses, until in a year or two they begin to drive a team.

"*Young girls* generally go out at first to take charge of a baby, often as young as 12 years of age; from this post they pass in a year or two to be under dairymaids and are employed very much as boys of the same age.

"There are very few farms on which *women* are employed except to make hay, reap, and dig potatoes. The work is done on most farms by those who live in the farm house. The farms are small and the farmer's wife and daughters and perhaps one hired maid do all the women's work except that alluded to above."

Hiring of Children.

"Children are generally hired by the year and live in their employer's house. For the first year they get their food and presents of clothes or a very small sum as wages. There are no stated hours of work."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be employed.

"I do not think any such restriction is necessary in this neighbourhood."

Means of Education, &c.

"There are two Church of England schools in the parish (*see* School Returns,—G.C.) and one Dissenting

school. The parents generally allow the children to go as they like, they are themselves indifferent about their education. Where there is a popular master the children like going to school and have their own way. Early labour is not in my opinion a preventing cause."

Condition of Cottages and Morality.

"Many cottages are in an unsatisfactory condition, badly ventilated and overcrowded; I believe they are sufficient for the supply of labour required. The state of morality so far as intercourse between the sexes is concerned is exceedingly low; it is a rare thing for a young woman of the labouring class to be married before she is a mother or about to become one."

Gardens.

"Almost all the cottages have gardens sufficiently large for the growth of all vegetables except potatoes; ground for these is usually supplied by the farmer by whom the occupants are employed."

Change in Dress.

"It is worthy of observation that in this neighbourhood in consequence probably of a change in female dress from the coat and jacket formerly worn to the modern style common now in this country as well as in England, and owing also to the increasing love of smart clothes which are now within reach of the lower orders a vastly increasing number of young females seek employment in sewing."

43*a*. *Mr. W. H. Sheild*, landowner, occupier, and guardian, says, "The cultivation is generally very bad, a large acreage of what ought to be cultivated is a waste, and from want of drainage some of the pasture land is nearly worthless.

"*Boys* are generally above 13 years of age before they are employed in agriculture, and as a rule are hired by the farmers and live with them through the year; for a few weeks in the summer and autumn they are employed singling green crops and in the harvest field, but none are employed under 12 years of age.

"*Girls* are hired into the houses more as domestic servants than in farm labour, and are generally upwards of 13 years old; the same rule applies as much to the boys as the girls.

"Women are employed in haymaking, and where green crops are grown from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; in harvest time they work later, but very seldom after 7 p.m. In the winter they are employed in the barns occasionally and by the small farmers in looking after their cattle.

"Throughout the parish they reside upon the farms or within a quarter of a mile of their work. There is not the slightest occasion for any restriction to be placed on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land as the labour of children under 12 is not profitable and they are better at school.

"There are two good schools under the management of the rector and one belonging to the Independents.

"The *cottages* have been allowed to become ruins throughout the whole district, so much so that were farmers with capital to be desirous of cultivating the land there are no cottages for them without rebuilding and that to a considerable extent. What cottages there are are not overcrowded, there is generally plenty of pure water close to them. The cottagers have an intense hatred to open windows.

"The gardens are generally very large and adjoin their cottages. Potatoe ground is generally very reasonable from the custom of paying so many days work in the harvest for each load of dung; this custom has arisen from the non-employment of able-bodied labourers by those who give their dung for potatoes as a means of getting men to cut their corn.

"Where a labourer is kept he is usually hired for the year at 1*s*. a day and his food, working from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; others earn about 12*s*. to 13*s*.: hours 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. according to the season."

43*b*. *Mr. Thos. Davidson*, occupier, says, "The cultivation is very indifferent with few exceptions.

"*Very few boys* are employed under 13 years of age (with the exception of bird herding); from that age upwards they are generally hired from year to year and board in the employers' houses.

"*Girls* are employed as indoor servants and to do dairy work from 12 years of age.

"*Women* are employed about six months in the year, potatoe planting, turnip hoeing, hay making, harvesting, and turnip trimming. I employ sometimes ten women, but average four.

"The *distance* labourers have to go to their work is from half a mile to a mile and a half."

Hours of work.

"*Team men* from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"*Women* from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"*Horses*, 9 hours per day.

"*No restriction* as to the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land is needed in this parish.

"I have never known children or females overworked."

Schools.

"There are two good schools mainly supported by the Rev. R. Lewis, minister of the parish, and one by the Dissenters, the parents do not quite appreciate the advantages offered to them although the children are seldom employed in agriculture until the age of 14.

"The *cottages* are generally in fair condition.

"There are good *gardens* almost without exception, and some have allotments.'

Mode of Hiring and Value of Wages.

"The board for labourers in some farm houses is broth for breakfast and dinner and supper with bread and cheese, adding a little bacon for dinner of what the broth has been made. The better farmers give tea, bread, and butter for breakfast, with meat, vegetables and bread for dinner, broth with potatoes, bread and cheese for supper.

"Average wages from 10*s*. to 11*s*. per week."

LLANBOIDY.

Population, 1,744 - Acreage, 10,666.

Cultivation mixed.

44. *Mr. W. R. H. Powell*, J.P., landowner, says:—

"*Boys* are employed from 10 years of age.

"*Girls* are taken to farm houses to nurse, fetch the cows, and assist about the house from about 10 years of age."

Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land?

"As it is *not uncommon* to find parents so indifferent to their children's welfare as to allow them to grow up in a state of gross ignorance without even the excuse of having occupation for them or need of such service as they may be able to render, I think children should in justice be protected from such grievous injury by parents being liable to penalties when the school attendance of their children under the age of 12 years is such as to be unsatisfactory to the managers of the school or some constituted authority.

"There is no necessity to restrict the employment of females in this district when employed above 12 years of age."

Schools, &c.

"There is a national school mentioned in Blue Book 1868–69 as the best in the county, and to

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

c.

which children of labourers are admitted at one penny each per week. A good attendance drawn from a radius of quite three miles may be cited as proof that the means of education are very generally taken advantage of, but the benefits of education in too many cases are prized too lightly to weigh against a small pecuniary consideration to be derived from child labour. The parents are most anxious that their children should learn English, and have requested that the school children should be made to speak English during play hours."

Cottages.

"The cottages are poor but clean; they are not sufficient in number for the labour required nor conveniently situated for the farms."

Gardens.

"The gardens are better than the cottages and are quite large enough."

LLANDEWY-VELFREY, WITH CRINOW.

Population, 860 - Acreage, 4,374.

45. *The Rev. D. Jones*, vicar, says :—

"The cultivation is chiefly pastoral, and the only employment is in agriculture.

"Boys are employed from 12 to 13 years of age and upwards; they hire themselves as agricultural servants by the year from Michaelmas to Michaelmas.

"Girls are employed as farm servants as soon as the parents can procure places for them.

"Women are employed in haymaking and corn harvest, and the time varies according to circumstances.

"No restriction on the age of children employed in agriculture is necessary as far as my knowledge extends.

"All children are admitted to the church school at 1*d.* a week without any distinction as to creed; they attend tolerably well.

"Some of the cottages are pretty good, and others are indifferent.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens."

45*a*. *Mr. J. L. G. P. Lewis*, landowner, occupier, and J.P., says, "There is very little corn grown in this parish, the land is almost all pasture and held by dairymen.

"Boys are very seldom employed in this parish. I only employ one, about 11 years old, to take care of the poultry.

"Very few girls are employed; none under 13, and then only in haymaking.

"Women are employed in haymaking, and a few about mangolds and turnips.

"No one has to go more than half a mile to his work.

"The hours of work for men are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner.

"I do not think that it is at all necessary to put any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work, but, if possible, it would be well to compel the parents to send their children to school.

"There are two schools, one a Church of England school and the other a dissenting school, they are generally taken advantage of; but the parents do not compel the children to attend regularly. The cause of non-attendance is the carelessness of parents.

"The cottages are very poor, the common two-roomed cottage with mud floor; they are not sufficient for the supply of the labour, they are conveniently situated for the farms. In some instances they are overcrowded; no evil results to morality have come under my notice. The cottages are generally well supplied with water, but are badly ventilated.

"All the cottages have gardens.

"The wages of farm labourers are 9*s.* a week all the year round; but in hay and corn harvest they earn more, which amounts to about 1*l.* 10*s.* in the year, they have a cottage and garden for which they pay 2*l.* a year."

45*b*. *Mr. John Morgan*, occupier, says :—

"Farm labourers' wages are for the year round 1*s.* a day and food; if they don't have food they have from 9*s.* to 10*s.* a week.

"Labourers who live in cottages belonging to the farmers have 9*s.* a week and pay about 40*s.* a year rent.

"*Women* would work at any farm work if they could get it, but there is very little else but hay-making and harvest work for them. They are paid 8*d.* a day, with dinner and supper. Some farmers only pay women 8*d.* and give them a drop of beer twice a day.

"We pay for mowing 2*s.* to 3*s.* an acre, and the men work very hard, beginning at 2 in the morning.

"I pay a catch workman, who thatches for me, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and his meat.

"Wages have not increased in this parish for five or six years.

"The dairy farmers require very little labour, except what girls can do.

"Dairy girls get about 6*l.* or 7*l.* A farmer's house servant (female) gets about 6*l.*

"The food of a labourer's family here would be pretty nearly as follows :—

"Breakfast, tea and bread and butter or cheese.

"Dinner, potatoes and butter milk or cheese.

"Supper, the same, or flummery and butter milk. The cheese is made from skim milk, and very few of our labourers keep a cow.

"The labourer whom the farmer keeps has meat at dinner, and broth at breakfast and dinner. It is good for him but bad for his family."

45*c*. *Mr. Levi Parry*, Master of Llandewy Velfrey Church School, says :—

"I generally keep the boys at school till they are from 12 to 13; but the attendance is irregular, generally through the fault of the parents; we also labour under the difficulty, in winter, of the children having a long way to come, some of them three miles.

"The girls leave about the same age as the boys.

"The land in this parish is most of it in grass and about half of the labourers keep cows, some one, some three or four. Some of our land is so good that $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres will keep a cow all the year round.

"I have known grass land let by auction at 6*l.* an acre, while in the north of the parish the land is not worth 10*s.* an acre. The cows would be a great blessing to the labourers' families if they had not to pay so high a rent.

"Our people, as a rule, are very sober. We have very little agricultural labour in the parish, and our young men go off to the works, but they are better off at home when they can get work. At the works they spend most of their money in drink."

LLANDISSILIO.

Population, 1,036 - Acreage, 6,467.

46. *Rev. D. Jones*, vicar, says :—

"*Boys* are employed in farm labour from 12 to 14 years of age and upwards; the elder boys are hired from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, the younger hired for harvest time only.

"*Girls* are employed as farm servants at from 14 years of age upwards; the older and more proficient, those from 20 years and upwards, as dairymaids; the younger and less proficient, as what are termed 'barn floor girls,' whose occupation consists of feeding the cattle, &c., doing such farm work as hoeing turnips, weeding, &c., and also helping the dairymaid in her work.

"The *distance* labourers go to their work, is, I should say, from a mile and a half to two miles. When they

give voluntary aid, as in the time of haymaking, perhaps, they go further; but I should say that the distance, as a rule, does not exceed two miles.

"Labourers *work* from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Restrictions on Labour.

"In this neighbourhood I should say that no restriction on the employment of children is desirable."

Schools.

"One Madam Bevan's circulating Free School for the church and two schools in connexion with the Baptist denomination; advantage is taken of them, especially during the winter months. The chief causes of non-attendance are bad weather, very bad roads, and also remissness on the part of the parents."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is poor. They are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required. As a rule they are built on the farms, therefore are conveniently situated; some of the cottages are overcrowded, no evil result has come under my notice in consequence; the water supply is good, ventilation as a rule very bad."

Gardens.

"A cottage without a garden is a great exception to the rule."

46*a*. *Mr. R. F. Gower*, landowner, says:—

"*Children* above 12 years of age are employed in hay time and harvest and in weeding turnips.

"Women are also employed in the work above described.

"All live within a mile of their work.

"Women in summer work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ to 2 hours allowed for meals; in winter they are never employed.

"The labour of boys might be restricted to those over 10 years of age.

"No restriction as to the labour of girls is necessary in this district."

Schools.

"There are two schools; one belonging to the dissenters and the other to the church. The first having the largest attendance because it has the best master. The church school is for three years only being supported by Mrs. Bevan's Charity, which goes from parish to parish."

Cottages.

"The cottages are not over good, might be much better. In this parish they have been built generally by subscription (stone being obtained from the landlord). They are not overcrowded; most of them have gardens and are near water."

46*b*. *Mr. Stephen Williams*, 21 years master of the Dissenting School at Llandissilio, says:—

"I generally keep the children of the labouring class till they are 11.

"The parents take more interest than they did, but some still neglect their children."

LLANFALTEG.

Population, 353 - Acreage, 1,866.

Cultivation mixed.

47. The *Rev. Thos. Evans*, rector, says:—

"*Boys* are generally employed about 12 years old, and for the most part all the year round.

"*Girls* are not employed, except as farm servants and they go out about 12 years of age.

"*No women* are employed in agriculture.

"*The hours of work* are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., except in harvest.

"I think it is not desirable to place any restriction on the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land as far as regards this parish."

Means of Education, &c.

"There is a school lately established in the parish, and the children do take advantage of it."

State of Cottages.

"Rather indifferent. I think they are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required, and are conveniently situated. Some are overcrowded, but no evil results have come under my notice in consequence. They are well supplied with water and well ventilated.

"All the cottages have gardens."

LLANGAN.

Population, 641 - Acreage, 4,952.

48. *The Rev. Richard Jones*, curate in charge, says:—

"*The cultivation* is mixed, depending chiefly on the dairy.

"*Boys* are hired as servant boys for the year at 14 or 15 years of age and upwards. No children under 13 are employed here in agriculture.

"No *girls* are employed in agriculture. There are some employed nursing children even under 13.

"*Women* are generally employed on the farms at hay and corn harvest, not otherwise, except by chance."

As to restricting the Age of Employment for Boys.

"No restriction whatever is wanted in this parish, but there are parishes in South Wales where restriction may be desirable. I should say 14 would be a proper limit."

As to restricting the Age of Employment for Girls.

"It may be desirable in certain districts, but it is not wanted in this parish."

Schools.

"We have a very superior school-house here in the middle of the parish, a village close by, and there is a school here. Some bring their penny a week, others too poor or too remiss. We have no certificated master at present so no Government grant, and our funds are rather low."

Cottages.

"The cottages are mostly mud walls and straw thatch, too small generally, and many have only one or too rooms at most. There is one cottage generally on each farm. There are few villages in Wales. Some of the cots rather too crowded; but the children are out to service at 14 or 15. The cottages are well supplied with water, but not so well ventilated."

Gardens.

"All the cottages have good gardens, which are tolerably well cultivated."

LLANGLYDWEN.

Population, 286 - Acreage, 1,834.

49. *The Rev John Jones*, rector, says:—

"*Boys* as a rule are not employed in this neighbourhood in agricultural labour, excepting such as are hired for a year, the youngest in my service is between 12 and 13; the time of hiring is in November.

"*Girls* are only employed as in-door servants, hired for a year, the youngest in my service is about 14; they generally commence service when about 13.

"I believe the laws which regulate the employment of children in this neighbourhood are the poverty of the parents on the one hand, and the scarcity of labourers on the other. I am not prepared to offer an opinion as to whether it would be useful or not to disturb the natural order of things by conventional laws; as far as this locality is concerned I am inclined to think not.

Pmbroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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"There is no *school* in the parish, but there are two schools within a short distance. I believe the poor avail themselves of these as far as their circumstances will allow.

"The *cottages* in this parish are generally in a very poor condition, being low thatched hovels, but they are not over-crowded, and their occupants are generally as contented and healthy as their neighbours.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens belonging to them."

LLANGOLMAN and LLANDILO.

Population, 408 - Acreage, 4,044.

Cultivation mixed.

50. *The Rev. T. Walters*, says:—

"*Boys* are employed at about 12 years of age for light work on farms, and also in quarries in this district.

"*Girls* are also employed by the farmers from 12 to 14 years of age, to milk the cows and nurse children, and to help in many other ways in the harvest time.

"Women are not employed to any great extent.

"Labourers go from half-a-mile to 1½ miles to their work.

"Labourers work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer.

"If any *restriction on the age at which children should work* is necessary, which I do not think, I would place the limit at from 12 to 14."

Schools.

"There is no school in the Llangolman parish, but there is one in the adjoining parish of Llandisilio and a school at Maenclochog; the children take advantage of both schools until they are able to go out to service."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is fair in this parish, and they are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. The people in this mountainous district have plenty of fresh air and a good supply of well water."

Gardens.

"The cottages have gardens, and often they have land to keep a cow, but the last privilege is seldom granted by the farmers now, except in the case of an old lease, when they cannot take away their allotments and add it to their farms."

LLANYCEFN.

Population, 416 - Acreage, 2,684.

Cultivation mixed.

51. *The Rev. L. Davies*, vicar, says:—

"*Boys* are generally employed on the different farms in the parish about 12 years of age and upwards, and occasionally at all times of the year.

"*Girls* are also employed from about 12 years of age, chiefly in domestic service.

"*Women* are not employed to any certain or fixed extent.

"The *distance* they have to go to work is short, as they are employed generally on the respective farms of their parents or friends in the parish.

"They have no fixed *hours of work*.

"I believe that it is not desirable to place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land in this parish."

Schools.

"There is no school whatever in the parish; some of the children are taught by their parents, and others at schools in the adjoining parishes."

Cottages.

"The cottages in the parish and neighbourhood are in a fair condition; they are sufficient for the supply of labour; they are conveniently situated for the farms; they are not over-crowded."

Gardens.

"All the cottages in the parish have good gardens, conveniently situated for the use of the labourers and their families."

LLYS-Y-FRANE.

Population, 168 - Acreage, 1,466.

Cultivation mixed.

52. *The Rev. W. B. Thomas*, says:—

"*Boys* are hired for the year at Michaelmas. They receive wages (from 3*l.* to 8*l.*) and their food at the farm house; they are seldom hired before 14 years of age."

"*Girls* are hired in the same way as boys. Children are seldom employed, except in haymaking and harvest, or perhaps in nursing in chance cases for short periods."

"*Women* weed corn and gardens. In rare cases they fill carts, but the practice is dying out."

Hours of Work.

"People work by the day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Yearly servants have no fixed hours, but are not over-worked."

As to restricting the age at which children should be permitted to work on land. For boys,—

"I think it would be well to limit the age to 12, provided the education of the boys up to that time were made obligatory."

For Girls,—

"I think restriction is not necessary, but a provision for girls' education similar to that of boys would be good."

Schools.

"A British school has lately been provided; many take advantage of it, but parents are not sufficiently sensible of the advantages of education, and some children are kept at home and have no education."

Cottages.

"The cottages are generally built of earth and straw and thatched; or of stone and mortar, and slated. The rooms are seldom more than two in all, and are about 10 feet square. They are sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are often over-crowded with members of the family, but no evil results to morality arise from this cause. They have plenty of good water and are well ventilated and fairly drained. They are without outhouses, excepting a pigstye or shed. The cottages are owned by the proprietor of the farms on which they are built. They are sometimes built by the cottagers on a sort of lease. Rents vary from 1*l.* to 3*l.* with garden."

Cows and Gardens.

"Most of the cottagers have cows, generally one cow per cottage; those who have no cow have a garden."

LOVESTON.

Population, 122 - Acreage, 1,233.

53. *The Rev. W. Bowling*, says:—

"*The cultivation* is about two-thirds arable.

"Our population consists of 59 males and 63 females, of whom not more than 20 are children.

"Women are employed in the turnip and harvest seasons, but only on the farm on which they live. They work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is not desirable to restrict the age at which children should be allowed to work.

"There is a very good *school* about a mile and a half from the church.

"*The cottages* are poor of their kind, but clean and comfortable. There are very few of them, as the

ork of the farms is generally done by servants living the house.

"The cottagers generally have large gardens; ey also have potatoes set for them in the farmer's ld."

LUDCHURCH.

Population, 264 - Acreage, 1,607.

54. *Mr. John Lewis*, occupier says:—

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age and pwards as hired servants."

"*Girls* are employed from about 13 years of age d upwards in field work, and as helpers in dairy ork.

"*Women* are employed in work connected with ie dairy, weeding, hoeing, haymaking, and harvest ork.

"Labourers have not more than a mile, generally ss than half, to go to their work.

"*Women* work from 8 to 12 in the morning, and om 2 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon."

"*No restriction* on the labour of children is neces- ary in this district."

Schools.

"There is one school kept by an uncertificated aster. What is wanted here is a more competent aster, a better class schoolroom, the parishioners to ave some part in the management, and to be under overnment inspection."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages in this parish is ad, and they have undergone no modern improve- ent, and contain one or two rooms, with the excep- ion of a couple on Hill Farm. The number of ottages is quite sufficient for the supply of the abour as at present required, and they are conveni- ntly situated with regard to the farms; a few are vercrowded with large families, but I cannot say hat any evil results to morality have come under my otice in consequence. There is a good supply of ater everywhere in the parish."

Gardens, &c.

"I do not know of one cottage in the parish that as not a good sized garden; a great many of the ottagers have small farms. Half the labourers in is parish are small farmers."

MAENCLOCHOG.

Population, 396 - Acreage, 2,754.

Cultivation mixed.

55. *Rev. T. Walters*, vicar, says:—

"*Boys* are employed from about 12 years old.

"*Girls* become useful to farmers from 12 to 14 ears of age."

Distance Labourers go to Work.

"The young men who go to the slate quarry have ittle more than a mile from the village to go. The omen go to the farms about here to work during arvest. The distance is not more than one mile."

Hours of Work.

"Quarry men work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; women work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be allowed to work.

"I would place the limit at 12; but I think no restriction, especially in this district, is necessary."

Schools.

"There is a school in this village supported by subscriptions from landed proprietors. The school- house is a wretched one, which prevents us getting any aid from Government. The children take advan- tage of this school, and it is crowded in the winter quarter."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages in this village and throughout the parish is very bad, *quite uninhabitable*. Cottages ought to be built for the quarry men and labourers, which would remunerate the owners, and would tend to improve the condition and comfort of the poorer class, as well as their morality."

Gardens.

"The cottages (such as we have) have gardens."

Wages.

"The wages are fair, from 12*s.* to 21*s.* Labourers are very scarce here, owing principally to the slate quarries, where they get constant work and good wages."

MARTLETWY.

Population, 703 - Acreage, 3,551.

Cultivation mixed.

56. The *Rev. Thomas Williams*, curate, says:—

"*Boys* are seldom employed to any extent except as servants.

"*Girls* are rarely employed except a few peeling trees in the season.

"*Women* are scarcely employed at all except in harvest time.

"*Women* work generally from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is *not* desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land.

"It is not desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females in agriculture.

"There is a Church of England school; the children take advantage of it.

"The condition of the cottages is fair generally. They are quite sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required. They are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are not overcrowded; well supplied with water; ventilation tolerable.

"The cottages have good gardens allotted to them generally."

MINWERE.

Population, 99 - Acreage, 1,957.

57. *Mr. Theophilus Llewellyn*, occupier, says, "I farm 280 acres, of which about 25 acres are arable. I employ a man and lad and two boys. I would have more land in tillage if I could get labour conveniently."

"I can only get a labourer occasionally, when I pay him in winter 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and his food, and in summer 2*s.* a day and food. There is only one cottage on my farm. There were a good many at one time, but they were pulled down, or allowed to fall down.

"In Minwere and the adjoining parish of Newton are the ruins of two parish churches (there being now no church in either parish), and 50 or 60 cottages, all pulled down or allowed to fall into decay during the last 30 years.

"There is no school in either parish."

NARBERTH with ROBESTON-WATHEN.

Population, 2,079 - Acreage, 7,429.

58. *Mrs. Matthias*, says:—

"My husband works on the line; he has 14*s.* a week. We have two bedrooms upstairs, but we cannot use them, they are so hot in this weather. We all (husband and wife and three children) sleep in this room (a very small kitchen) in these two beds (beds which, like many I saw in Wales, shut up in the day time). We pay 3*l.* for our cottage and garden."

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

O.

58*a*. *William Morris*, labourer, says, "We have only one room open to the roof (a thatched roof), and this mud floor isn't over good. I pay 2*l*. for the cottage and little bit of garden.

"I have brought up 16 children of my own in this cottage, and my wife has taken in 10 children (bastards) for girls to nurse."

58*b*. *D. Williams*, labourer, living in a cottage with two small rooms on ground floor, says, "I pay about 50*s*., rates and all, for my cottage. About 2½ tons of culm made into balls (for firing) lasts me a year. We pay 3½*d*. a cwt. at the pit for the culm, and leadage costs about 4*s*. a ton."

58*c*. *Mrs. Scorey*, wife of a labourer living in Robeston-Wathen, says, "We came here from Hampshire. Labourers wages here are 10*s*. a week, where we came from they were 12*s*. There are very few regular labourers here; most of the people have a bit of land, and they are pretty well off. Some keep 5 to 10 cows, and occasionally work for other people. I think the people here live very hard, but not because they are forced to do it; they sell the best they have, and put up with anything. They live a good deal on barley-bread, potatoes, and Welsh cheese (worth from 2*d*. to 2½*d*. a pound). We use white bread, and make our own bread. I like the people here as well as I did those in Hampshire."

58*d*. Evidence of a boy who drove the Assistant Commissioner from Narberth Road.

"I am going to my 12, sir. I can't read nor write. I've only been at school for about a month, and this here schoolmaster is good for nothing to teach anything. My father 's going to send me to Haverfordwest to school, and if I can get to be a scholar my brother says he can get me a place in London, on the Great Western Railway."

South Narberth.

Population, 829 - Acreage 3,476.

59. *The Rev.* —— *Cornish*, says,

"I would restrict the age at which *boys* should be employed on the land to 13.

"Other occupations should be sought for *females*, it would conduce to the interests of morality."

Schools.

"Very inadequate means of education are provided in this parish; of these the agricultural labouring class is slow to take advantage, from poverty as well as early labour."

Cottages.

"The cottages are very bad; in many cases overcrowded. They are ill supplied with water, and ill ventilated, without back window or door. They have very fair gardens."

Pendine.

Population, 204 - Acreage, 900.

60. *The Rev. D. Thomas*, rector, says:—

"The cultivation is mixed; more arable than pastoral.

"*Boys* are employed at a very early age, but most of them being farmers' sons they are never overdriven; they are only called upon to do what they can. Servant boys, if young, are well cared for.

"*Girls*, if young, are only employed in some light household work. They are engaged from 10 upwards. I never heard of one ill-treated or overworked. They are not easily found; they marry very young, and off they go to Merthyr.

"*Women* are employed a little in hay harvest and in binding corn; some few, if they can be had, are employed in hoeing turnips.

"The *distance* labourers have to go to their work is hardly ever more than a mile.

"*Hours of work* of *women* are from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m., an hour being allowed at noon.

"I see no necessity that the legislature should interfere and place any restriction on the age at which children should be permitted to work on the land. I have never heard of a child being ill-treated."

Schools.

"There are schools in abundance in the neighbourhood, and a few take advantage of them. There is much difficulty to please the parents; and too many are quite unconcerned whether the children attend or not; early labour does not prevent them."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is decent; there are some of them small. Much of the state of the cottage depends upon the wife; I should say all; indeed, if the cottage is not tidy it is the fault of the wife. There is often more misery in the well-to-do cottage than in the poorer one. Labourers from a distance sleep at the farm-house. Immorality prevails more in the farm-house than in the cottage. The cottages are generally well supplied with water. Ventilation proceeds from the door."

Gardens.

"Most of the cottages have gardens, enough to supply them with vegetables. Potatoes for a winter stock they generally plant on farm lands; they work so many days in harvest with the farmer for the setting of a certain quantity of potatoes. In the parish of Pendine there are three acres of land allotted to the poor by the Inclosure Commissioners, but they make no use of it."

Pendine Allotment of Land for the Poor.

60*a*. Copy of Letter to the Assistant Commissioner from the *Rev. David Thomas*.

August 16, 1869.

"From inquiries I have made since I received your letter, I learn that the plot of ground set apart for the use of the poor in the parish of Pendine by the Inclosure Commissioners is most disadvantageously situated, being difficult of approach, open to trespass by sheep and cattle, and liable to a charge of 1*l*. yearly rent, to be paid to the Lord of the Manor; but it is said that if it were used, it is very likely the Lord of the Manor would return the rent to the occupiers. A very undesirable piece of ground it must be confessed has been selected for their use."

Slebech (with Minwere and Newton).

Population, 435 - Acreage, 7,264.

61. The *Rev. Benjamin Thomas*, curate in charge, says:—

"*No boys* under 13 are employed in farm labour.

"*Very few girls* are employed in this parish.

"*A few women* are employed in hoeing turnips, hay and corn harvests.

"Labourers go about a mile to their work.

"Women work nine hours."

As to restricting the Age of Employment.

"*Boys* can be usefully employed in *light work* on a farm at 10 years of age.

"*Girls* can be usefully employed at 12 years of age. I do not think there should be any restriction."

Schools.

"There is a school in this parish supported by the Rev. H. A. Philipps, of Picton Castle, who is also the vicar of St. Mary's, Haverford-west. The school is very well attended and the education imparted very superior. There are no schools in Minwere or Newton, the children attend Narberth school."

Cottages.

"There has lately been a great improvement made in this parish, many new cottages have been built and others repaired, and there are some now building; in some degree other parishes supply the

bur. Instances of overcrowding are very few, and now of no bad results in consequence.

All the cottages have pretty good gardens; there no allotments."

1*a*. *Mr. H. P. Goode*, agent for the Rev. J. H. A. lipps, of Picton Castle, speaking chiefly with rence to the Picton Castle estate and Slebech ish, says:—

Boys from 10 to 15 years of age are employed fly in winter and spring.

Girls above 14 are sometimes employed about making, turnip hoeing, and barking in the woods il they draft off to service as nursemaids, &c.

Women are employed in field work when required, y make hay, weed the garden, clean up the yards, turnips, bark timber, &c."

Distance they have to go to work.

"About one to two miles."

Hours of work.

"According to circumstances. Haymaking, 10 a.m. 3 or 7 p.m.; other work, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; barking ber, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., allowing time for meals."

As to restricting the Age at which Boys should be permitted to work.

"There should be no restriction when they are ual to their work; 13 or 14 is a reasonable age."

As to restriction on the Employment of Females in Agriculture.

"It is not desirable to place any restriction in this unty or on this estate. They generally prefer -door work, the open air tends to make them erful."

Schools, &c.

"The proprietor has provided a school, pays a ster and mistress 40*l*. with a good house and den rent free. The master gets a weekly addition m those who can afford to pay. The report of the ldren's attendance is very good; about 60 on an erage attend."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

"The majority of the cottages are very good, there some occupied by very old people which are not y good, but they pray to be allowed to occupy m in preference to new ones, which otherwise uld have been provided for them. The majority about 75 years of age."

Gardens, Wages, &c.

"Most of the cottages have good gardens; the ttagers keep poultry, most of them a pig; some ve land on the outskirts and keep a cow or two.

"Wages are nearly uniform for all ages, 9*s*. a ek with cottage and garden rent free, their coals iven for them and sundry other privileges worth in 12*s*. per week."

YERBESTON.

Population, 118 - Average, 1,224.

62. The *Rev. Wm. Bowling*, says,

"The *cultivation* is about two-thirds arable.

"Our population consists of 53 males and 65 males, of whom not more than 20 are children.

"Women are employed in the turnip and harvest asons, but only on the farm on which they live. ney work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It is not desirable to restrict the age at which ildren should be allowed to work.

"There is a very good *school* about a mile and a lf from the church.

"The *cottages* are poor of their kind but clean and mfortable. There are very few of them, as the ork of the farms is generally done by servants ing in the house.

"The cottagers generally have large *gardens;* y also have potatoes set for them in the farmer's ld."

CARMARTHEN UNION.

LLANGAIN.

Population, 393 - Acreage, 2,660.

63. *Mr. W. E. B. Gwyn*, J.P., landowner and occupier, says:—

"The *cultivation* is mixed, there being a large proportion of old pasture and meadow land. The acreage of land under corn and cultivation is comparatively small, and as a consequence the number of women and children employed is also small. Our population is I believe now considerably less than 393, as for the last few years some of my best men have been leaving for Glamorganshire, not being able to find constant employment at home as well as being tempted by higher wages.

"Very few *boys* are employed under 13 years in our parish generally; an orphan may sometimes be taken of a younger age and employed in herding pigs and poultry or some such easy work. Almost every farm has one or two or three boys from 13 years to 25 hired as yearly servants, the elder being ploughboys.

"*Girls* are employed at very similar ages to boys and as yearly servants.

"Women are employed to a very small extent as compared with many English counties. Very few green crops being grown the field work is small. Being myself a considerable grower of roots I employ nearly as many women taking all the year round as all the parish put together."

Distance Labourers have to go to work.

"The longest would be about half a mile. Nearly all the labourers live on or near the farms where they are employed."

Hours of Work.

"*Men* work from 10 to 11 hours.

"*Women* work 9 hours."

As to restricting the Age at which Children should be permitted to work.

"I do not consider any restriction necessary."

Schools, &c.

"There is no good school in the parish, but in the immediate outskirts we have a qualified Government teacher who has a large number of pupils, and I believe I am right when I say there is not in the parish a man who does not as often as his means allow avail himself of the advantage when within his reach. I am happy to say that we shall have a qualified teacher in the parish in September next."

Cottages.

"The cottages generally are dry and comfortable, not over well ventilated; they are nearly all on the farms where their occupiers are employed or within easy reach, not more than half a mile. None are to my knowledge overcrowded, and they are invariably within a short distance of a good well of water."

Gardens and Potatoe Ground.

"Every cottage has attached to it a garden considered sufficient, and every labourer gets a piece of ground for his potatoes with his employer, the cultivation, manuring, and horse labour being all done by the farmer; the labourer gets all his coals hauled also."

Wages and Hiring.

"I pay my labourers 10*s*. a week and a cottage and garden rent free, with potatoe ground and haulage of coals, which altogether will amount to 12*s*.

"Ten or twelve years ago every labourer lived on barley-bread and cheese and fed and killed a small pig; now all live on good wheaten bread, and the thrifty and good managers have always a good pig at Christmas."

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

B.

o.

LLANGENDEIRNE.

Population, 2,355 - Acreage, 11,810.

64. *Mr. John Evans*, occupier and guardian, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed."

"*Boys* are not employed before 12, and then regularly, or more correctly saying, they are more employed in winter than in summer.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age as boys, but not in the same occupation.

"*Women* are employed at harvest and their employment is somewhat general in summer.

"Labourers work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I hardly think it necessary to restrict the age at which *children* should be permitted to work on the land, but I would limit the age to 12 if any restriction is necessary."

Schools.

"National or church schools are not the proper ones, they should be British. Parents who are Dissenters object to sending their children to school for the reason that they conscientiously differ in views.

"The cottages are very bad ; they are sufficient in number for the supply of labour required, and are generally well situated with respect to the farms.

"The cottages have good gardens."

Wages of Ordinary Farm Labourers, &c.

"Some get 15*s.* and some 14*s.* ; I think you may strike the average at 14*s.* 6*d.* including everything."

LLANGUNNOR.

Population, 1,250 - Acreage, 5,795.

65. *Mr. D. Prosser*, owner and occupier, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed.

"*Boys* are hired as farm servants by the year from 12 years of age, upwards.

"*Girls* are employed in the same manner and at the same age as boys.

"*Women* are only employed in spring and summer in weeding green crops and at harvest work.

"*Women* work from 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m.

"*No restriction* on the ages at which children ought to be allowed to work is necessary."

Schools.

"There is a good parish school well attended ; the children pay 1*d.* or 2*d.* a week according to age.

"The condition of the cottages is bad.

"All cottages have gardens."

Wages and Mode of Hiring.

"Mostly all by the year ; men earn from 14*l.* to 20*l.* with food and lodgings, if single. Females from 5*l.* to 10*l.*, according to age and capabilities ; labourers, who find themselves, earn 12*s.* a week."

65*a*. *Mr. V. Rees*, occupier, says :—

"I employ as many women as I can get, singling turnips and spreading manure, &c., and some women in dairy work. I pay women 8*d.* in winter and 10*d.* in summer, and I give tea and beer in long days. They begin work at 8½ a.m. and work till 6 p.m., with an hour's interval.

"I hire three dairy girls by the year. They get 10*l.*, 7*l.*, and 4*l.*

"I hire two lads by the year ; one of 16 gets 6*l.* ; one of 12 gets 50*s.* and a pair of boots.

"Ordinary labourers I pay 12*s.* a week, and in hay time I have to give 15*s.* It is better for a man's family that he should get all money than that he should get his food and less money. Our labourers are very well off where their families are able to work out."

LLANDILOFAWR UNION.

LLANDEBIE.

Population, 2,821 - Acreage, 10,710.

66. *Mr. J. Brodie*, occupier, says :—

"The cultivation is mixed.

"I employ *one boy* on each farm, age from 14 to 18. In the neighbourhood, hay and corn harvest are the times that all hands are called out.

"*Girls* are employed occasionally on the smaller farms, but I should say not so young as boys.

"*Women* are employed on arable farms to a considerable extent, but this county is chiefly pastoral and few green crops are grown."

Distance they come to Work.

"A few may be a mile off, and one or two rather more.

"Their *hours of work* are not very regular, they seldom turn out till 8 o'clock. My hours are from 6 to 11 and from 1 to 6 in summer ; in winter they are allowed 1½ hours for dinner.

"*Boys* cannot be much use on a farm under 14 or 15.

"I cannot see any necessity for restricting female labour in this part of the country."

Schools.

"There is a large British and Foreign School on the farm, with upwards of 100 attending. Early labour on farms does not prevent children attending school, not so with other employments."

Cottages.

"The agricultural cottages in South Wales on the whole are rather poor, but improvement is slowly going on ; they appear to be sufficient in number for the supply of labour generally. Young people are frequently kept in the farmhouse. There is plenty of water and ventilation in Wales. All cottages have gardens."

Wages.

"Men's wages vary from 13*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* 6*d.* per week, including allowances."

Quality of Labour.

"The Scotch labourers are better educated, and perhaps, more trustworthy in every way than the Welsh, but really there are good and bad amongst both ; I am getting more and more into Welsh, about half and half now.

LLANDILO-FAWR.

Population, 5,440 - Acreage, 25,628.

67. The *Rev. D. W. Jeffreys*, of Taliaris, says :—

"The cultivation is indifferent, there is no system in the rotation of crops. There is too much crude lime given to the arable land and no artificial manure. Farms are small and capital often smaller. Many of the small occupiers can hardly make the two ends meet, and their children are forced to labour too soon, thereby losing the opportunity of learning, even if the parents appreciated its value, which, I regret to add, they do not.

"Boys begin to be employed from six upwards.

"Girls are employed from about 8 years of age at general house work, attending cattle and pigs, and in hay and corn harvest.

"Nearly all our women are employed in hay and corn harvest.

"They have no long distance to go to their work.

"There is one day school for boys and another for girls, but they do not take advantage of them, chiefly on account of early and hard labour, to which must be added the apathy of the parents, who are ignorant themselves and care not how ignorant their children are.

"Our cottages are very fair, sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded. Water is abundant, but ventilation very much neglected.

"Every cottage has a sufficient garden."

LLANFIHANGLE.

Population, 882 - Acreage, 6,552.

68. *Mr. J. Brockie*, bailiff to the Earl of Cawdor, says :—

No boys are employed on our farm, but in the ish generally at the age of 10 years.

Girls are employed on farms to assist in dairy k, &c. at the age of 12.

Married women are employed in all light farm k, such as haymaking and turnip hoeing.

Some labourers in the parish go as far as two or e miles to their work.

I should say that boys ought not to be employed re 11 or 12 years of age.

As this is chiefly a grazing county, the young ales are employed in house and dairy work. I do think it desirable to place any restriction on their ur.

The means of education is the National School, attendance is good, while there are a few, who, ugh carelessness, do not send their children.

The condition of cottages in this parish is pretty d; all or nearly all on the demesne of Golden ve are newly built and are conveniently situated, overcrowded, and well supplied with water; the cottages are not well ventilated.

All the cottages have good gardens.

The average earnings of labourers in this parish about 30*l.* per year. Welshmen are not able to n as much as Scotchmen. The Welsh are not so ll fed and not so strong to labour; the climate also nore humid and relaxing, so that even Scotchmen not perform the same amount of labour here as y are equal to in the north."

Llandovery Union.

Cilycwn.

Population, 1,380 - Acreage, 17,300.

69. *Mr. W. D. H. Campbell Davys*, landowner, J.P., Chairman of Board of Guardians, says, "*The tivation* is mixed, consisting of a large proportion mountain land.

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 12, and then y during the hay and corn harvests and oak bark- in the spring of the year.

"*Girls* are employed about the same age and in same manner as boys.

"Women are employed to the same extent, and the ne way as boys and girls."

Distance.

"Labourers have a mile or two or less to go to ir work."

Hours of Work.

"Women and girls work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., h an interval for meal."

As to Restrictions on the Age of Employment.

Boys.

"I think it is by no means desirable to interfere, both the children and their parents are *quite alive* the importance of attending school."

Girls.

"I should say not, at all events in South Wales."

Schools.

"There is a newly built and well attended Church England School and Sunday school in connexion h it."

Cottages.

"The cottages are of a very mixed condition, ere new cottages have been erected they are well ugh, but the old style of cottages are very poor, principal difficulty being to get stone for building rposes in the neighbourhood. They are generally ll supplied with water and not often overcrowded."

Gardens and Potato Ground.

"All the cottagers have gardens attached to their cottages, and the surrounding farmers always give their cottagers and labourers potato ground in addition, the quantity depending upon their requirement."

Llandingat.

Population, 3,948 - Acreage, 31,564.

70. *The Rev. J. Hughes*, says:—

"*Children* of 13 years of age and thereabouts are employed in sowing seasons and in hay and corn harvests, also in the barking season."

"*Women* are employed in the hay and corn harvests, and in the barking season.

"The *distance* to which labourers have to go to their work is short, as a rule they assist on the farm to which they belong; or if children of labourers on the adjoining farm.

"As to the employment of *boys* I hardly think any restriction as to age is necessary. I imagine that an arrangement might be made whereby allowances might be made for their absence from school at the seasons above mentioned. If restriction be placed, 13 should be the limit.

"The employment of *girls* is almost confined to corn and hay harvests. I should not think any restriction necessary."

Schools.

"There are four schools in the parish. They take fair advantage of them."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is not good; they are hardly sufficient in number for the supply of the labour required; they are not convenient with respect to the farms; the cottages contain two rooms. I think it is much to be deplored that many cottages on farms have been pulled down and the occupiers forced to live in town, though these had only two rooms, still in my opinion they were much healthier than dwellings in town, and had gardens attached. Cottages in town are not well supplied with water, nor well ventilated.

"There are no allotments of land. Cottages in town have no gardens as a rule; in the country they have gardens."

70*a*. *Mr. David Jones*, J. P., landowner, says:—

"*Boys* are very seldom employed, but when they are, their ages are about 12 years.

"*Girls* are employed only in the farmhouses, not on the farms.

"*Women* are employed chiefly in harvesting.

"*Hours of work for men*, from 6.m. to 6 p.m., and for women, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m."

Schools.

"There are two schools (day), a Church of England and a British; they are well attended. There are also Sunday schools, at which the farm servants attend regularly."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is bad; there are a sufficient number of them, as few farm labourers are employed. The cottages are not overcrowded, and have plenty of water.

"Most of the cottages have gardens."

Rate of Wages.

"If regularly employed about 9*s.* per week; if occasionally, from 12*s.* to 15*s.*"

70*b*. (A catch workman cutting a hedge in the roadside told me he had 15*s.* a week, and was working by the day.

Two road men told me they had 12*s.* a week.—G.C.)

APPENDIX C.—LABOUR AND SCHOOL RETURNS, WITH NOTES ON SCHOOLS.

TABLE A.—LABOUR RETURNS from 20 Farms situated in the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN, showing the Number, Age, and Sex of Persons employed on these Farms during the Spring Quarter.

County.	Union.	Parish.	Extent of Farm in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
			Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
Carmarthen	Llandovery	Cilycwm	75	75	150	-	-	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
,,	Llandilofawr	Llandebie	450	210	660	Variable	-	—		—	2	13	15	—	—	—	4	—	6	10
,,	,,	Llanfihangel	150	76	226	Clay and loam	5 course	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
,,	Carmarthen	Llangain	120	180	300	Mixed	-	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	1	7	5	13
,,	,,	Llangendeirne	220	130	350	-	-	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
,,	,,	Llangunnor	60	190	250	Heavy land	5 course	—	1	1	1	6	9	Occasionally.				5	—	8
,,	,,	,,	30	120	150	-	-	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
,,	Narberth	Eglwyscummin	269	48	317	Red earth	3 course	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
,,	,,	Llandissilio	29	74	103	Lime, rab, and clay.	-	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
,,	,,	,,	79	218	297	Clay and sand	-	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Pembroke	,,	Lampeter Velfrey	96	154	250	Loam and clay	4 course	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
,,	,,	,, ,,	80	90	170	Poor shallow loam.	,,	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
,,	,,	Llandewy Velfrey	41	196	237	On limestone and clay.	-	—	—	1	—	8	9	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
,,	,,	Ludchurch	100	100	200	Light	-	—	—	—	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
,,	,,	Minwere	25	255	280	On Red sandstone.	-	—	—	1	1	3	5	Only at Dairy work.						
,,	Pembroke	Stackpole	177	448	625	Sandy loam	4 course	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
,,	Haverfordwest.	Llanhowell	208	63	271	Gravel, sand, and clay.	,,	—	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
,,	Cardigan	St. Dogmell's	223	110	333	Sound dry soil	,,	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	—	4	4	8
	Total		2,432	2,737	5,169	-	-	—	1	3	14	107	125	—	—	—	12	39	37	88
The following returns are imperfect :—																				
Carmarthen	Carmarthen	Llangunnor	—		—	Loam, clay, and gravel.	5 course	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	2	2	4	4	12
Pembroke	Narberth	Llandissilio	300		300						1	6	7	—	—	—	—	6	—	6

TABLE B.—LABOUR RETURN, showing how the Employment varies during the Four Quarters of the Year on 18 Farms in the Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

—	—	Acreage of Farms.			Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
	Spring				—	1	3	14	107	125	—	—	—	12	39	37	88
	Summer	2,432	2,737	5,169	—	1	3	16	109	129	—	—	—	16	45	46	107
	Autumn				—	1	3	17	107	128	—	—	—	14	42	44	100

TABLE C.—RETURN of the DAY SCHOOLS in NARBERTH UNION, Counties of PEMBROKE and CARMARTHEN.

Name of Parish.	Description of School.	Population, Census 1861.	Acreage.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.
1. Amroth	National	889	2,878	9	4	12	5	6	3	8	4	8	6	9	8	5	4	6	5
„ „	Dissenting	„	„	14	10	17	9	10	8	13	7	15	12	20	11	12	10	15	9
2. Begelly	Parochial	1,311	3,878	15	10	20	10	10	8	15	6	15	10	20	10	10	8	15	6
3. Bletherstone	British	255	2,366	26	40	18	24	15	27	7	16	24	34	18	20	14	27	6	15
4. Clarbestone	- -	191	1,588	No School.															
5. Coedcanlas	- -	155	1,150	No School.															
6. Crinow	- -	70	352	No School.															
7. Crunwear	Parochial	261	1,690	Small Preparatory School. No Return made.															
8. Cilmaenllwyd-	British	640	4,381	22	15	18	10	18	12	15	8	22	15	18	10	20	14	15	9
„ „	„	„	„	20	16	21	14	13	10	9	8	20	16	21	14	13	10	9	8
9. Cyffic	- -	468	4,556	No School.															
10. Eglwyscummin	- -	260	3,740	10	2	10	5	3	2	4	2	8	3	7	6	3	2	4	3
11. Egremont	- -	124	1,006	No School.															
12. Henllan - Amgoed.	British	445	2,089	26	40	16	19	16	30	13	17	26	40	16	19	16	30	13	17
13. Jeffreston	- -	634	2,343	29	20	27	9	20	11	18	6	37	29	35	19	21	19	20	12
14. Lampeter Velfrey.	National	951	5,667	31	14	28	15	22	9	17	8	20	12	20	10	11	5	12	4
„ „ „	British	„	„	14	4	12	5	8	3	6	2	10	5	11	5	8	3	6	3
15. Lawhaden	- -	647	4,490	26	28	28	25	15	10	14	7	26	28	28	25	18	11	16	9
16. Llanboidy	National	1,744	10,666	43	35	38	32	34	13	31	13	37	33	31	31	34	20	31	18
„ „	British	„	„	21	18	25	16	17	15	20	13	21	18	25	16	14	13	17	11
17. Llandewy Velfrey.	National	790	4,022	24	12	14	9	17	9	12	7	26	13	13	11	18	10	11	9
„ „ „	British	„	„	12	9	10	6	10	7	8	5	14	18	13	9	12	14	9	8
18. Llandilo	- -	126	1,132	No School.															
19. Llandissilio	Parochial	1,036	6,467	12	7	16	9	8	7	12	5	15	10	17	12	10	8	14	10
„ „	Baptist	„	„	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Llanfalteg	National	353	1,866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Llangan	„	641	4,952	8	2	10	4	6	2	8	3	Not been open in Winter yet.							
22. Llanglydwen	- -	286	1,834	No School.															
23. Llangolman	- -	282	2,912	No School.															
24. Llanycefn	- -	416	2,684	No School.															
25. Llys-y-frane	British	168	1,466	19	9	16	8	15	7	13	5	15	9	14	6	12	6	10	4
26. Loveston	- -	122	1,233	No School.															
27. Ludchurch	Parochial	264	1,607	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	6
28. Maenclochog	National	396	2,754	21	16	24	12	15	7	16	7	20	21	15	20	15	15	10	14
29. Marros	Endowed	130	2,574	24	23	10	12	7	16	5	3	15	20	12	10	9	8	5	3
30. Martletwy	National	703	3,551	23	24	18	12	12	13	10	6	30	20	19	14	16	10	9	8
31. Minwere	- -	99	1,957	No School.															
32. Monachlogddu	- -	471	6,166	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Mounton	- -	40	330	No School.															
34. Narberth, North	National	1,717	6,084	54	27	49	26	26	18	24	17	47	27	30	31	27	20	19	18
„ „ „	British	„	„	56	23	40	22	40	15	30	16	56	23	40	22	42	17	32	18
35. Narberth, South	„	829	3,476	37	23	34	14	24	19	24	10	36	28	30	18	18	26	22	23
36. Newmoat	- -	311	3,101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37. Newton	- -	56	721	No School.															
38. Pendine	- -	204	900	No School.															
39. Reynoldston	- -	106	525	No School.															
40. Robeston Wathen.	Parochial	362	1,345	26	4	11	—	21	4	7	1	28	7	12	3	23	5	9	3
41. Slebech	National	280	4,586	25	18	22	16	18	15	17	14	25	18	22	16	18	15	17	14
42. St. Issells	„	2,022	3,830	61	6	65	20	40	3	60	10	61	6	65	20	30	5	35	20
„ „	Dissenting	„	„	Built but not opened.															
43. Yerbeston	- -	118	1,224	No School.															
		21,373	126,139	713	464	634	373	470	307	440	230	684	488	588	403	455	341	393	287

NOTES on SCHOOLS in NARBETH UNION. (The number refers to the order in which they stand in Table C.).

1. AMROTH PARISH.

Population, 889 - Acreage, 2,878.

71. There are two schools, a national, and private dissenting school.

The *national school* was built in 1860 and is capable of holding comfortably about twice as many children as were in attendance when I visited it. The master, who is not certificated, is of 27 years standing as a teacher.

The income of the school, according to a return made to the archdeacon of St. Davids, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Endowment - -	15	0	0
Subscriptions - -	8	4	6
School pence - -	5	8	9
	£28	13	3

Out of this sum the master receives 21*l.* a year, and has a cottage and small garden rent free.

According to the same return the number of children on the books is 84, and average attendance 56.

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

C.

O.

72. There is also in Amroth parish (at Stepaside) a private dissenting school (with about 50 children on the books, several of whom come from St. Issell's parish).

The average amount which the master, a very popular teacher (uncertificated) receives from school pence, which is all the payment he receives, is 4*s.* 6*d.* a week, or 11*l.* 14*s.* per annum.

The master, *Mr. Evans*, says :—"I have seven "children at 3*d.* a week, the rest pay from 1*d.* to 2*d.* "and two come free. They clean the school and do "other necessary little things."

(There were 38 children in school when I visited it.—G.C.)

2. Begelly Parish.

Population, 1,311 - Acreage, 3,878.

73. There is a parochial school in Begelly parish, how supported I do not know, as the rector of the parish who has charge of the school refused to give me any information.

According to the master's account there are about 60 children on the books, and an average attendance of about 40 (there were about 30 children on the day of my visit).

The school is a miserable building, altogether unfit for a parish school. The master who has not a certificate, told me that he received a salary of 12*l.* and what else he could make, which did not make his income up to 30*l.*

3. Bletherston Parish.

Population, 255 - Acreage, 2,366.

74. There is a good British school at Penfordd in this parish, which is attended by children from the neighbouring parishes of Llanycefn, New Moat, and Clarbeston.

The master says there are about 30 children who might attend this school who do not.

7. Crunwere.

Population, 261 - Acreage, 1,690.

75. There is a small preparatory school in this parish held in the tollgate house. The elder children attend the Amroth and Tavernspite schools (see Amroth and Lampeter Velfrey).

12. Henllan-Amgoed Parish.

Population, 445 - Acreage, 2,089.

76. There is a British school, with about 100 children on the books, in this parish, supported by children's pence and Government grant.

13. Jeffreston Parish.

Population, 634 - Acreage, 2,343.

77. There is a good school in this parish, at which children from Loveston and Yerbeston parishes (which have no schools) attend. The school receives no Government grant, and is supported by Mr. Allen, of Creselly. There are from 80 to 90 children on the books.

19. Llandissilio Parish.

Population, 1,036 - Acreage, 6,467.

78. There is a small parochial school in this parish mainly supported by Madame Bevan's charity.

The Rev. D. Jones, says :—"The income of the "school is 38*l.* per annum, and the expenditure "38*l.* 6*s.*

"Of this 35*l.* is paid by the secretary of Madame "Bevan's charity in quarterly payments to the "master, and I pay 3*l.* a year for the master's house, "and a few shillings for repairs and books."

This school is held in a wretched building, and has about 45 children on the books. The master is not certificated.

79. There is also in Llandissilio an *Independent school* taught by *Mr. Stephen Williams*. At the time I visited this school there were about 30 children at work, and at one end of the schoolroom young men of from 18 to 25 years of age.

Mr. Williams is a very popular master, and generally has some young men in his school whose education has been neglected in their earlier days, or who come to learn land surveying. These young men pay Mr. Williams, who is not a certificated teacher 6*d.* a week.

The average income of the school is 26*l.*, of which 20*l.* comes from children's pence and 6*l.* from subscriptions.

The school was built by subscription (Mr. Gower, a landowner in the parish, being the chief subscriber). The master's house was built by the farmers, whose children Mr. Williams educates, Mr. Gower giving the stone.

15. Llawhaden Parish.

Population, 647.

80. Here is a National School with uncertificated teacher. About 80 children on the books.

According to the Archdeacon's return the income of the school is from—

Subscriptions - -	20*l.*	32*l.*
School pence - -	12*l.*	
Master's salary - -	32*l.*	

14. Lampeter Velfrey.

Population, 951 - Acreage, 5,667.

81. There are in this parish two National and one British schools, and no parish in Narbeth Union provides better for the education of the children of the labouring class, thanks mainly to the Rev. R. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis, says, "We have six boys and three "girls over 13 years of age, which are not given in "my return. There are very few children in the "parish over 6 years of age who are neither at school "nor at work ; the great evil is irregularity of atten- "dance. The part of the year when attendance is "best is from November 1st to July 1st,"

16. Llanboidy.

Population, 1,744 - Acreage, 10,666.

82. There are two good schools in this parish, the National at Llanboidy and the British near Whitland in a corner of the parish, providing education for several children in Llangan and Cyffic parishes.

The following is a copy of the School Inspectors' Report, dated May 8th 1869 on *Llanboidy National School.*

"The order in this school is excellent, the efficiency very superior. As regards management and instruction this is quite a model school."

The building is excellent and all the arrangements in keeping, and it may be said that a large proportion of the children in Llanboidy parish are now being educated at the expense of Mr. Powell of Maesgwynne, upon whom falls nearly the whole of the expenses of the National School, which are not met by the Government grant and school pence, and those expenses are very considerable. A school rate levied on the landowners would greatly relieve the one, who is the mainstay of education in this parish. On the books of this school, by a return given to me, there appear to be about 35 children over 13 years of age.

The number on the register is about 190.

At the *British School*, which is in a corner of the parish and is attended by children from two or three

neighbouring parishes, there are about 80 children on the books.

The following is the master's statement.

"The income of the school is derived as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
School pence (1*d.* per week) about	16	0	0
Subscriptions	28	0	0
Government grant	40	0	0
	£84	0	0

The subscriptions came from members of the committee and others in the neighbourhood who take an interest in the school.

"Two of the committee are freehold farmers; they give 1*l.* each per annum. The large landed proprietors give nothing."

21. Llangan Parish.

Population, 641 - Acreage, 4,952.

83. The *Rev. R. Jones*, says:—

"One school is newly re-opened, having been discontinued for some time, with the change of curates.

"There are also two very superior schools in the adjoining parishes, in both of which are certificated masters. We find it difficult to get a certificated master, and it is severe, and unjust even, that old good schoolmasters do not get Government grants, for many of them are superior in qualification and have had great experience in teaching."

27. Ludchurch Parish.

Population, 264 - Acreage, 1,607.

84. There is a very small school in this parish, about 20 children on the books. According to the archdeacon's return, the income is from—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	6	11	0
School pence	3	0	0
	£9	11	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Master's salary	9	0	0
Sundries	2	0	0
	£11	0	0

The rector making up the difference.

28. Maenclochog Parish.

Population, 396 - Acreage, 2,754.

85. Income of National school—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	26	0	0
School pence	20	0	0
Total	46	0	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	50	0	0
Sundries	2	11	0
	£52	11	0

The master has no certificate.

30. Martletwy Parish.

Population, 703 - Acreage, 3,551.

86. There is a National School, with about 100 children on the books.

Income.

	£	s.	d.
School pence	11	4	0
Other sources (no Government grant)	21	7	0
	£32	11	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	31	4	0
Sundries	5	15	7
	£36	19	7

This is according to Archdeacon Clark's return.

Children from Minwere (where there is no school) also attend this school.

35. Narberth North Parish.

87. There is a National and British School in this parish.

The income of the *National School* is (as nearly as I could ascertain):—

	£	s.	d.
Endowment	30	0	0
School pence	9	0	0
Government grant	17	0	0
Other sources	7	0	0
	£63	0	0

Expenditure—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	70	0	0
Sundries	5	0	0
	£75	0	0

The balance made up by the rector.

The *British School* is supported by Government grant and school pence, and has about 100 children on the books. The master of British school says:—

"But a very small proportion of the children attending this school belong to the *agricultural labouring class.* Out of 92 present this afternoon, the number belonging to that class is from 12 to 20, and, as far as I can judge, there are about an equal number of small farmers.

"Our children come chiefly from the town."

Slebech Parish.

Population, 280 - Acreage, 4,586.

88. There is a *National School* in this parish almost entirely supported by *Mr. Philipps of Picton Castle*, the school being situated near Picton Castle in a corner of the parish.

St. Issels Parish.

Population, 2,022 - Acreage, 3,830.

89. There is a National School near the church at St. Issells, and a British School has just been built at Saundersfoot.

On the register of the *National School* there are about 150 children, and the income and expenditure were as follows for 1868:—

Income.

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions	10	6	0
From Jones's Charity	15	0	0
From school pence	16	8	0
Total	41	14	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Master's salary	26	0	0
Mistress's salary	12	0	0
Repairs and sundries	1	10	0
Total	39	10	0

Pembroke and Carmarthen.

Mr. Culley.

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TABLE D.—DAY SCHOOL RETURNS for CAREW and TALIARIS Parishes.

Name of Union.	Name of Parish.	Population, Census 1861.	Acreage.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Summer. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Number on Register. Girls. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Boys. Between 10 and 13.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Under 10.	Winter. Average Attendance. Girls. Between 10 and 13.
Pembroke - -	*Carew -	993	5,636	31	11	15	13	20	10	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Llandilofawr -	Taliaris -	In Llandilo.		8	4	9	3	4	2	7	2	8	4	9	3	6	4	5	3

* In Carew Parish the Rev. John Phelps says, There are about 50 children old enough to be at school who are neither at school nor at work.

MADAME BEVAN'S CHARITY.

90. Copy of letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner by Mr. T. Morgan, secretary to the trustees.

Madame Bevan's Charity.

"Dear Sir, Cardigan, August 14, 1869.

THE income of the Charity is about a thousand a year, and it is applied by the trustees in payment of masters and the assistance of schools. The Charity is confined entirely to church schools, and the limits are the whole of North and South Wales. The trustees issue no report, and their accounts are passed in the Court of Chancery annually."

Mr. Henry Tremenheere.

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EVIDENCE accompanying MR. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE'S REPORT on CARDIGANSHIRE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE, and MERIONETHSHIRE.

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1. Mr. John Davis, solicitor and land agent, Aberystwith.
2. Mr. F. Roberts, solicitor, Aberystwith.
3. Rev. E. D. Phillips, vicar of Aberystwith.
4. G. W. Parry, Esq., chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the county of Cardigan.
5. Rev. J. Pugh, rector of Llanbadanfawr.
6. Mr. G. H. Thomas, master of the National School, Penyparke.
7. David Jenkins, agricultural labourer.
8. Mr. J. Jones, farmer.
9. Mr. Daniel Thomas, farmer.
10. Mr. L. Williams, farmer.
11. Mr. Richard James, farmer.
12. James Loxdale, Esq., magistrate.
13. Mr. James Lewis, farmer.
14. Mr. John Richards, schoolmaster.
15. Mr. John Miller, farmer.
16. Mr. Daniel Thomas, land agent, Aberayron.
17. Rev. H. Morgan, Aberayron.
18. Mr. John Davies, farmer, Lampeter.
19. Mr. David Davies, Lampeter.
20. Mr. David Jenkins, farmer, Lampeter.
21. H. C. Fryer, Esq., manager of the estates of Sir Pryce Pryce, Bart.
22. Lt.-Col. Lewes, magistrate.
23. Captain Philipps, magistrate.
24. David Howell, Esq., Machynlleth, Merionethshire.
25. Rev. G. Griffith, rector of Machynlleth.
26. Rev. D. Parry, rector of Darowen.
27. Rev. Joseph Hughes, rector of Carno.
28. Rev. B. Harris, Vicar of Llanidloes.
29. Rev. F. W. Parker, rector of Moughtey.
30. Mr. John Peters, master of Pennel British School.
31. Mr. H. C. James, master of Aberllepunny British School.
32. Mr. R. Gellart, land agent and manager of the estates of Earl Vane.
33. Mr. W. Pugh, land steward of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.
34. Mr. G. W. Griffith, merchant, Machynlleth.
35. Mr. Morris Davis, farmer.
36. Mr. John Owen, farmer.
37. Mr. Edward Davis, farmer.
38. Mr. Edward Jones, farmer, Dolgelly, Merionethshire.
39. Mr. W. Davis, farmer.
40. Rev. David Evans, Bala.
41. Mr. John Moore, farmer.
42. Rev. J. McIntosh, rector of Llanerfyl.

1. *Mr. John Davis*, solicitor and land agent, Aberystwith.—I farm an estate of 420 acres in the neighbourhood of Aberystwith. The custom of this county, in which small farms prevail, is to do the work of the farm by farm servants hired by the year, and boarded and lodged in the farm houses. I pay my head man 16*l.* a year. Women servants are also hired into the farm houses by the year, and they are expected to do any out-door work that may be required of them. They work not only in harvest time but in spring and summer, planting potatoes, thinning turnips, and in autumn pulling turnips. This is a poor county, and wages, unless in exceptional districts, are low. A day labourer receives 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, but although it is not a part of the agreement he generally gets one meal a day in the farm house, and sometimes two. The cottages are indifferent; much improvement is wanting in this respect. Most of the labouring class keep a pig, and make a good profit by it; they are allowed to plant a bushel of potatoes on the farmers' land, for the use of which they pay nothing if they provide the manure, except two days' labour at harvest. The labouring classes are tolerably well off, although wages are comparatively low, but the education of their children

very much neglected. The children of small farmers d of agricultural labourers generally do not get ore than three months schooling in the year, *i.e.* ring the winter months. We are under great disvantages with respect to education. The poverty the county generally tells against the support of hools, and how can a poor labouring man on low ges with a large family afford to pay the school s? Government aid is much wanted in this part of ales, but it must be given on different principles m those now acted on. The poorer districts are st in need of assistance, but they get none.

The average rent of land in Cardiganshire does not ceed 10*s.* 6*d.* or 12*s.* 6*d.* an acre. Some arable d in good situations lets for 20*s.* an acre, but except r towns, where an accommodation rent is paid, this the maximum.

2. *Mr. Frederick Roberts*, solicitor and land agent.—arm 400 acres in the neighbourhood of Aberystwith. employ no women or gangs of young persons or ldren. A few are occasionally employed in turnip nning or such light work, but not otherwise. rther south a great many women are employed in riculture. I pay my first class agricultural labourers s. a week, and 11*s.* to ordinary labourers, wet or y. They rent cottages, for which they pay 2*l.* a ar. The cottages are very indifferent. It is one eat want of Wales. The difficulty is the number of all independent holdings.

The schools in the rural districts suffer from poverty, d some of the parishes are so large that it is almost possible for children to attend school. The employnt of children does not interfere with their educan; the other causes do.

3. *Rev. E. D. Phillips*, vicar of Aberystwith.—I am ll acquainted with the social state of Cardiganshire, ving lived in many parts of it. I have never seen y approach to the agricultural gang system. Women rk in the fields and children are employed for a w weeks in stone picking, bird keeping, thinning rnips, and setting potatoes; but I do not think at these occupations interfere materially with their hooling, where schools exist that are available for em.

Children seldom remain longer at school than 13. ny are hired into the farmhouses as farm servants that age or younger. At 14 or 15 they receive 5*l.* 6*l.* a year, with their board. Most of the farmers ep farm servants, boarding them in their houses. e wages of a head man do not exceed as a rule *l.* a year, and those of other servants 8*l.* or 10*l.* e living in the farmhouses is poor; fresh meat is rely or never used. There are three meals a day, for eakfast, coffee and bread, for dinner, bacon or salt at and potatoes, and bread with butter or cheese d butter milk for supper.

Day agricultural labourers receive upon an aver-e 9*s.* a week, out of which they have to pay 2*l.* a r rent for a cottage, generally consisting of only o rooms. On some farms a peculiar arrangement ists. A farmer provides a labourer with a cottage t free and pasture for a cow, and for these advanes he is bound to come at the call of his landlord work for him for 6*d.* a day. No matter if he uld be earning at the time 2*s.* elsewhere, he is und, on pain of forfeiting his cottage and pasture, to rk at 6*d.* a day for his landlord.

The condition of cottages requires to be taken into ious consideration. Very few have more than two oms. The moral condition of the population cannot satisfactory under such circumstances.

4. *G. W. Parry, Esq.*, chairman of the Quarter ssions for the county of Cardigan.—In some parts of s county women are much employed in agricultural our, and they are a robust hardy race. I do not nk that such employment has anything to do with ir morals. The kind of employment varies in difrent localities. In some the work is rather heavy, h as pitching dung into carts or loading waggons harvest. All women hired into the farm houses hired as labourers in husbandry, and do outor work as regularly as men. Children are not much employed, except at certain seasons, such as those for setting potatoes and barking; but in neither case ought the labour to interfere materially with school attendance, except for a short time. Schools, where they exist, are taken advantage of; there is a great disposition in the people to give their children the advantages of education and to get them on in the world.

The wages of an agricultural labourer may be considered low, but considering the quality of the work, I am of opinion that they are as high as the labourer deserves. The Welsh agricultural labourer is not remarkable for his industry; 1*s.* 6*d.* a day is, I consider, a fair equivalent for what he gives. Fresh meat is never tasted by day labourers; oatmeal porridge, potatoes, bread and cheese, and sometimes a little butter or bacon constituting their common diet.

Farm servants live rather better than agricultural labourers, but they rarely taste fresh meat. Farmers prefer, where cottages are available, paying their labourers in money and leaving them to provide for themselves.

The cottages are, generally speaking, very bad, with mud walls and thatched roofs; they are rarely ventilated, but generally have a sufficient supply of water. There is a tendency to the aggregation of farms, which will gradually have the effect of improving the labourers' dwellings in this part of Wales. Very few of the cottages in Cardiganshire have gardens, and those are generally neglected. There is no taste for gardening among the peasantry, nor is the allotment system known.

5. *Rev. John Pugh*, vicar of Llanbadanfawr.—There is not much demand for the labour of children or young persons in agriculture in this part of Cardiganshire, and when children do not attend schools it is either from the total absence of schools, as is too frequently the case in the remote districts, or the worthlessness of such schools as exist. Parents are very quick in appreciating a good school, and will make sacrifices to give their children the advantage of it; but they will not send them, perhaps miles from home, to a bad one.

The great difficulty we have to contend with is in starting schools. A great many parishes are really too poor to find the requisite amount to entitle them to Government assistance, and until the Government takes the initiative I do not see how the educational wants of this part of Wales can possibly be met. I have three schools in my parish, which is a large one, and they are well supported with masters; but go a few miles into the interior, and the dearth is great indeed.

There is every disposition on the part of the clergy to co-operate with dissenters in establishing schools, and a spirit of mutual toleration is, I am glad to say, becoming prevalent; but the difficulty is the poverty of the country.

6. *Mr. G. H. Thomas*, master of the National School, Penyparke.—My school is a mixed school. I have 350 on the books, of which about one-third are girls. It is a church school in connection with the National Society, but conducted on liberal principles, *i.e.*, we teach the church catechism only to those children whose parents do not object to it. When I first undertook the management of the school in 1845 I did not know a word of Welsh, and there was only one child who could speak a word of English. I had to teach myself Welsh. The school is partly supported by the children from the agricultural districts, but many come from the town of Aberystwith. About 36 children of agricultural labourers leave in April and do not return until November, consequently they are six months absent, and supposing they attend regularly the other six months (which is far from being the case), it takes two months to recover what they have lost, so that practically they do not get more than four months' progressive instruction during the year, and assuming five years to be the average duration of school attendance, these children do not get more than 20 months' effective schooling during their lives. Welsh children show considerable quickness in

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learning, particularly in arithmetic. They have a great desire to better their position, and their parents, particularly those residing in the agricultural districts, are very desirous of giving them the advantages of education. Some of my scholars, the sons of small farmers, come from a distance of eight or nine miles, and lodge in the village for the sake of the advantages of the school. If very poor, the earnings of children at an early age are of such importance to the parents that they cannot dispense with them; they could not otherwise give them bread. Some of the boys of my school go to sea for the summer months in the coasters as cabin boys, &c., and come back in the winter; they are the quickest and most intelligent lads. Several who were educated at this school have become settlers in New Zealand, Victoria, and Queensland, and are doing well. When the parents are very poor we do not enforce the payment of school pence, but give the children a gratuitous education. In a large school this can be done without being much felt by the master.

7. *David Jenkins.*—I am an agricultural labourer, and can speak a little English. My wages are 1*s.* 6*d.* a day all the year round. I am the owner of a cottage, but it is mortgaged. It may perhaps be worth about 2*l.* 10*s.* per year. I have six children; the three eldest are grown up. None of them can read or write. There is no school in the parish where I live, and if there was I could not afford to send my children to it. I never get meat, except now and then a bit of bacon. I live upon potatoes, bread and cheese, and a little butter. The labour of children becomes valuable after 10; a boy of that age can earn 1*l.* 10*s.* a year, besides getting his meals at the farm house. Children are useful in tending cattle, weeding, &c. Education is a good thing, but bread for a poor man is better.

8. *Mr. J. Jones,* Tanycastell.—I farm an estate of 300 acres, chiefly arable land. Children of 10 years of age are found useful on a farm, and they are often employed for eight months together. They are boarded in the farm houses for that period, getting 6*d.* a day and their food, and return home for four months in the year, during which they can go to school if there is one. There is no school in this parish, and the nearest is 2½ miles distant. There is a great disposition on the part of parents to educate their children when possible. The wages of farm servants range from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a year. The diet in the farm houses is oatmeal porridge or bread and cheese for breakfast, salt meat or broth with potatoes for dinner, and flummery (boiled oatmeal) with milk for supper.

Women working as agricultural labourers earn 8*d.* a day, and in harvest time 1*s.* 6*d.* with their food. They do everything that men are accustomed to do but plough. Harrowing by women is quite common further south. Labourers' cottages in this part of Wales are in a very bad state, seldom having more than one room, which is divided for sleeping purposes, and five or six beds are packed within the compass of a few square yards. Many cottages were pulled down in the last century to prevent chargeability to the parish, and others have not yet been built. A few cottages have gardens, but very small ones. Labourers are generally allowed to plant five or six bushels of potatoes on the land of their employers. If they find the manure, the use of the land is gratuitous; if the employer finds the manure, the labourer is required to give three days labour in reaping time for each bushel of potatoes planted.

9. *Mr. Daniel Thomas,* Frendeg.—I farm an estate of 106 acres, chiefly arable land. I have three lads and three girls as farm servants. The females have from 5*l.* to 9*l.* a year, according to age. The male farm servants receive from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year, which is the maximum wages in this county. Women are much employed in field work as day labourers, but chiefly by gentlemen farmers, who think that kind of labour the most economical. I am not of that opinion, and I am opposed to the employment of females in husbandry both on economical and on moral grounds. I believe such employment to be a mistake. I think it would be very desirable to place a restriction on the employment of young females in out-door work.

The highest wages given to agricultural labourers finding themselves, in this part of Wales, is 2*s.* a day and considering the quality of the labour it is high enough. The labourers do not do their work conscientiously; their principal object seems to be to do as little as possible for their wages, and they require constant supervision. At the same time it is often the fault of the masters, who do not make a sufficient distinction between themselves and their men. The people appreciate education, although many are too poor to give their children its advantages, but most parents would be very glad to keep their children at school if they could afford to maintain them; but they are frequently obliged by poverty to take them away from school as soon as they can get them hired. Children, if they cannot be kept at school, are better with farmers than at home; they are better fed, and it is better that they should be employed than idling at home.

10. *Mr. L. Williams,* Rhoscellan.—I rent and farm an estate of 500 acres, chiefly arable land. I employ neither boys nor girls on the farm, and women only occasionally. About 15 women come from the southern part of the county to help in the harvest; they bring their own sickles with them, and board and lodge in the house. I pay them 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, with their food.

I have 14 farm servants, whom I board and lodge; their wages range from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year, according to their age and qualifications. All can read and write, and most of them attend a Sunday school.

Day agricultural labourers who are worth anything can earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, or certainly not less than 12*s.* a week. Men are to be got for less, such as discharged miners who know nothing of farm work.

The cottages in my parish are, generally speaking, bad, seldom having more than two rooms, and there are many withonly one.

11. *Mr. Richard James,* Brynllys.—I farm an estate of 600 acres of mixed arable and pasture land. The only women I employ in field labour are my three female farm servants, who do much of the work of the farm; they harrow and load manure carts. The wages are 7*l.* a year, with their board and lodging. I hire no boys under 16 or 17 years of age, but occasionally employ younger ones as plough boys. I have four male farm servants living in the house; their wages are from 9*l.* 10*s.* to 20*l.*, with food. I employ besides four day labourers, to whom I pay 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, with their board. They live in cottages for which they pay rent, and they have the privilege of planting potatoes on my land. For each bushel of potatoes, I finding the manure, they are required to give three days labour at harvest time. Some plant four or five bushels, and get enough potatoes to supply them for the year.

Farm servants can save money if they please. One of mine, whose wages are only 9*l.* 10*s.* a year, has now 150*l.* in a savings bank. The attendance at the schools in this parish (Henllys) is very good. I do not think there is a child old enough for school who does not attend either the church or the British school. If some boys leave school rather too young it is either for employment in the mines or to go to sea, which some do as young as 9 or 10. The cottages in this parish are very bad, many have only one room, and the gardens are very small.

12. *James Loxdale, Esq.,* Llanilar, magistrate.—I have taken much interest in the improvement of cottages for the agricultural population of this part of Wales, and I have built and am building a considerable number in the place of the wretched hovels, which are the reproach of this county. All those I build have three bedrooms and a kitchen, pantry, &c. below. Such cottages can be built for about 100*l.* 120*l.*, and a labourer is willing to pay 5*l.* a year rent for a good cottage. The desire for improved cottage accommodation is becoming general among the labouring classes. Attention to decency is also becoming more common among the people of this part of Wales, but the great impediment to progress is the language, and the advance of English in our remote districts is slow.

Education is appreciated, and where schools are ailable there is every disposition on the part of rents, whose poverty is not a bar, to send their ildren to them. Boys who have made tolerable ogress in English generally leave the principality d procure employment in Engalnd.

Children are very little employed in farm labour til they enter farm service, except on grazing farms, ere they are employed from the earliest age for months in the year looking after cattle, &c., to the eat neglect of their education.

The number of small freeholds is very considerable Cardiganshire, owing to the frequent sale of wn lands. These small properties are farmed in most wretched manner, the owners possessing rcely any capital. The accommodation in the all farm-houses is insufficient, the male and female vants generally sleeping in the same room.

13. *Mr. James Lewis*, Llanrhystedd.—I am a small rmer and publican, and am well acquainted with the te of the population in this part of South Wales. omen are much employed in agriculture, and are nerally paid 8*d.* a day with their food. The wages day agricultural labourers are from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a y, or 1*s.* 6*d.* perhaps if they are good workmen. ys are much employed in tending cattle from May December, and if hired are paid from 7*d.* to 8*d.* a y. Wages are so low that it is impossible for many rents to send their children to school. They cannot ord to pay the fees, however low, and a great many ildren hereabouts never get any education unless is paid for by others than their parents.

14. *Mr. John Richards*, master of the Llanrhystedd hool.—This school is supported entirely by subscrip-n and the children's pence. I am an uncertificated ster. I have 100 on the books, but the attendance the children for six months in the year is reduced less than one half. In April last the average at-ndance was 50; in May, 43; June, 40; July, 38; ugust, school closed for holidays); in September, 24. ere are a great many children in this parish who t no education, the parents being too poor to pay school fees.

15. *Mr. John Miller*, Morfumaur.—I rent and farm estate of 400 acres belonging to the Earl of Lis-rne. I consider my farm one of the largest, if not largest, in Cardiganshire, and it consists principally arable land. I employ about 19 young women regu-ly throughout the year, and I pay them 8*d.* a day dinarily, and in harvest 1*s.* 6*d.* They provide their n food and reside with their parents in a village out a mile from my farm. They do a considerable rt of the work of the farm, weeding potatoes, topping d tailing turnips, loading dung carts, pitching eaves, attending the thrashing machine. I never st them with horses, therefore harrowing is not done them, as on many farms. As to morals, they are ther better nor worse than others. There is a good al of illicit intercourse between the sexes in this rt of Wales, but it is the custom of the country. ere is no public opinion to check it.

I employ regularly 16 men as labourers to whom pay 10*s.* a week all the year round, without any rquisites. I employ no boys.

I think the small farmers are generally indifferent to advantage of education for their children; much re so than agricultural labourers, who look more to ir children getting on in life; but the schools in part of Wales are not good. They are not suffi-ntly looked after, and the masters are, generally aking, incompetent.

16. *Mr. Daniel Thomas*, Aberayron, land agent.—e employment of women in agriculture in Cardi-nshire is not one half what it was within my recol-tion, viz., a period of 25 years, and it will doubtless the course of time altogether cease. Good agri-ltural labourers can get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in this district, t of course there are inferior labourers who can only tain lower wages. The average value of land in the unty is about 10*s.* an acre. The farms are generally all, and the farmers possessing very little capital, cultivation is not, as a rule, what it ought to be. But there is an improvement of late years, and the Welsh people are ready enough to avail themselves of the experience of others whenever they can do so. in the interior rearing stock is the chief business. Dealers come into the county and buy for the English farmers. The farms in the hill districts have extensive rights of common, which enable them to raise large numbers of cattle. They are fed in winter by a short blackish hay made on the hills and carted down to the homesteads for winter use. Children are much employed in looking after cattle.

According to my experience the agricultural labourers in Cardiganshire are sufficiently educated to read their native language, and many can read English, without, however, always understanding it.

17. *Rev. H. Morgan*, Aberayron.—I quite agree in the opinion which I hear has been expressed by Mr. Daniel Thomas, that the employment of women in agriculture has greatly diminished in this county within the last 25 years.

It is not the practice to employ children much in agriculture. Nothing resembling the agricultural gang system is known or, I believe, has ever existed in Wales. The only employment of children which interferes seriously with their education is by the parents themselves, particularly the small farmers, who keep them from school for quite six months of the year. Out of the remaining six months available for education at least two must be devoted to regaining what had been lost; therefore, deducting the month's holidays at Christmas, and supposing the attendance to be regular, such children get only three months of effective education during the year. Among a certain class of the population there is no disposition to educate their children, probably from a disinclination to see them grow up better instructed than themselves. This is a class that can only be reached by a compulsory system, and the children of the very poor can be only educated on a gratuitous system. According to my experience as a diocesan inspector, I think I may state that there is not a parish in this county, unless it be a very small one, that is without some kind of school. Good masters are, however, rare. The obstacle to progress is the language. Civilization, if I may so speak, is advancing from two directions, viz., from the coast and from the English border.

18. *Mr. John Davies*, Lampeter.—I farm 100 acres, some arable, but chiefly grazing land. The wages of day agricultural labourers are from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day, with food, or from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* without food. A first class farm servant gets 16*l.* a year, with board and lodging. The employment of women in field labour is diminishing. There are great difficulties in the way of educating children in this part of Wales. Many of the parishes are very large, and how can a young child walk perhaps three or four miles in winter, in snow or rain, to school? The schools, too, are but indifferent, and a poor man cannot afford to pay more than a penny a week for a child's schooling. I am in favour of a compulsory and gratuitous system of education. I think the Government should at least afford assistance to the poor man in educating his children.

19. *Mr. David Davies.*—I farm an estate of about 180 acres between Lampeter and Aberayron. The wages of agricultural labourers are 6*d.* a day with their keep, or 9*d.* a day without it, but with the addition of a cottage and garden, the rent of which is 1*l.* a year and taxes paid. A cottager with a good garden is generally able to keep a pig. The cottages in the part of Cardiganshire where I live are all built of mud, with thatched roofs and mud floors, most of them unfit for a human being to live in.

20. *Mr. David Jenkins*, Blarencyswch, Lampeter.—I rent and farm an estate of 80 acres, chiefly arable land. I pay my day labourers 1*s.* a day with food. One of my labourers rents a two-roomed cottage and five acres of land of me, for which he pays 7*l.* a year. He keeps a cow. My two farm servants have 12*l.* a year each, with their board and lodging. I pay my day labourers from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day, with-

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out food. I keep two women servants, to one of whom, who is chiefly a domestic servant, I pay 7*l.* 10*s.* a year, and to the other, who works out, 5*l.* The children of small farmers are employed from an early age for many months in the year in tending cattle.

21. *H. C. Fryer, Esq.*, manager of the estates of Sir Pryce Pryce, Bart.—The employment of women in agriculture in this county is decidedly diminishing, but the female farm servants still do a considerable part of the out-door work of farms. In harvest time also a considerable number of women come from the southern part of the county and earn good wages with their food. In the barking season women and children are much employed; but it is not the occupation which children thus occasionally obtain that interferes with their education; that arises chiefly from the poverty of the parents. A graduated scale of payment, which should be adapted to the means of the parents, would bring many more children to school. In some cases it would be necessary that instruction should be provided gratuitously. There is every disposition, so far as my experience goes, on the part of the poorer classes to give their children the advantages of education, but the difficulties are great. In many parishes there is no school, and there is no person of sufficient influence to take the initiative in providing one.

Children certainly as a rule leave school too young, but there is a natural desire on the part of poor people to be relieved of the burthen of maintaining them. It would be a most important step in education if some adequate inducement could be held out to boys to continue their school attendance, if only for 12 hours a week, until 14.

The generality of labourers' cottages in this county are certainly very bad, except in the neighbourhood of the mines, where many good ones have been built by the miners, both for their own occupation and as an investment; but there is little improvement in the rural districts. The miserable character of these cottages is attributable to the fact that by far the greatest number have been built on lease and many by squatters on the wastes. Of the 500 cottage tenants of Sir Pryce Pryce not more than 40 pay rack rents. They are either the owners of the freehold or long leaseholders.

Cottagers are indifferent about gardens, and when they have them they neglect them. I do not know of any instance of the allotment system in this county. Small farms predominate in Cardiganshire, and the competition for them is great. Wages vary considerably in different parts of the county. Here they are about 12*s.* a week; further south 9*s.* is more common.

22. *Lt.-Col. Lewes,* county magistrate.—Boys are seldom employed here as in England. They are sometimes hired to scare crows, but are difficult to obtain for this purpose, as they are generally kept at school until they go to service in the farm houses. Some farmers take youths at 10 to save wages, and as far as my knowledge goes they are well and fairly kept. Girls are employed more than boys, and are in demand for tending children. They go out as young as 10, and when at a more advanced age, if unmarried, they enter farm service, and they are employed in field as well household work; they live as the men and at the same table with the farmer, and are usually engaged by the year. They feed pigs, tend cattle, are expert in using the spade, and in many other occupations usually assigned to men. With respect to the employment of children in outdoor work it is not the practice of this county. They go to school, and their parents do not like to take them away until they go to service. The occupation of girls in farm houses, though laborious, is healthy. Bred up in poverty from their youth, often even without sufficient food, they gladly enter service where the labour is only what they have been accustomed to, and where food, clothing, and wages are everything.

23. *Captain Philipps,* county magistrate.—Great progress has been made of late years in supplying this county with schools, but there are still many of an inferior character. The agricultural population on th whole do their best to give their children the advar tages of education, but there will always be som who neglect that duty, for which I conceive the mo effectual remedy would be for the State to requi that no child should be permitted to work for hi until he has obtained a certificate of being at lea able to read and write. This has long been my co viction, and I should be glad to find it carried in effect. Children are not much employed in th county on farms, except by their parents; gangs a entirely unknown. On my property and in the paris generally boys are employed as herd boys during th summer months from the age of 9 years. Girls a also so employed; I employ one occasionally as herd, aged 11 years.

I pay my day labourers 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, with a cotta rent free. Women I pay 9*d.* a day. They are en ployed not in consequence of any deficiency in ma labour, but because their wages are lower and the labour for many purposes is as efficient as that of me The hirings of farm servants are by the year, and tak place at the hiring fairs, which are held in the pri cipal towns of the county. The farm houses are ver deficient in sleeping accommodation. I know of mar where the men and women sleep in the same loft with out any separation, and there are many with merely row of boxes between them. Our petty sessions a much taken up with cases of bastardy arising out these defective arrangements.

The condition of cottages in this county is very muc to be deplored. They are much overcrowded, and th morality is very low, but much more so among th farm servants than in the poor cottages. The cases profligacy that often come before magistrates at pet sessions would scarcely be credited.

24. *David Howell, Esq.*, solicitor, clerk to the gua dians of the poor, Machynlleth.—The county of Mon gomery has two very marked social divisions; in o half Welsh is almost exclusively spoken, in the oth English. The rivers Severn and Vyrnwy form the li of demarcation between these districts. In the one pa English manners and customs prevail, in the oth Welsh. There is in both these divisions a marked di ference from the adjoining county of Cardigan. Wome are scarcely at all employed in agricultural labou except in hay-time and harvest. I cannot speak wi confidence as to the employment of children, but have no doubt the children of small farmers are r quired at a very early age to assist in the work of th farm. The farms are generally small in the Wel portion of Montgomeryshire, but in the English div sion there are some considerable holdings.

With regard to cottages it must be admitted th this county, although formerly contrasting with son others in the principality, is far behind modern r quirements. Speculators build on a very inferior pla and endeavour to gain the maximum of profit wi the minimum of outlay; neither ventilation nor d cency are considered. It is a landowners questic and public opinion and a sense of duty will alo correct the evil. A great number of cottages in th county have been built by squatters. For many yea the encroachments were disregarded, but most n have to pay a small rent. There is a great desire the part of every agricultural labourer to possess house of his own, but a landlord in granting a buildi lease ought to insist upon such a plan being adopt as will be conducive at least to decency and health.

25. *Rev. G. Griffith,* rector of Machynlleth, di cesan inspector of schools.—I think there is very lit cause for complaint with regard to the attendance children at the schools in my district. It is not custom to employ very young children in field wo and in this county wages, owing to the mines, are ge rally so good, varying from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, th parents, unless in the case of a very large family, c generally pay the school fees without difficulty. some poor mountain districts perhaps the case may different, for the small sheep farmers are very po lead very hard lives, and work their children soo than is good for them. Taking the county of Mo

gomery as a whole, the condition of its population is one of well being; the labouring classes have nothing to complain of, except perhaps the state of their cottages, which are very bad. I wish I could say that I was aware of any effort being made to improve them.

26. *Rev. David Parry*, rector of Darowen.—Boys go to service here from 10 to 12 years of age; they are lodged and fed at the farms where they work. If a boy can be well fed and well cared for at home, I should say that 12 was quite young enough to enter farm service, but if he cannot be so cared for, the sooner he goes toservice the better for him.

No young females are employed in farm work in this part of Wales, and women only during the harvest, when they lend a helping hand in the field. As occasional day labourers they do no greater amount of work than to enable them to pay for the land which the farmer has lent them for the planting of their potatoes, which is generally as near their homes as practicable. There is a national school in this parish open the whole of the year, and two others during the winter. They are not taken advantage of to the extent that could be desired, not owing to early labour, but because the parents cannot be led to appreciate the advantages of education.

27. *Rev. Joseph Hughes*, rector of Carno.—Boys enter farm service at from 9 to 13 years of age. I consider from 12 or 13 would be a much more suitable age. Girls are employed as young as boys to take care of children and in the general work of farmhouses.

28. *Rev. B. Harris*, rector of Llanidloes.—This is a manufacturing district, and the town boys are employed chiefly as jiggers in the surrounding lead mines; girls are also employed as woollen weavers in the factories, as hand loom weavers at home, and jiggers in the lead mines.

I think that no boy or girl ought to leave school until 13 years of age, but the parents here are too poor to dispense with their earnings. There is considerable indifference on the part of the poor as to the education of their children.

The old cottages in this place and neighbourhood are wretched hovels, but the new ones are very much better; very few have gardens, and the only accommodation they have is the privilege of planting potatoes on the neighbouring farms, within a radius of three miles from the town.

29. *Rev. F. W. Parker*, Vicar of Moughtey.—Boys are not much employed in this parish except to help their parents at busy times, or for driving sheep to pasture. They are thus employed as young or younger than 12 years of age. Girls are not at all employed except at harvest time to help their parents; the same may be said of women, who only go out to field work at harvest to assist their husbands. There is a Church of England school in this parish, well conducted by a certificated master; there is also a dissenting school held in a meeting-house. When the children become useful the parents are apt to keep them at home, or only to send them to school for the winter months. Some of the cottages in this parish are tolerably good, but they have not a sufficiency of rooms to properly separate the sexes, and they are not well ventilated.

This is a hill parish, the farms are small, the largest being let for 120*l.* a year. The greater number are quite small, the houses often no better than cottages, the farmer and his family doing most of the work, keeping no servants, either male or female, only a few day labourers being occasionally hired.

30. *Mr. John Peters*, master of Pennel British school.—This being an agricultural district the employment of children in early labour affects the school attendance considerably, there being something continually going on to require the children's help. With few exceptions, agricultural labourers remove their children from school before they are 12 years of age, as soon, in fact, as the farmers will take them. The children of the labouring classes pay 1*d.* a week for schooling, but when several come from the same family even that is too much for them to pay.

Generally, the labouring classes strive to let their children have a little schooling. Small farmers are not so careful in this, and many of them deny their children any instruction whatever.

31. *Mr. H. C. James*, master of the Aberllepunny British school.—This school, being in the centre of a mining district is not affected by children being employed in agriculture. The great drawbacks to education are, firstly, children being taken early from school, and, secondly, lack of regularity. If the legislature should pass a measure ensuring these two desiderata, this school, and dozens of others, would be ten times more efficient.

It is very important that a school should be conveniently situated; many children have to walk to this school four miles.

The children leave for the quarries at the age of 12; but more depart before 12 than remain over 12. The parents of only a very few children are too poor to pay, except where there is a very large family of eight or ten children. The attendance is smallest in December and January, stormy weather and distance keeping the children at home. I have seen only 12 in school out of 93, the average attendance. There are no agricultural labourers here, but many of the quarrymen, having received no education themselves, think their children may do as well without it, and therefore don't care about it. My firm belief is that some kind of compulsion must be used before many parents will send their children to school, and they must also be compelled to send them there regularly.

32. *Mr. Richard Gellart*, Machynlleth, land agent and manager of the estates of Earl Vane.—Women are very little employed in agriculture in this or any other part of the county of Montgomery, except at harvest time, and a few children perhaps for about three weeks in the barking season. Boys are taken into farm service at 13, and occasionally earlier, they are also employed at a very early age in herding on the hill farms. The wages of day agricultural labourers in this neighbourhood are from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week; in winter from 13*s.* to 14*s.* The price of labour in this district is affected by mines and quarries; in other parts of Montgomeryshire wages are lower, say from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week. The majority of agricultural labourers here live fully up to their wages, and as regards saving, they are little better off than if they got only 8*s.* a week; they are quite able to pay for the schooling of their children. Farms range in this part of Montgomeryshire (Machynlleth Union) from 20*l.* to 200*l.* a year, from 50*l.* to 60*l.* a year being the average.

Cottages are very indifferent, most having only two rooms, and there in a great want of cleanliness among the people. There is a great deficiency of privies, not only among the cottages, but in older class of farmhouses. Many of the old cottages have been built on long leases and are very bad, but all that have been lately built and are now building on Lord Vane's property are arranged on an approved plan, with suitable outhouses and accommodation. There is no taste for gardening among the cottagers, and their gardens are generally badly cultivated or altogether neglected. I am not aware of the allotment system being adopted in any part of Montgomeryshire. It would only be applicable in the neighbourhood of a manufacturing town. Agricultural labourers who are married can generally get permission to plant a few bushels of potatoes on the farmer's land; it often forms part of the hiring agreement.

Barley bread or oat cake was the common bread of labourers and farm servants in Montgomeryshire 20 years ago, now they will touch nothing but wheaten bread. The practice of giving salt meat as the only animal food prevails, but the effect of such a diet is probably counteracted by the quantity of farinaceous food consumed. Morals are, from my experience as a poor law guardian, improving.

33. *Mr. William Pugh*, land steward of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.—There is a great difference as regards the employment of women in agriculture between Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire. They are very little employed in the latter county. There

Cardigan, Montgomery, and Merioneth.

Mr. Henry Tremenheere.

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are a great many small freeholders in Montgomeryshire owning estates of from 20 to 80 acres, where they cultivate by their families. The smaller proprietors make up their living by the addition of day labour, but a man with land enough to keep two cows, with the addition of a sheep-run, can get on without being himself an occasional day labourer. The farms on Sir Watkin Wynn's property range from 10*l.* to 220*l.* a year. There is no desire to diminish the number of small farms; they provide a living for a great number of respectable men who would otherwise be forced to remain day labourers all their lives. The small farmers of from 15*l.* to 20*l.* a year rent combine the employment of an occasional day labourer with their holdings. Wages of agricultural labourers range from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week, and first-class farm servants get from 15*l.* to 19*l.* a year. The cottages on Sir Watkin Wynn's property are in a satisfactory state, most of them having four rooms. Gardens are very little valued, as a labourer can generally get the use of land from a farmer to plant potatoes. In the hill districts the cottages are very bad indeed, being both small and dirty, many quite unfit for a human being.

Education is very much appreciated by the labouring class for their children. In the parish where I reside (Llanbridwyn), of which the population is 2,180, there are two schools, a National and a British. The former has 100 on the books; the latter 120. Both have very good masters.

34. *Mr. G. W. Griffith*, merchant, Machynlleth.—I have resided 18 years in this neighbourhood, and although I don't now farm I am well acquainted with the farms of this district, which range from 30*l.* to 100*l.* a year. Female farm servants do not as a rule attend cattle, but only pigs, nor are they much employed in out-door work, except at harvest. Their wages are from 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year. All farm servants live upon salt meat, but eat wheaten bread in this district.

We know nothing of agricultural gangs, public or private, in this county. Many of the old farm houses are very badly provided with sleeping accommodation, and in some cases I have known the men put to sleep in an outhouse, but that is the exception. The cottages in this neighbourhood are very bad, and as a rule are badly drained, badly ventilated, and without privies. Those in villages are the worst; in the country districts they are a trifling degree better. I do not see any progress made in the direction of improvements. 3*l.* a year is the lowest rent that I know of being paid for a two-room cottage in this part of Montgomeryshire.

35. *Mr. Morris Davis*, farmer.—I rent and farm about 100 acres of mixed arable and pasture land, with a sheep walk of 50 acres in Merionethshire. I employ two men farm servants and one woman and a girl; the wages of the men are 12*l.* 10*s.*, and of the female farm servant 8*l.* To the girl, who is 16 years old, I pay 3*l.* a year. My servants have four meals a day; bacon or salt beef for dinner, oatmeal porridge for breakfast and supper, with bread made of two-thirds barley and one-third wheat. Women are employed as day labourers in my neighbourhood only in harvest time, when they are paid 11*s.* a week with their food. Boys are only employed after they enter farm service at 12 or 13 years of age. The cottages in the place where I reside (Court) are bad, but I have seen worse in other parts. Most have two rooms with a loft in which some of the family sleep. The flooring of the cottages is of brick or flags. There is a school in my parish but many of the people are too poor to be able to send their children to it, although more are ready to make any excuse, such as want of clothes, for not doing so. They ought to be compelled to send their children to school.

36. *Mr. John Owen*, farmer, Penegos.—In my neighbourhood the farms average about 60*l.* a year rent, and are partly arable and partly pasture. Wheat, barley and oats are grown chiefly for home consumption, but there is generally a surplus of wheat which is sent to market. Children are only employed when hired by the year, generally when they are 12 years old. Parents are too often indifferent to the education of their children, and send them out to service too young. I should say that the farm servants in this county live well, and the salt meat diet does not affect their health. The bread commonly used in my neighbourhood is made of half barley and half wheat. The farm houses are bad, and in a great many there is no separation of the sexes, the rooms of the male and female servants opening into each other and the door not locked. Much immorality is the consequence. A great many farmhouses are without privies and the tenants will not provide them, saying it is the affair of the landlord. The cottages are worse than the farmhouses, and there is little improvement noticeable. My parish is without a day school of any description.

37. *Mr. Edward Davis*, farmer.—I reside four miles from Machynlleth, and rent a mixed farm of 100 acres. The average wages of day agricultural labourers are 12*s.* a week all the year round. The result of my experience is that the labouring classes are desirous of educating their children where there are good schools, but the want is good schoolmasters. The rate of wages in this part of Montgomeryshire is so good that there can be no excuse on the ground of poverty for parents not sending children to school. The state of education among the labouring classes is fair. I should say that nineteen-twentieths can read their own language, and about one-half can write it. English is making progress.

The cottages are very bad, none having more than two rooms, but the small farmhousee in the hill districts are worse than the worst cottages. Many are five miles from any school, consequently it is impossible for the children of these small farmers to obtain any education whatever.

38. *Mr. Edward Jones*, Dolgelly, farmer and innkeeper.—Boys are not generally hired by the year in *this* neighbourhood before 14 years of age, but they get occasional employment during the spring and summer months. Girls are hired as domestic servants, but it is always understood that they are to assist in the outdoor work of the farms. They are taken into service when about 12 years old. Women are employed very extensively on all the farms.

It would be very desirable to place a limit on the age at which boys should be permitted to work for hire on farms, and I think 14 would be the proper one. I would impose a similar limit as to females, because they are employed when very young, and the hours of labour are for them often exceedingly long.

The cottages in this part of Wales are very bad, and very inconveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are built without the least regard to ventilation, and are often overcrowded. Gardens are rare, and in most cases the cottages have not an inch of ground beyond what they stand upon.

39. *Mr. William Davis*, Llanfachreth, Merionethshire, farmer.—In this parish boys are hired as farm servants from 12 years of age and upwards, but farmers employ their own children at a much earlier age. Girls go out as servants at 9 years of age and upwards to assist in indoor work, such as nursing children, &c., and at about 11 years of age in outdoor work. Women servants are employed in agriculture generally.

It would be very desirable if possible that boys should not be allowed to be hired as servants under 15 years of age, but they might be allowed to be employed by their parents, on condition that they are sent to school for a portion of the year. I think it desirable to place the same restriction on female children, and that girls should not be employed in heavy and dirty outdoor work, and that they should not be employed after 7 p.m.

There is one school in the middle of this parish sufficient for 50 children, which is about to be put under Government inspection, but as the parish is large, there are portions of it entirely unprovided with the means of education. The existing school is not taken advantage of principally from its distance, the indifference of parents has also some effect.

Very few cottages in this parish have gardens, the best have small portions of land, about two or three poles, the great majority have none.

40. *Rev. David Evans*, Bala, Merionethshire.—

Boys are employed in agriculture at all ages in this neighbourhood. Girls are only so employed in hay-time and at corn harvest. I should be disposed to fix the age at which boys should be allowed to work at 10. This parish is 13 miles long by 8 miles wide. All the schools are in the town, at one extremity of the parish, with the exception of a small rural school, which is closed in summer. The means of education, therefore, are very scanty, but I believe people would take advantage of schools for their children in winter if they were accessible. The causes of non-attendance in summer are early labour, and in some instances the utter indifference of parents, particularly of such as are illiterate themselves. The cottages in this parish and the small farm-houses generally have only two rooms, one for cooking and eating, the other for a dormitory. The consequence is that morality is at a very low ebb.

Most of the cottages have small gardens, but in consequence of ignorance and indifference they are badly cultivated, and yield very little profit. Privies are hardly known.

41. *Mr. John Moore*, Kerry, farmer.—Boys are not employed in this parish in agriculture before 10 years of age, when they are hired by the year, commencing on 1st of May. No girls are employed in outdoor work, nor do women work on the land. Boys, when they go out to service, live and board with their employers; they generally go out first as wagon boys and to assist the cowman. I would place the limit at which boys should be allowed to work at 11.

There is a national school at each end of this parish, and an endowed school at the village of Kerry, which is free to all poor boys and girls. In the national school 3*d.* is the charge for the first child, 2*d.* for the second, and 1*d.* for the third, so that for a family of three it costs the parents 6*d.* a week. The attendance is fair, but I think that early labour affects it greatly; indifference on the part of parents certainly does, and I should fully approve of compulsory education.

42. *Rev. J. McIntosh*, rector of Llanerfyl.—In spring and autumn many boys of the age of 9 to 13 are employed in this parish picking stones, scaring birds, with plough horses, &c. Young girls, from 10 to 12 years of age, are very commonly employed in picking stones and binding corn sheaves. If any restriction should be placed on the age at which children are to be allowed to work for hire, I think 12 for boys and 13 for girls would be desirable. The school and the domestic hearth are best for girls. There is an endowed school in this parish within reach of about half of the children of my parishioners, but it is not taken advantage of to the extent it should be. Poverty often induces parents to send their children to service too young, much to their detriment in point of morals.

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. BOYLE'S REPORT.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE.

At the Monmouth Board of Guardians held at the Board Room, Saturday, November 9th, 1869. Present: S. R. Bosanquet, Esq., Chairman; Captain G. Griffin Tyler, banker, Welsh Newton; Captain Davies, the Garth; J. A. Rolls, Esq.; Rev. R. Jackson; Mr. J. E. Hall, occupier, Mitchell Troy; Mr. O. S. Williams, occupier, the Vauxhall, Monmouth; Mr. Leonard, occupier, Cross Ash; Mr. Webb, occupier, St. Maughan's, Mr. Howells, occupier; Messrs. Walters, B. Price, &c.

R. Boyle, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, attended to gather evidence on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture.

The Chairman, S. R. Bosanquet, Esq., of Dingestow Court, in the parish of Dingestow, introduced Mr. Boyle, and put the questions as they are set down.

Question 1. At what ages, and at what times of the year are boys employed in agriculture on your property or farm, and in your parish generally?

Mr. Hall.—No boys are employed in my neighbourhood.

The Chairman.—I should say as my experience that the children not employed here are those under 12 years of age. I should say that all boys above 13 years of age on an average, and some above 12, and some not until they are 14, are all employed. They all go out, do they not?

Mr. Hall.—Yes, I think so.

Captain Tyler.—I think so.

The Chairman.—That is, they go into the farmhouses and live.

Mr. Hall.—Quite so.

Mr. Boyle.—What work do they do?

Mr. Hall.—Mind horses and waggons.

Captain Tyler.—Boys are used for odd jobs, such as minding the pigs and so on. They keep the crows off in Herefordshire, and at 15 they begin to drive a team.

Mr. Boyle.—Are they ever employed to keep crows off or to drive a team under 12?

The Chairman.—Yes; we cannot get them at school.

Mr. Hall.—I think we should treat the questions in a general sense, not take exceptional cases. I do not think, as a general rule, boys under 12 years of age are employed; in fact, to say the truth, they are no use.

Mr. Williams, the Vauxhall, near Monmouth, farmer.—We want some one to mind them.

The Chairman.—They are sometimes employed to set potatoes and to pick up potatoes.

Captain Tyler.—Very little.

Mr. Leonard.—I think I can answer for two parishes that there is not a boy under 12 years of age sent out to work, that is, Llantillio Crossenny, and a good deal of Skenfrith.

Mr. Boyle.—Have you not to send them out for odd jobs sometimes, say, in the sowing season, or when apple-picking is about?

The Chairman.—We can't get them at school. Unless they pay their penny on the Monday morning they won't go to school at all during that week.

The Chairman.—You will have about 30 on the books, and not more than 20 attend.

Mr. Boyle.—What ages would they be?

The Chairman.—From 13 to 14.

Mr. Boyle.—And they live in the house, I suppose?

The Chairman.—Yes.

The Chairman next put the question of wages.

Mr. Webb.—I generally give them 3*l.*

Mr. Boyle.—Of course living with you?

Mr. Webb.—They have their food and everything.

The Chairman.—There are a great many who do not get their food. I think they generally work a little with their fathers, and get 1*s.* or something like that a week.

Mr. Webb.—There are three or four kept in St. Maughan's now regularly. I have two now, and pay them 1*l.* a year each.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you ever employ any who do not live in the house?

Mr. Webb.—I do not; I can't get them.

Mr. Boyle.—Is that the usual complaint?

Mr. Hall.—That is the general complaint.

The Chairman.—A man's wages are about 12*l.* a year in the house.

Question 2. Are girls so employed, and if so, how many, at what ages, and in what occupation?

The Chairman.—I should say not at all.

Captain Tyler.—They are hardly employed at all, except by their parents, and they send them out into the woods. That is as bad as anything can be. Children get into more mischief by being sent into the woods than by anything else. They pick up whatever they can find and are spoiling the hedges.

The Chairman.—Then, you see, we have a great quantity of coppice wood about here, and when this is cut there is a quantity not fit for other purposes, and they cut it and make faggots of it.

Captain Tyler.—It is a bad thing for the women and children.

Mr. Webb.—And a bad thing for the farmer whose lands adjoin these woods. We suffer from it.

Mr. Boyle.—In what way is it a bad thing for them?

Captain Tyler.—Because they get into a free-booting, roving sort of habit. They would rather go to the woods than go to school a great deal.

Mr. Boyle.—I suppose you have little girls who go apple-picking and minding crows?

Captain Tyler.—Scarcely at all. Sometimes a little girl will go with her brother, but I never see a girl by herself.

The Chairman.—The women who pick my potatoes take their children with them to help them.

Mr. Leonard.—The children are never employed on farm work. The women are employed, and they go with them.

Mr. Boyle.—I suppose the parents get the job and the children go with them?

Mr. Leonard.—Of course, for company.

Captain Davies.—Even that, I should say, was exceptional.

The Chairman.—I should express it in this way: That there are 30 names on the books of the school, and we do not get more than 20 to attend. They are generally going about.

Mr. Boyle.—I suppose some are kept at home while women are out to take care of the children?

The Chairman.—Yes, that is so. Some mothers not insist upon their going to school at all. They ulge them.

Mr. Boyle.—Has poverty anything to do with it. n they always get their penny?

The Chairman.—Yes.

Question 3. To what extent are women so employed?

Mr. Hall.—We have great difficulty in getting the es to work. They stay at home and depend upon at their husbands earn. I have four cottages, and an only get one woman to work. They do a little rk in hay-making time, but not so much as they d to years back.

Captain Tyler.—Couching, and so on, they sometimes

The Chairman.—That is an exception.

Mr. Hall.—I suppose some people have a happy ack of pleasing them. They won't work for me.

Mr. Boyle.—You find in some parishes a great y go out and do a little in fine weather.

Mr. Hall—In hay-making time they do.

Captain Tyler.—And in weeding wheat.

Mr. Howells (farmer).—All women work out in erefordshire.

Captain Davies.—There is a great deal of difference tween Herefordshire and Monmouthshire in that pect.

Mr. Boyle.—What other work do they do?

Mr. Webb.—They couch, sir.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they work during wet weather at all?

Captain Tyler.—The women can't do anything in t weather.

Mr. Boyle.—What wages do they get when they do rk?

The Chairman.—10*d.* a day about our part, regu-lv.

Mr. Howells.—They get 1*s.* a day about us, and ir drink.

Captain Tyler.—That is in the harvest, is it not?

The Chairman.—10*d.* a day is the regular pay about

Mr. Hall.—You will never get them to work in the y-field under 1*s.* a day. I have to give them about t during hay-time.

Mr. Boyle.—And their drink in hay time? Do y look for that when they work?

Mr. Hall.—Yes.

Question 4. To what distances do the children, young persons, and women employed on your farm and in your parish generally go to work?

Captain Tyler.—They won't go very far, it must be nvenient.

The Chairman.—They are all within reasonable stances.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they mostly live on the farms?

The Chairman.—The cottages are not generally on the farms.

Captain Tyler.—A great many of the labourers' cot-es are built on the waste lands; on patches taken from the roads, and so on. On the Buckholt, Kynim, and Trelleck, they are all what we call uatters.

The Chairman.—Many of the cottages are built by sides of the roads; but all, one way or the other, re originally squatters.

Mr. Boyle.—Are a great part of them then free-ld?

Captain Tyler.—Some pay cot-rent; but most are chold.

Mr. Boyle.—That ought to make it better for them, they have no rent to pay.

The Chairman.—They have good gardens too. In Forest, for instance, that is so.

Captain Tyler.—I think the labourer in this district very well off, because coal is cheap, and there it nty of wood to be got; there are also plenty of ttages at a moderate rent.

Mr. Leonard.—If we have any alteration made by vernment, we shall have them good for nothing; they go to school at 12 and 13 years of age, and when they come from there they choose for themselves whether they will go to service or not. In some parishes there is money left to apprentice them

Mr. Howells.—It is the most difficult thing in the world to get a lad to work. If you thrash him that makes it worse again.

Mr. Leonard.—I don't think we want any inquiry here.

The Chairman.—The rule is, that their mothers spoil them; there are a great many complaints about that.

Mr. Leonard.—And if you thrash them and go to a magistrate, they will say you took the law into your own hands, and you must not do it.

Question 5. What are their hours of work?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—I don't think you will get the women to go to work before 8; and they work about nine hours.

Mr. Boyle.—And have a dinner hour in the middle of the day?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—Yes.

Mr. Boyle.—Any other interval?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—No.

Mr. Boyle.—And the boys, do they go out the same time as the men?

Mr. Hall.—The boys go out earlier than the women?

Captain Tyler.—That is about 6 and 7 in the winter.

Mr. Hall.—Then they have two meal hours out of that.

Captain Tyler.—They have their hours the same as the men.

The Chairman.—In harvest and hay-time they have extra time to work, they work later, and get extra pay for it and extra food.

Mr. Hall.—You won't get them to work a minute after the hour or a minute before. It did not use to be the case.—They used to be at the beck and call of the employer.

The Chairman.—That is at 6 o'clock; they go out at 6 o'clock and leave off at 6, and in the middle of the day they get their meal times.

Mr. Boyle.—The boy who keeps birds, I suppose you can't let him go away then?

Mr. Leonard.—There are no birds in this county; it is not like in some counties.

Captain Tyler.—There is not here, as there is in Herefordshire, a great deal of spring sowing. When the wheat is sown in March you must do it.

Mr. Boyle.—Why is it; do you think that you can get on without these boys?

Mr. Leonard.—We havn't got rooks here, nor much game, nor much spring sowing, as they have in many places. In some parts you have to keep them there from daylight till dark; but in this county it is not the same; they go at 7 o'clock in the morning and do what they like, and come home in the evening just the same. There are no regular hours in the county of Monmouth for boys.

Question 6. Is it desirable to place any restriction on the age at which boys should be permitted to work on the land, and if so, at what age would you place the limit?

The Chairman.—There is no occasion for any restriction.

Question 7. Is it desirable to place any restriction on the employment of females, and especially of the young, in agriculture?

The Chairman.—Young women are never employed, and the old women will take care of themselves. I don't think there is any restriction needed.

Question 8. What means of education are provided in your parish for the children of the agricultural labouring class? Do they take advantage of them? If not, are there any other causes besides early labour to which you attribute their non-attendance?

The Chairman.—That, you know, will be different in every parish.

Mr. Hall.—Most parishes have schools.

Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

Q.

Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

q.

Mr. Leonard.—I don't think there are better places in the world for education than this county. You don't get any parish without two or three schools.

Captain Davies.—I don't think there is a parish in the county without a school.

Mr. Leonard.—We have three with us. There is the Baptist school, the Church school, and the charity school.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you find the labourers send their children to school?

Mr. Leonard.—Yes.

Mr. Boyle.—Would that be the rule everywhere?

The Chairman.—It is rather difficult to get them to school sometimes. The parents indulge them.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you think the parents indulging them is the one great reason?

The Chairman.—Oh, yes. They generally keep them at home for their own convenience.

Question 9. (*a.*) What is the condition of the cottages in your parish and neighbourhood?

Several guardians.—Very good.

The Chairman.—Very good would not coincide with the opinion of some people. What do you consider a good cottage? In our parish they generally have a room and a half down and two rooms up.

Mr. Webb.—We have in our parish generally two rooms down and three up; that is, Rockfield and St. Maughan's.

Mr. Boyle.—You think what there are are good, but there are not enough.

Mr. Webb.—Certainly, and the farmers are injured by it.

Mr. Rolls.—The general complaint is the want of cottages.

Mr. Webb.—They pay no rent, and some build for themselves on the Duke's (Duke of Beaufort's) property.

The Chairman.—The character of these cottages is good.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you find they are good if they are built by themselves?

Mr. Leonard.—There are some very good cottages among them, sir.

The Chairman.—They are improving. The class of cottages they used to build were composed of a kitchen down below and a little side room; two rooms above going up to the ceiling, which was of thatch. Nothing is better than thatch, but thatch is not so much employed now, they use slate.

Mr. Howells.—I rent one of my cottages to one of the men in my employ, and it contains a kitchen, a parlour, a pantry, a back kitchen, and three or four rooms up.

Captain Tyler.—What is the rent?

Mr. Howells.—3*l.* a year. I let it to my waggoner.

The Chairman.—I find now that they build the cottages on a better scale than they used to. Instead of the upper window being under the gable they put them under the eave and ceil their house.

Mr. Boyle.—The cottages of the squatters, are they good?

Captain Tyler.—Some are good and some are very bad.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you mean that they have only one or two rooms?

Captain Tyler.—In some there are no partitions upstairs.

The Clerk.—One of these cottages was sold the other day for 13*l.*

(*b.*) Are they sufficient for the supply of the labour required?

Captain Tyler.—I should say they were.

The Chairman.—I think there is a little difficulty about us.

Mr. Leonard.—Yes; I think there ought to be more cottages, we should have a better sample of labourers if we had more cottages.

Mr. Webb.—In Llangattock and St. Maughan's we are badly off for cottages.

Mr. Boyle.—There are not enough. Do they come from the town to work?

Mr. Webb.—No, sir, we must pick them up whe we can; and we are bound to keep the men in t house.

Mr. Hall.—In the parish of Mitchell Troy there a lot of cottages.

Mr. Boyle.—It is a very general custom about th district, is it not, to have your labourers living in th house?

The Chairman.—Every farmer has got two or thre that is, in a tolerably sized farm. The rest live ou but the unmarried ones live in the house.

Mr. Boyle.—No married ones live in the house?

The Chairman.—Oh, no.

Captain Davies.—It is a custom, though very muc on the decrease.

Mr. Boyle.—As the accommodation in the cottage improves?

Captain Davies.—I suppose so, or else their habi are altered.

Captain Tyler.—The farmers don't like to have the in the house, and they don't keep the number the used to.

The Chairman.—Those in the house work whe they are wanted, morning and night; the out-doo ones are restricted to 6 and 6.

(*c.*) Are they conveniently situated with respec to the farms?

Generally.

(*d.*) Are they overcrowded, and have any ev results to morality come under your notic in consequence?

Mr. Boyle.—Is there any overcrowding in th cottages?

Mr. J. E. Hall.—Not that I am aware of.

Captain Tyler.—Oh, no.

Captain Davies.—About West Dean, I think, they a a little; but that affects the mining population instea of the agricultural population.

Captain Tyler.—As a rule they are the proprieto of their own cottages.

(*e.*) Are they well supplied with water, and we ventilated.

The Chairman.—The ventilation is generally bad.

Captain Tyler.—Yes, generally; if there is a windo that opens they will fasten it up.

The Chairman.—If you had the best ventilation the world they would stop it up.

Captain Tyler.—It is not the fault of the cottages it is the habits of the people.

The Chairman.—As for water, they always go the well for it. This is a well watered countr There is always a well within a reasonable distance.

Captain Tyler.—This country is so undulated. differs every half mile.

Question 10. Have all the cottages in yo parish and neighbourhood good gardens, c in default of gardens, have all the cottage allotments of land conveniently situated f the use of labourers and their families?

Captain Davies.—They have everywhere, I shou say.

The Chairman.—As they are squatters they general have some little garden.

(This concluded the Inquiry.)

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2. Supplement to Meeting of Monmouth Board of Guardians.

Monmouth Market, November 9, 1869.

Farmer, *loq.*—"I mean to tell you, sir, that t
" labourer here is better off than any Governme
" Commissioner sitting beside a table. Why are th
" so well off, sir? Why, they are independent, a
" that is as much or more nor you nor I can say
" are. He gets his money, his 12*s.* o' Saturday nigh
" and he pays his debts, which is more than you n
" me nor many another can always say. What we
" want, sir, is more cottages. We farmers couldn
" well say it in there, because there was landowne
" and farmers mixed. What cottages we have got
" plenty good enough, but what we do want is mo

f them. The people are well enough off in this ounty and in the adjoining. Can't see why they re not so well off in other counties. Must be some ad management somewhere. I hope you will give good report of our county, sir."

. *Mr. Wherrett*, occupier, Newland.—The rate of es is rather lower close to Monmouth than towards forest. There they will often get 12*s.* a week liquor, having to pay 5*l.* or 6*l.* for a cottage. At mines they will often make 1*l.* a week, but do not drink. They work by job work. Work is also e in agriculture by job work. A man will often 10*s.* an acre for reaping. The people in a mixed ing and agricultural district are not so content as purely agricultural district. They are more idle, spend more money in drink. In the forest agri- ural wages are a full shilling higher—12*s.* and r. They are a better set than the miners, who k a great deal more. Those with the best wages not always the best off.

. *Mr. Williams*, solicitor, and clerk of union, Mon- th.—Up towards the Graig soil heavy and wet, you cannot get women out; besides, few turnips there; cannot feed it off. More work towards lan, but little beyond turnip work.

enerally have a boy to help lead the horses; be- at 12 or 13; worth about 3*l.* a year, and taken live in the house. They don't stay long in same ice. There is a scarcity of boy labour, and they away to other places; there is a scarcity of labour gether. If a boy gets in a scrape he goes off to hills. There is three to one as much arable as ture in the district. There is not much bird- ping. Farmers are very fond of covering a field h string, and it answers very well. The average es are about 11*s.*, and two quarts of cider a day. cannot value the cider at more than 4*d.* a gallon, refore the cider drunk is equivalent to 1*s.* more. mer drinks the same.

No harm comes of the hiring fairs except the militia e out. Now it is taken care that it should not be he same time; and last time there were not more n a case or two of drunkenness before the magis- es. Women often only hire themselves out from nday to mopday, and go back to the same place; y will have their day out, and that the mopday, as onday.

Many affiliation cases; more in the Raglan than nfrith division, but probably not more than half a en in a year altogether.

A deal of harm comes to the town people, prin- ally to the boys and girls, from going "to wood," , to gather wood, a sort of gleaning. The distance y go is about two miles. A good many spend all ir time thus. It is usually for firing, but at certain es they are allowed to cut bean-sticks. This goes mostly in the Forest of Dean, coming down within miles of Monmouth.

Parish of Grosemont.

Population, 700 - Acreage, 7,000.

5. *James Lane, M.D.*, Grosemont—The cultivation ixed, far from good, but improving. The four-course tem is followed. The greater part of the land is in- ior pasture devoted to the rearing of stock. Boys der 13 are very rarely employed. Young women are ver employed in this neighbourhood on the farms. casionally in the haymaking season and harvest a few own-up girls and women are so employed. Too ny of the girls stay at home and are spoiled by ir parents, who indulge them much in this class of . Very bad results follow. When Dr. Lane first ne the women used to work a great deal more than ey do now; they would come down after midnight as to do a long day's working at a farm. They rk now to a trifling extent, for they manifest a great al of indifference as to employment of any kind. I am told it is considered as inferior for a woman to ttend and do the washing of an establishment. When women are employed their hours of work are not many, as they generally perform their own household duties before they leave home, and re- "turn early in the evening for the same purpose. "There is no school at present, which is the more to "be lamented because there are very many children "in need of it, and the money left to provide the "means of education, 800*l.*, may be considered liberal "in a small parish." The old master is gone, and the new one not come yet. The dissenting Sunday school has about 70 or 80 children. There is a middle class school, but no sons of labourers at that. Sons of farmers and shopkeepers come from other parishes.

"Some of the cottages are wretched hovels, not fit "habitations for human beings; several have been "suffered to fall into decay." Two reasons are assigned for this: one the fear of poachers, the other the wish to throw the rates on another parish; but the latter reason does not operate now. There were a great many small freeholds along the road, but most were bought up and pulled down. The people cling to them as long as they can, long after they are mortgaged. There is not, however, such a want of labourers' cottages here as in many other places. The farmers do a great deal of the work with servants living in the house. "They have all gardens."

Parish of Llangattock Vibonavel.

6. *John Allan Rolls* (son of owner).—Population of parish about 500; acreage, 4,138. Cultivation mixed. "Boys about 10 years of age are employed in "driving with the plough, 'keeping' birds, minding "pigs. The greater part of the year boys of that age "are employed on the farms; those so employed "generally board and lodge with the farmer." No girls are employed, and women only in harvest. There is a go od National and Sunday school. The cottages are in a fair condition, sufficient for the present requirements, and tolerably conveniently situate. All have gardens, some good, some bad.

Parish of Llantilio Crossenny.

Population, 748 - Area, 5,951 a.

7. *Hon. F. Clifford-Butler*, farms Colonel Clifford's home-farm, called the Park Farm, because originally old Raglan deer-park, about 370 acres, of which about half is arable, but grass preponderates in the rest of the parish.—Employs three women among the swedes and in harvest, &c., and gives them 1*s.* a day. Very respectable all of them. "Very few women in "this parish *will* do outdoor work on a farm, although "farmers are often pressed for want of more hands "during the haymaking and harvest. No girls are "employed on my farm, nor am I aware that any "girls in this parish are employed in outdoor work. "Girls enter service in farmhouses from 14 years "upwards, but, with very few exceptions, their work "is confined to the house. On my farm a boy of 13 "or 14 years is sometimes employed to keep crows "from a newly-sown field. In this parish boys very "generally go into service at about 14 years old, and "in most instances they live in the farmhouses, un- "less their parent's cottage is near at hand." The cottages are moderately good, and sufficient in number for the supply of labour which can be obtained. Many young able-bodied men leave the parish for work in the mineral districts.

8. Extract from Diary.

Friday, 28 October 1869.

At Colonel Clifford's home farm saw two women working on one field cutting turnips with a boy; the eldest was a married woman, Mrs. Jones. "Only work for Mr. Butler; like to do it; is cutting "off the tops of the swedes. The boy is hers; he is "8 years old; is supposed to be keeping crows in "the other field. 'Here, you be off to the other field.' "He goes to school; will be going back to school "now. Asked Mr. Harvey yesterday if he could go "next week, but Mr. Harvey says he will want him. "Wants a coat for him very bad to keep him warm "this cold weather. It is almost too cold for him "keeping birds now." Mrs. Jones has a husband a good deal younger than herself in receipt of 2*s.* 6*d.* a day wages; she herself makes 1*s.* a day, so she is very

Monmouthshire.

Mr. Boyle.

9.

well off. The other woman was a younger woman, and had been out at service.

9. *Rev. David Davies*, vicar of Llantilio Crossenny.—Boys are sometimes employed as early as 9 or 10 years old; but as a general rule they are kept in the parish school until 12 or 13 years of age. There is an endowed grammar school, free to the children of all inhabitants. There is hardly a farmer's or labourer's child who does not attend the school; some of them, especially small farmers' children, do not attend as regularly as could be wished, in consequence of being occasionally at farm-work. Labourers' children are also employed at different seasons crow-scaring. As a general rule boys who leave school early make the best agricultural labourers. Those who continue at school until they are 13 or 14 years of age very generally obtain situations on railroads, in gentlemen's service, and in the police force.

Girls are seldom if ever employed in agricultural labour; they are generally engaged for indoor service not younger than 13 years of age. About three-fourths of the labourers' wives of this parish are employed in farm-labour. No restriction necessary as far as this parish is concerned.

In the months of July and August small gangs of people from Herefordshire, accompanied by dirty and ragged children, come to this parish for turnip-hoeing.

10. *Schoolmaster*.—Find the children taken away during the hay and corn harvests. Sometimes get them for a short time between the harvests. Holidays are given in August for the harvest, and after that comes the potato-picking and apple-picking, and after that do not get them till November. After that they stay pretty well till the mowing begins.

We see little of small farmers' boys in the working season. Being a free school the people know they can send their children any day; it is not important, as when the money is paid on Monday, for them to come the whole week; many will come only 20 days in the year.

It is not general to take the children away very young; labourers will sometimes leave a boy till 12 or 14 years of age; but most go rather earlier. Small farmers will take them away altogether at 16 or 17, but their attendance while at school is more irregular. One farmer has four boys, whom he worked very young; it was on his own farm. Girls stay as long as boys, and few of them do field-work except what they do with their parents They are, however, much kept at home while their parents are at work; this is serious from May to November.

Total on books - - -	98
Average attendance - - -	70

In summer the average attendance is about 20 per cent. less than in winter. There are more boys than girls, some of the latter being kept at home for nursing.

11. *Mr. Roper*, farmer and bailiff to Colonel Morgan Clifford.—1. The boys here are a little better off than in the neighbouring parishes; there is a marked difference in the conduct, they are better behaved and more respectful. We have never had a boy under 13 in the farmhouse. They are not wanted to drive plough now. The soil is light, and ploughed with a pair of horses. Used to want a boy for ploughing with oxen; but that is gone out now. They are employed keeping birds for a month, and sometimes help their parents among turnips. We sometimes have had gangs of seven or eight boys from Herefordshire to do the turnip-hoeing, and some children among them are only 8 years of age, poor and emaciated looking; but never see them less than 8; all appear to be related, the little ones seem to be younger brothers. We find in this county no respectable man ever changes employment. The ordinary wages are 12*s.* and two quarts of cider. A good man often makes 18*s.* a week. We keep two men; give victuals two months in summer. Give a cottage, which is valued at 2*s.* a week. Employ their wives a good deal, and give advantages.

Don't employ women as much now machinery has come in. Women work by the piece, cut thistles, pick potatoes, &c. Give preference to labourers' wives. We are particular as to character. Think the woman who comes out better and more healthy looking than the woman who stays at home. A woman too lazy to work is too lazy to take care of the home.

Farm 300 acres, which require four men and a boy to manage; one man and a boy live in the house. We have four cottages, more than wanted; we let them to other farmers.

Boys about 10 keep birds. Boys left alone or in large families get to work at 8 or 9, and buckle to agricultural pursuits and are more satisfied; but there is an ambition to keep the children at school and raise them. They turn out well generally.

There are many small farmers, whose children work harder than labourers' children.

No girls work out. We keep two in the farm; they come to service at 13 or 14, except in large families where perhaps a younger girl will go to nurse. They do not often go out. At Llanarth, where there are many Irish, a farmer will take his wife and children, both boys and girls, out to dig potatoes. There are rare instances of girls going out. One up at White Castle goes out; she had a child, and her mother took her out. The women are generally a good class; not many drunkards. There is not one case in four where a woman marries in the family way.

Towards Clytha all the land is ploughed; but here about half and half. Half the parish is a very stiff soil, the rest light.

Scarcely a case where not quite sufficient accommodation in cottages. Morals are good, and children of the two sexes are kept apart.

12. *Sydney Miles* (age 13).—Father is a farmer; farms 60 or 70 acres. Works for father; first began to work at 8 or 9; do a little of everything. Work about four months in the year; chiefly drive horses for the plough.

13. *Thomas Powell* (13 next June).—Began to drive horses at 6 years old. Farmer only gave me victuals at first; began to pay me something about three years ago; gave me 2*l.* a year.

14. *Isaac Price*, does not know his age; between 12 and 13.—Works for father; father farms 170 acres. Drives horses for father. Does not know how old when began.

15. *George Howell* (age 12).—Works for father; father is a farmer; drives horses for him, always drives horses. Has three brothers, one of whom is younger, he is at school. Began to work at 8 or 9; used to come to school before; likes to come to school best; does more work than school. Keeps crows sometimes; takes 15 hours to keep crows; comes home to dinner. Father farms about 15 acres. Only me and my brother work. Found when I began I could manage the horses all right.

16. *Elizabeth Pugh* (age 11).—Goes haymaking for father. Father is a farmer. Frightens birds off the wheat; does it in winter and spring; does not like doing it very well; goes out after breakfast and stays till 5; never did it before this year.

17. *Sarah Ann Kinsey* (age 9 last November).—Father is a labourer. Has one brother. Mother does no out-door work except haymaking. I have been out picking potatoes in Mr. Johnson's field; picks apples besides. Comes to school most of the year.

18. *Ada Williams* (8 years).—Goes picking potatoes.

Parish of Raglan.

Population, 905 - Acreage, 4,083.

19. *Rev. A. M. Wyatt*, vicar.—If education is to make any progress, I venture to think boys should not go to work before the age of 12. We have a good National and infant school, and the Baptists have a day school. The average attendance is fair. The non-attendance of children is chiefly attributable to the carelessness and indifference of the parents. One of the great drawbacks of it is the quantity of squatters who pay perhaps 6*d.* an acre. Lord Abergavenny, in the north of the county, who had many of the same, repaired the cottages and raised the rents, and the people

ked it. Here it is all very well the look of it, each erson with his small holding; but there is great isery, in many of them large families huddling in nly two rooms. They have built on bits of ground hat have positively been taken from the Duke, ut by neglect in past time have passed into their ands, and now he has no power over them but nking the nominal rent.

The crowding produces great immorality, and nother fertile source of immorality is the little care ken of farm servants, who are out working late, and he men and women passing through one anothers' ooms to their own. Most of the women married in hese parishes are going to have a child, and they see ttle harm in it. *Bundling*, though denied here, does revail, and of course leads to worse. There is too not he feeling now among the farmers about a servant aving a child. They will generally take her back; n fact, they are forced to do so, for there is such a carcity of labour of any kind now.

No boys stay at school longer than 11; most go t 10; they are taken into the farms and live there. t is very demoralizing, for they are not looked after. Wages are 12*s*., out of which they have to provide the ottage; but many of them have a cottage of their wn.

The worst girls are, however, generally those who tay at home; they soon get beyond their parents' ontrol. The parents indulge them a great deal, and ery often do not like to part with them; but when e himself sees a girl of 14 or 15 loitering at home, e begins to ask when she is going out to service.

Has a night school and 22 pupils, open four nights, nd he and the curate take it alternately. Thinks hat the real reason there are so few in this country s the want of teachers. You cannot expect a school-naster tired with a long day's work to undertake it.

Wages would be perhaps 10*s*. or 11*s*. and cider, ut the men are only paid for each day they come, ot for a wet day; usual pay perhaps 2*s*. a day.

19*a*. *Mrs. Bridge*, schoolmistress. — Children are ot so much taken away from school here to do farm-ork as in most country villages near. This is more ike a town.

No girl does much out-door work. Boys are taken way for a time very often, but they come back enerally. They go to mind the birds. Some have een away, and are away now, for potato-picking. ome go very young, at 7 or 8 years of age. In ummer quite a third of the children in the school go. They come back about now, and will be off again bout the spring.

Girls are much kept at home to nurse while mothers o out.

There are between 70 and 80 children in the chool.

The Baptist school takes a great many of the hildren, but there are few who do not go to any chool at all. There is an evening school, but Mr. Wyatt undertakes that.

20. Squatters' cottages at Raglan.—Extract from Diary, November 9, 1869.

Most of the cottages on the outskirts of this parish belong to squatters, who have settled down on bits of ground along the side of the road, which were left formerly when land was not so much prized as it is now. Landlord's rights over the squatters or cotters are really very questionable, but in most cases are compromised for a few shillings a year. At Raglan they extend along the road to Monmouth for some distance, and are scattered here and there beyond the parish, also along the adjacent lanes. They vary in quality from excellent slated cottages with two windows on each side of the door, to mere hovels with only one storey and a thatched roof. Every one has a long narrow strip of garden or orchard along the road side. The worst we saw was one of these last, only occupied, however, by an old blind woman, to whom it belonged; her daughter, whom we found, a woman of about 50, there taking care of her, said she recollected her mother being here "before she was born." It consisted of only two rooms, neat enough, and all very well where no large family. There was another very bad, but with a slated roof, built against a much better cottage; it has a room above, and a room below; in it lives a woman of very bad character, who is supposed to have had a child by a very near relation. Many of the cottages bore the appearance of being quite new or lately done up, and had taken the place of hovels that had before existed. One of these the Rev. W. Davis showed me that had obtained the prize for neatness. We saw also the two cottages Mr. Wyatt, of Troy House, described as having been built as model cottages for the Duke of Beaufort. Dress stone and slate very neat, and standing back from the road in their own gardens.

21. Diary, November 9, 1869.

Man returning from market, *loq*., "The Duke has a sight of property; nearly all the way from Raglan to Monmouth, both sides of the road, is his. People very badly off; get, perhaps, their 10*s* a week, and a lot of cider. Those men breaking stones can get 3*s*. a day; breaking by the yard 10*d*. a yard. Some cannot do half a yard at first. I couldn't do half a yard. There's a many of the poor creatures get their money on Saturday, drink it all, and have not a bit to eat Sunday. Near all the women work cutting turnips; very hard work for the poor things. Get 8*d*. or 10*d*.; they come out in harvest; don't go out much in wet. Little boys begin very early, 8 to 10; get perhaps 1*d*. a day at first, but they should begin soon; never do well if they take to labour later. Get lazy when they are big boys."

Parish of Llandenny.

22. *Rev. W. Davis*, curate.—Is Mr. Wyatt's curate for Llandenny, which being a living of only 50*l*. is joined to Raglan. Consists of three hamlets, one of which is up on the hills, and is a great stronghold of dissent; it has Baptist and Methodist chapels. It consists of cotters, and some of the cottages are very bad. Are a civil people, and glad enough to see him, and he thinks were they nearer would come to church. Has a school at Llandenny, but only 20*l*. to give the master, who is one of the old fashioned school. Of course there are some families who never send their children; when remonstrated with they say they want them to work, or to stay at home and mind the children while they are out themselves. Boys lead horses; are not really wanted, but taken to turn the horse at the furrow. Women do not work much. Go out among the turnips. There is a great scarcity of labour. Most of the big boys go off to the mines. The girls go into service chiefly, mostly in the towns; they do not care about service in farms, and like getting off to towns, where they get more finery.

Parish of Dingestow.

23. *S. R. Bosanquet, Esq.*, Dingestow Court, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and Chairman of the Monmouth Board of Guardians. (Area of parish 1,885 A. 2 R.; population 231. The cultivation is more pastoral than arable. Cattle are fed and sold into other counties; the pastures are fine.)

"No children are permanently employed. Three or four boys (not children of the farmers) live in the farmhouses, being housed and fed, and having on an average 3*l*. wages, and six girls. I do not reckon haymaking, when all turn out. Boys are employed in driving team, girls in dairy and house work; their hours are 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; they work about the stables, cattle-sheds, and in the houses whenever wanted; those in the farmhouses work all hours. They take their meals with the family.

"No alternative of schooling and work need be prescribed here, but if at all, it should be by alternate weeks, not days, as a penny a week is paid for schooling, and work interrupted by alternate days would be useless.

"There is a National school supported by the principal owner. The children pay a penny a week, the number on the books being upwards of 30,

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about 20 attend on an average. The parents often keep them at home to assist them. The weather affects the attendance, but not greatly, none come a mile to school. All, with scarcely an exception, are able to pay their penny a week.

"The girls in the school are taught needlework, and they sweep out the school, &c. by turns."

Farmers in the parish can recollect Dingestow being the only parish in the neighbourhood that had a school, and children used to come to it from all surrounding parishes. Now, of course, the attendance is not so large, and there are few children from other parishes.

"Morals are not affected by the state of the cottages; the cottages (and also the farmhouses) have mostly stone floors. The general climate of the country is damp, but less so than 20 years ago from the extension of draining. Rheumatism prevails, but to a much diminished extent. I think they contract it out of doors, not in their cottages." There is no overcrowding, as it happens there are no large families.

"The cottages consist of two unequal rooms below, and two equal rooms above. The internal width of the building 14 to 16 feet; the lower rooms 14 or 16 feet, and 6 feet long = 20 or 22 feet, and 11 or 10 long each above. The ventilation is by casement windows. There is no system of draining, only open gutters into the nearest ditch. The water is drawn from mills at greater or less distances. All have gardens, an outhouse, and pigsty. All the cottages were originally built by the labourers themselves on slips of land on the roadside. Most of them have been offered to and purchased by the principal owner in the parish in the present generation. All have gardens, which pay the rents, which are from 3*l.* to 4*l.* The recently built cottages are better than those above described.

"When I came into the property all the cottages were owned by squatters, but now have bought them all up. The people came and asked him to do it. After he had once begun, some who had to pay small headrent tried to induce him to do the same, but he only bought the simple freeholder. Is not so well provided with cottages as he could wish, and one or two of the farmers have asked him when putting up their farm buildings to add a cottage. Cottages are, however, not so necessary in this county; the custom prevails much of the labourers being in the house. A farmer will often have two men and two women besides boys living in the house, and one cottage per 100 acres is sufficient. Has a printed statement that no lodgers are to be admitted, but it is often eluded. In a case where it does not produce crowding takes no notice, but if it does enforces it.

"The only work that women do out is weeding corn; sometimes sees as many as eight doing it in a row; setting potatoes and picking them, in which the boys also join. The children too spend some time picking up acorns in the extensive rich coppices for the pigs. Nearly everyone keeps a pig. The farmers ought to be well off here; they have an excellent market at Pontypool.

"Cottages cannot be built on self-supporting terms without an increase of the rents, which are low.

"Wages are good and improving, but higher rents could not be paid without inconvenience to the labouring class."

Wages are high owing to the mines being near, and it ends in the number of labourers on each farm employed being as few as possible. The cultivation is mixed, about half arable. Mr. Bosanquet has only 100 acres in hand, all grass, just about the house.

Parish of Mitchel Troy.

Population - 385.

24.— *Wyatt, Esq.*, agent to the Duke of Beaufort, Troy House.—The Duke of Beaufort has property in about 60 parishes, most on this side of the county, in some nearly the whole parish, in others but a few farms. He has sold a good deal about Magor, because it was taxed to nearly its full value to preserve the sea-wall.

The "Duke's cotters" are a great disadvantage to him; remarks, owing to the badness of their cottages, are often made undeservedly; he can do nothing for them but pull them down altogether, or improve them, and raise the rent. To do the latter is very difficult, for they do not at all understand the value of a good cottage. They are content to sleep huddled all together in one room, and they would be too poor to pay the value of a good cottage. They are much poorer than the ordinary agricultural labourer who gets his 2*s.* a day. They will work for 1*s.* 6*d.*, but only work by job work, getting a job from a farmer now and then. Besides this some of them have holdings up to 10 acres, which they work with their wives and children. Most of them have built their cottages close to the woods, and a good deal of pilfering goes on, as they help themselves to firing from the copses belonging to the Duke and others. You will meet women and children going openly about with hatchets for the purpose. There are many such cottages about Devauden Green, close to which is Chepstow Park, a wood of 1,200 acres belonging to the Duke. There are in all on his property as many as 800 cotters. They are all natives of the county, and it began originally from some such case as this: A new road was made, cutting off a bit of a field, and the next farmer did not feel he had a right to take it into his farm; so some one came and built a little cottage, and brought the corner under cultivation; a very bad cottage at first, improving as he felt more secure in his occupation. There was an Enclosure Act for the five parishes about here, Llanishen, Trelleck, &c., about 20 years ago. A good many people had rights; the Duke is lord of 18 manors.

As a rule the cottages about here are not good or sufficient in number; there is a lack of capital, and capital is required for the purpose. Built two model cottages some time ago close to Raglan, with three bedrooms each; they cost 180*l.* each, and let for 7*l.* apiece; but that is too high a rent to be paid by a farm labourer; a carpenter lives in one.

A good many of the labourers live in the farmhouses, but the married men require cottages. A great many of them live in the villages, and come out to work, there not being a sufficiency of cottages on the farm. A short time ago, was building a good new farm building, and offered to put up a cottage close to it, but the farmer felt he would rather have a man living in the house.

The cottages have mostly two bedrooms, but there are some in which the people all live crowded in one bedroom. There is a good deal of overcrowding.

Wages are high owing to the hills being near (mines). Labour both of men and women is scarce. Women do light work, as in harvest, and also among turnips. Boys do little work before 16.

One of the greatest evils of this county is the "hiring fairs," called locally "mop fairs." They spread from here on into Glamorganshire and the South of Wales generally. As many as 500 young men and women, all natives of the county, come to the great mop fair at Monmouth; it takes place in May. They hire themselves out for the year, and most of them come back again at the end of the year to the next fair. They are generally worse characters than people who keep steadily to one place; they seem fond of change, and never become attached to one locality. It is a very demoralizing system; they do a deal of harm in the town; each public house has its fiddler, and a dance generally takes place. They are almost all unmarried; they are hired as indoor servants, that is, to live in the farms, the men to work out in the fields, and the women also in some cases, milking, &c. These mop fairs will not be done away with till education is more appreciated. It is not appreciated among the labourers as much as among the farmers. A labourer will take his boy of 10 out to lead the team while he himself ploughs, not for any pay from the farmer however. Education is improving.

25. *Venerable Archdeacon Sleeman.*—Has only been here eight months. Has to complain very much of the crowded state of cottages in agricultural parishes. Had a parish in Devonshire, where it was far worse than it is here; the natural consequences result. Very fond of taking in lodgers.

26. *Rev. Mr. Still*, curate, says, that much overcrowding produces many evil results, even here. Mentioned a case of a woman who had had a child by her uncle; they were married since before the registrar, though told it was impossible they could be legally man and wife. A great number of the cottages are what are called cot-rents; some are very good, some very bad; some have only two rooms. There is one upon the common quite tumbling down, that consists of two low rooms thatched. Some of the others belong to a Mr. —, in Monmouth; they are big enough, but not in very good repair.

The women work out very little in this parish and in Cwmcarvan, which is attached to it. Cwmcarvan is of rather a different character, containing some small holdings, whereas in Mitchel Troy are one or two large farms. The boys are taken away a good deal from school, and it interferes much with the school work. They go at 10 to mind horses, and live in the farmhouse. Girls are kept at home to mind the small children, but come on the whole more regularly than boys.

27. *Mrs. Hoskins*, wife of labourer.—Husband has very bad health; when in work can earn 12*s.* a week; sometimes only earns 2*s.* a week. Last week had to earn nearly all the money myself; am quite ready and willing to turn my hand to any work, outdoor or indoor; do a great deal of outdoor work; can weed; go singling swedes and turnips. Pulling swedes is very hard work, but am glad to be able to do something. Get 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day, and some drink. Go out haymaking and harvesting; get for that 1*s.* a day, no food, except a meal now and then. Not many women in the parish go out to work [tone rather contemptuous of those who do not]; some will go out with their husbands, cutting, while he pulls swedes.

When I go out I am obliged to leave the children to take care of themselves; one is only a few months old, and none are old enough to take any real care of the others. I lock them into the kitchen, and they play about. Must leave a bit of fire because of the supper, but it is dangerous, and I am always afraid they may come to some harm. Still we are so poor, must go out to work. Some girls will go out to work, those who happen to be out of place at the time, and work just like the married women.

28. Cottages at Mitchel Troy.

1. *Mrs. Sherman* pays 4*l.* to Mr. ——. A very dilapidated looking cottage. Has two rooms below; you enter into the big kitchen, and a back kitchen is built at right angles to it, without a communication through the house. It has three rooms above. Stone and slate.

2. *Mrs. Meredith* pays 4*l.* 4*s.* to Mr. ——. Could be made a good enough cottage, as it is tolerably roomy; has three windows above, and one on each side of the door, but not in a good state of repair; chimney has fallen down. Was in hopes her visitor was her landlord come to see what could be done for her. Stone and slate. The room smokes. There are two rooms downstairs, and three above, but all those above open into one another, and the staircase opens into the first. The third room is no good at all; it is open to the roof; it is very hot in summer, and cold in winter.

3. *Mrs. Hoskins* pays 4*l.* also to Mr. ——. It is a smaller cottage than either of the above. Has only two rooms above, and the same below, of which one is very small.

Parish of Pen-y-clawdd.

Population, 60 - Acreage, 614.

Cultivation mixed.

29. *Rev. Kenyon Homfray*, vicar.—Boys are "generally employed at 12, sometimes as early as 10; "it would be desirable in most cases they should stay "a year longer at school. There is a day school, at "which about 20 attend, but the parents do not send "their children very regularly, as they find it more "profitable to employ them at home, especially for "clearing and raising potatoes."

Girls do not work out. Women "are employed by "the farmers in weeding wheat, apple-picking, and "stone-picking."

"The cottages are fairly good, sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situate, not at present overcrowded; but none of them have water without fetching it from a distant spring; all have gardens large enough for their use."

Parish of Penalt.

Population under 500 - Acreage, 2,320.

Cultivation arable, pasture, and wood.

30. *Rev. W. Oakley*, owner, Snakescroft.—"The "children are scarcely ever employed except by their "parents, unless for a short time in the year bird-"keeping." A boy will go to keep birds for a farmer at perhaps 10 years of age. The parents have small holdings, which they work with the help of their wives and families. "Girls are very rarely employed for "bird-keeping, but by their parents for potato-"picking, harvesting, and apple-picking." Employed lately a girl of 13 or 14 about the place. "A few "women are employed for haymaking, picking "swedes, singling roots, planting potatoes, &c." Not many. Mr. Oakley employs two old women, whom he can generally get for his garden; if he wants another it is difficult to find her.

There is a day school and a Sunday school. The dissenters also have a Sunday school.

Parish of Trelleck.

Population, 991.

31. *Rev. C. A. F. Kuper*, vicar.—There are some few women who go out to work in this parish, but very few. They are not any worse in character for that reason, but of course it is the poorer women who go out. Boys do not work very young. The great things that interfere with the school attendance are the nutting and whin harvests, times at which every child is taken away; they come back however.

32. *Mr. Hewlett*, occupier.—Farms about 300 acres. To work this he requires six men in all, including job men and day men; none of them live in the house; that is done further up the county, not about here. About two-thirds of the farm are arable.

Has no women regularly employed; sometimes one or two will however come out to pull swedes, but that is as often done by men and children. Now there is a great difficulty in getting a woman; perhaps a dozen in the whole parish will come out in harvest time and hay-making. Most of them pick whinberries and nuts to sell; it is very difficult ever to get a servant about here.

The people he employs are mostly cotters. Has but one cottage on the farm, and that is out of repair; but cottages are not wanted much, the people have their own. Two of the men (young men) live in the village; two have two miles to walk. They mostly have small holdings of their own, and that often takes them away for some time when most wanted. Last week one of my men was away nearly the whole week. Some have two acres, some more. Pay the men by the day, 1*s.* 8*d.* a day and drink; that is about the average here; some get a little more; some make

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more in harvest. Pay wet or fine weather; if the weather is wet there is always work to be done about the farm.

A number of the people here reap and mow in the summer, and do work among the woods ("go to wood") in the winter; perhaps on the whole, though getting higher wages when in work, they are not so well off as my men, being often out of work.

Get a boy of 14 or 15 to keep birds and mind horses in the summer. Some people keep a boy or two in the house; I never do; feed one, but he usually lodges out. Have to pay 8*d.* a day to one as would be any use, and a woman about 9*d.* or 10*d.*; but have not employed one this year. Six men is quite enough for regular work; reaping, mowing, and hedging is let. Men sufficient are always to be got for the reaping. They get in harvest 2*s.* a day and food. Gave drink till this year; gave none this year, but more money instead; the men seemed to like it as well. Forced to buy all the cider up here, it is too cold for orchards.

The lower class as a rule are well off; they have most of them their cottages at nominal rents. There are few freeholds, and those that have to pay an acknowledgment cannot mortgage. Some are terribly out of order.

Some of the land is very poor, cold, and hungry; but some good.

33. *Mr. Williams*, Crown Inn, Trelleck, occupier.—Farms himself; makes cheese; the cheese about here is very good. The land is mostly poor, but some good. Hold land under the Romseys. Wages about 10*s.* in the district; have to find cottage, but most have cottages of their own. Not much cider grown here; it does not grow so high up. Mr. Hewlett has orchards. The people are well off here; they get besides their money bits of perquisites, such as firing, feed of a pig.

Yes, some of the women work; they pull swedes; not many get as much as 1*s.* a day. There is plenty of dissent; seven chapels within 2½ miles.

Parish of Llandogo.

Population, 648.

34. *Colonel Rooke*, Bigswear House.—Llandogo is rather a peculiar parish, lying along the Wye, half in Gloucestershire half in Monmouth. It consists of low meadow land beside the river, nearly all of which belongs to Colonel Rooke, and the woods on the hills, most of which belong to the Duke of Beaufort, the rest to Colonel Rooke. Besides this there are a great many small freeholds and copyholds held on nominal rents, those of the Duke on the Monmouth side, of Colonel Rooke on the Gloucester.

They obtained pieces of land by squatting in a corner originally of the wood or common when people were not so careful of their rights as they are now, and gradually enclosed an acre or two, holding it so long before inquiry was made into it that they established a right.

They are not a bad sort of people, but rather given to poaching and pilfering, helping themselves to firewood from the woods. Nearly every one, even a man who has no room to pasture him, keeps a donkey, and will keep him at home all day, turning him out at night, and sending a boy perhaps at 4 o'clock to look for him. He is often left out in the wood or road the whole week, until the day comes round when he is wanted to fetch grain for the pigs. There are generally two or three in the pounds.

Their cottages certainly are bad, and many families live in only two rooms; but the immorality is not so much to be attributed to this as to the manner in which the boys and girls from 13 to 18 go about together. As a magistrate a great many affiliation cases come before him. A clergyman in the neighbourhood said that he seldom married a girl who had not already had a child; they generally marry the father of the child, but not always.

The thing productive of most evil is the whinberry harvest, when all the women and children turn out, and the boys and girls wander about the woods together. In a minor degree the nutting, picking acorns, and going to town to fetch grain is productive of like ill. Recollects seeing a lot of boys and girls come down to the ford, and the boys take off their shoes and stockings, and the girls roll up their dresses, and so pass over.

The squatters are people many of whom have been there for generations; they are an idle set generally, the greater part are woodmen; they will take a bit of wood and go out to cut it, with their wives and families to help. This takes children away from school to a certain extent, as also does the apple-picking, but they come back again. The system of wood-cutting is that a landlord sells a bit of wood ready for cutting and the purchaser sells it again, the pit wood to one man, the bark to another, the cord wood to a third, and so on. It is all coppice, which pays better than timber, and is cut about every 14 years. The reason there is so much wood is that there is so much hilly and rocky soil; the land there is good, and if Colonel Rooke finds a bit level enough it is worth while to grub up the wood and cultivate it. He has three farms; the only three large farms in the parish, but they are all grass and employ little labour; no women and children working for the farmers except to pick apples.

35. Cottage at Llandogo.—Diary, November 5, 1869.

Slated, and built of red sandstone found on the spot, and exceptionally good and roomy. "Nearly all "the cottages in the parish are freeholds; but most of "them are in reality mortgaged. The people will come "and ask for a loan upon them."

Parish of Dixton.

Population, 753.

Cultivation mixed, with a good deal of woodland.

36. *Captain James Davies*, the Garth.—"Boys are "seldom employed; never before the age of 12, and "then generally during the sowing times to keep off "birds from the new sown seed. I think boys should "not be permitted to go to farmhouse work before "12 years old." No girls employed.

Women are "employed very little. Farmers com-"plain that the women will not work on the land." I do not think "restriction is required" in this neighbourhood; the custom of employing women is gradually dying away. Young women seldom or never work in the fields now; there may be exceptions in the hay harvest.

"There are two National schools connected with the Church, which are not taken as much advantage of as might be; but I should attribute that to the carelessness of the parents as to the education of their children more than to early labour."

The cottages are fair, number being sufficient; "most "have good gardens, and where there are no gardens "there are allotments of land for cottages."

Chepstow Union.

37. Meeting of the Board of Guardians at Chepstow, October 23, 1869. W. F. Seys, Esq., in the chair.

1. In this district boys are employed from the age of 10 or 12 years, few under 12, and that only in crow-keeping. Small boys are employed also apple-picking for a few weeks or a month with their mother. By small boys are intended boys between the ages of 12 and 15. Their work is light, and only from 8 in the morning till 4 or 5 in the evening. There is little other work for small boys besides apple-picking and crow-keeping. It is a purely agricultural district, with the exception of a factory in Chepstow, and boys not employed in agriculture do not work at all; about 60 in Chepstow, perhaps, are employed in this factory work. The very largest farms do not employ more than two boys, and those between the ages of 12 and 15.

2. As a rule girls are not employed; they are not employed at all under 15; sometimes after that age one or two will take women's work, such as picking swedes.

3. Almost the only women's work besides haymaking consists in topping and tailing swedes and turnips; but women's work is going out very much now; they are above it; so farmers are often obliged to employ men to do work that was formerly done by women, and pay a great deal more for it. Women are got for small jobs about a farm, as go out apple-picking, &c. There is not one on an average employed regularly in any farm.

4. Nearly all the employed live on the farm, the women certainly; but so few are employed that it is hardly to be remarked.

5. Women and children work, as a rule, from 8 to 5 or 6; in haymaking of course they work longer in the evening. An interval is allowed for dinner at 1, and also at 11 for what is called "bake" locally, a light luncheon of bread, &c.

6. There is no need to restrict the labour of women.

7. Few parishes are without a school, and all that are so circumstanced are connected with other parishes. It is a district of small parishes. Children generally take proper advantage.

8. The question on cottages is a very wide one. The meeting generally seemed to consider that their cottages are above the average. Some however are very bad, but not those in farmers' or landlords' hands; it is those inhabited by squatters and small freeholders, and of course one cannot interfere with them for living in what they like; in these waste lands some of the cottages are mere hovels. The worst are at *Shire Newton*. At *Tottenham* there are one or two families who will admit no one into their cottages, not even the clergyman. The chairman mentioned a case of a man living in an old saw pit covered over. At *Llanvihayel*, though many squatters, their cottages are good; it is peculiarly circumstanced, for most of the squatters have little bits of land attached. There was an Enclosure Act about 30 years ago, and now all the moors are enclosed, so the squatters are going out.

There is not much overcrowding as a rule; at Avington there is, but that is owing to a mill having been lately opened.

9. Most of the cottages have gardens; one in ten perhaps without. It is quite the general character to have a garden.

Many parishes have a long way to fetch water, especially Newchurch and Llanvihangel. Upon the hills there is no running water, and deep digging is required for wells.

Wages are 10*s.* to 15*s.*; the former in the purely agricultural parish, the latter near mines; average value in hard cash, 12*s.* It is mostly paid in money, sometimes however 10*s.* and cider; and there are other privileges, regulated by local circumstances, such as coal and potato ground. No grist corn given. It is a cider county.

Women average 10*d.* a day. One gentleman said he never gives less than 1*s*; one gives 10*d.* in winter, and 1*s.* in summer; another 1*s.* all the year round and drink.

The regular wage for a crow boy is 2*s.* 6*d.*; some begin with 6*d.* a day; average boys' wages 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly to 6*s.*

The Duke of Beaufort and Lord Tredegar are the principal proprietors in the Union.

It is an agricultural district. Average size of farms 200 to 300 acres; they range from 40 acres up to 600 (a very few). The Grange farm is 557 acres. Cultivation half and half, mixed. About Chepstow plough prevails; further inland about half and half, pasture naturally prevailing where there are moors.

38. *Mr. Evans*, clerk of the Union.—Thinks little to be inquired into in this neighbourhood. When you get up to Shire Newton and Llangwym will find poorer parishes, for there are many squatters on the hills, people living on a small holding, and some cottages very bad, paying perhaps only 1*s.* a year to the Duke of Beaufort. We are fortunate in clergymen, and the agricultural parishes are well looked after; but in Chepstow, which is a large parish, it is harder to manage. People do not care about schooling; recollect when himself on the school committee, it used to be begging and praying people to send their children to school. They do not send them to work, but let them play about doing nothing. The town is dependent on agriculture; men live in it and go out to work, but few women and boys. The wages in the district are good, owing to the nearness of the mines. The eastern part of the county is agricultural, and thinly inhabited, but up towards Pontypool there is a very crowded population, but better paid, and living in better houses, which are provided by the proprietors of the iron and coal works. The squatter is a great evil, but the holdings belong to the people, and no one can interfere. The principal proprietors are Mr. Lewis and the Duke of Beaufort; towards Magor Lord Tredegar comes in.

Parish of Caldicot.

Population, 569 - Acreage, 1,800.

Cultivation mixed, arable preponderating.

39. *Rev. E. Turberville Williams*, vicar.—Has a farm of his own, on which he employs four men, a woman, and a boy; but would not say that the labour of either was general, not above six women in regular work, and those that do work are importations from Wiltshire and Berkshire, where it is very common. All the women are married. Women do little work beyond harvesting. There are about a dozen boys employed between the ages of 12 and 15; they come to school very well up to that age; it is Mr. Williams' own school, not under Government, so he can insist on the boys coming regularly, and they come back pretty well after keeping birds or apple-picking for a short time. There is no night school; has not found it answer. About eight came; but the fact was that most already knew what was to be picked up at a night school, at which only the three R.'s are taught. All women who work are a very rough lot. Field labour always seems to be demoralizing, perhaps from their seeing so much of what goes on among the beasts. Cottages, as a rule, are fair, consisting generally of one good room downstairs and a back kitchen, generally, also, a small lean-to outhouse; above is a bedroom and an outer room at the head of the stairs; but some are entirely devoid of privy accommodation. Rent high; from 5*l.* 10*s.* to 9*l.* Unfortunately the parish is in the hands of very small proprietors, one a tradesman, another a farmer, near Chepstow, people who have bought up cottage property as a speculation and ask a high rent, and do no repairs. There is not much overcrowding with members of the family, but there have been some wire works lately set up, and a good many men and boys, some from Tintern, some from Stafford, lodge here; the rest are very crowded, living in large numbers in hastily run up brick cottages. There are not a dozen children in the whole parish who do not attend school; such as do not is owing to the bad management of the parents, who spend the money on drink. Most of those who live on the outskirts go to school in adjoining parishes.

Cottage consists of,—
- Living room.
- Back-kitchen, generally also a small outhouse.
- Bed-room.
- And outer room at the head of staircase.

On school books,—

Boys - - -	70
Girls - - -	32
	112

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40. Cottages at Caldicot.

1. *James Lewis.*—Held under Rev. W. Williams. Consists of one good-sized kitchen, back kitchen, and lean-to behind. Pigsty and privy detached. Stone floors. Upstairs two bedrooms, the staircase opening into the first. Part of the roof sloping. The old man and his wife and a son live in it. The old man earns 10*s.* a week. The son is a carter and earns 12*s.* There is half an acre of garden and orchard behind. Rent, 9*l.* A very favourable specimen.

2. *John Richards.*—Old, very tumble-down cottage. Kitchen and back kitchen below. Rough stone floors. Steep staircase, opening into the big bedroom. A second small bedroom beyond. In the big bedroom runs up the chimney from below. The roof is open slates, whitewashed, which makes the room very hot in summer. It slopes very nearly down to the floor. Rent, 6*l.* Have to do all repairs themselves.

3. *William Jenkins.*—Self and wife and two children live in a two-roomed cottage. Children quite small. Bedroom above the sitting room. Pay 6*l.* 10*s.* Husband goes away to Cardiff, where he gets better wages. Good garden.

4. *Abraham Cook.*—Cottage next to the above. Garden behind, four steps above the level of the cottage floor, so that when it rained the water ran in. There is a drain made now through underneath into the road. Rough small stone floor. Two-roomed cottage, one above, one below. In it live self and wife, and five children, all under 13, the two eldest boys. Rent, 6*l.* There are only the two rooms. No outhouse. Had himself to build a pigsty and privy when he came.

41. *Caroline Cook* (Caldicot), wife of Abraham Cook.—Works out in the fields; glad to do it sometimes because so many children, and want something to put on them. Eldest boy 13; he has just begun to work a little, but husband only gets 10*s.* a week. Always goes out in harvest and at other times when a woman wanted to do jobs about the farms among the swedes, &c. Very often goes out every day for a week together. Works as much as any woman in the parish. Second boy is left in charge of the little children, and they have to do as they can while the mother is out. He is a capital nurse. Get 1*s.* a day for working out. Like it.

PARISHES OF CAERWENT AND LLANVAIR DISCOED.

Population, 420 - Acreage, 1,962.

Chiefly arable.

42. *Rev. Macdonald Steel,* vicar.—

Employed in agriculture in the parish,—

Males.			Females.		
			Over 18.		
Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Total Males.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total Females.
6	7	13	10	1	11

Really very few boys employed, and what there are seldom before 14. Some go at about 10 years old to keep birds; few younger; it is necessary, or every seed would be taken out of the ground. Also go at potato setting and picking, but they come back again when it is over. Has to complain more of the way that women's labour affects the attendance of the girls; the eldest girl being kept at home to mind the younger ones interferes materially with their regularity. As a rule there are one or two women employed on every farm, topping swedes, couching, *i.e.*, weeding grass, &c., continual work but not hard. There are hardly any girls employed. Perhaps one sometimes will go out with her father, if he is a shepherd, to work among the swedes, but that is quite the exception. They all go away to service at about 13 or 14, in the farms or in the towns.

"In spring the work is clearing the land of weeds; in summer, harvesting; in autumn and winter, raising and clearing root crops."

"The children of this parish are not prevented "attending school by employment in farm work or in "other labour," or by distance. "The charge for each "child being only 1*d.* per week the cost need be no "hindrance to school attendance."

The cottages are built of stone with slate or tile or thatched roof, average size, ventilation good generally, drainage fair. Accommodation defective in number of bedrooms, in some cases there being only one. Plenty of water. Gardens very tolerable. Cottages belong to the landowner. Rent about 4*l.* 10*s.* There is a good deal of crowding in the cottages. The bedroom accommodation bad. In one instance a father, mother, girl of 12, and boy of 13 sleep in the same room. Fortunately all the girls going away so early they are not at home long enough for any bad results to come from this.

The parish of Llanvair Discoed is attached to this. It is very small; one farm only, and the children come to Caerwent to school. There is a small piece of lately enclosed hill, on which are some few "cots," *i.e.*, squatters' homes. Wages 10*s.*, and sometimes a cottage, and two quarts of cider. No perquisites.

43. *Mr. Valentine Parsons,* occupier.—Boys are employed from 12 to 16 years of age. The attendance at school is not as good as it should be. "Early "labour does not prevent their attendance, but the "carelessness of the parents." Very few women work out, and they principally at harvest. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Cottages far from being good." All have gardens but some are small.

44. *Mr. Matthew Langley,* occupier, Llanvair Discoed.—It is almost impossible to get a boy now to go and keep crows. Keeps two ploughmen and their sons, but has not a small boy on the farm. Thinks the reason is after they leave school they get idling about nutting, which they are very fond of. They can make a good deal by it. One man gave 2*s.* a day. This season has been a particularly good one, and most of the boys were away at it.

There is the same difficulty in getting women. Formerly they used to come out and pick swedes, but now they stay at home. Attributes it to the improvement in wages and fall in the price of wheat. For though wages have only risen from 9*s.* to 10*s.* and 11*s.*, wheat has fallen from 10*s.* a bushel to 5*s.* 9*d.*, and they live mainly on bread. Besides this they get cider. Gives one man 10*s.*, the rest 9*s.* Employs six men, four out, and two living in the house. Potatoes too are much better than they used to be, and they live a good deal on that. Puts the rise of wages on the mines being near. The people are altogether far more independent than they used to be. Described a row they made in his house the other day.

There is only one squatter in the village, and wish we could get rid of him. His cottage is all tumbling down, and he half starves his family. They are too lazy to work. His brother did come to work at weeding in the summer, but soon gave it up.

Had a cottage in the village, but it was burnt down, and now his only one is one on the hill, but it is too far off and no one will take it, though he only asks 2*l.* a year. One of his men lives in St. Bride's, the next parish.

Can get a cottage on the hill with two acres for 2*l.* 10*s.*

Holds of Colonel Tynte. Squire Herrick has most property near about here. Duke of Beaufort comes into the north. All non-resident.

Very high rates, 3*s.* 6*d.* People in the workhouse too well off. Was there the other day, and saw the clean and tidy arrangements. When he came to live here, the water was pouring into the parlour. That never happens to the paupers.

PARISH OF SHIRENEWTON.

Population, 886 - Acreage, 3,350.

Cultivation, arable.

45. *Rev. C. R. Hall*, rector.—Women, young persons, and children are employed in ordinary farm work or hoeing thistles, cutting turnips, and picking up potatoes and apples; but there is very little demand for this kind of labour. Generally speaking boys are removed too early from school to keep off birds from corn and pick potatoes and fruit, and I consider 8 full early, if legislation is likely to take place in the matter. In women's labour, "as far as my observation goes, there is no necessity for restriction or prohibition." But boys go as young as 8 to keep crows, and do not come back much after; they get apple-picking, potato setting and picking, and when they get a little older holding horses. Have two schools, kept by mistresses, both under Government. Would recommend the half-day system, the morning for school.

When parents are interested in the education of their children, distance presents very trifling obstacles, and *vice versâ*. The payments are very small, only 1*d.* or 2*d.* each per week, according to the class they are in.

Cottages contain commonly,—

1 sitting room,
1 back kitchen,
2 bedrooms.

Rent with garden, if good, from 4*l.* to 5*l.* per annum.

Many are in the hands of the farmers, but a great number are occupied by squatters, of whom there are many in this parish, and others occupy cots and land they have reclaimed either free or at a rent of about 8*s.* per acre, with the house or cot upon it. Water generally to be carried, but it is very good and plentiful.

"The cottages are often crowded with lodgers, which leads to much evil;" it was much worse formerly, but the new valuation system will, I think, in a measure meet that evil. The cottages were formerly pulled down in the neighbouring close parishes, and the people flocked into Shirenewton; it is getting better now.

PARISH OF NEWCHURCH.

46. *Rev. Mr. Price*, Newchurch.—His is the only school in the parish, and supplies schooling too for children out of about six parishes near, for many of the smaller parishes have no school, and of course in some of them there are many children growing up quite uneducated. Could not, however, mention one parish in this immediate neighbourhood remarkable for it. Newchurch is a long straggling parish, but narrow, nearly 11 miles long.

State of morality pretty good. Some come to be married in family way, and some few illegitimate, but not many. A good deal of keeping company. A well known characteristic of this county, they go to bed first and marry after. Has married others for nothing to induce them to be married, but they see no harm in it. Don't seem to care much if the child comes first.

47. *David Cornfield*, schoolmaster.—Children taken as early as 7 to work in the field; generally begin at the the crow-keeping a few weeks in the spring, also for nutting, potato-setting, and apple-picking, and leasing; they all come back again. Out of 34 boys, nearly one-half; nearly as many girls as boys, and as young. Leave the school 9 to 11, and get regular work, if they can, generally farmhouse work. Elder children much kept at home to look after younger while mother is out; interferes with work much. School not under Government; rural dean comes. Women work out a good deal; every now and then a job.

A good many children kept away from school because of the penny. Have known them when the Monday is very wet kept away from school all week for sake of the penny. Some close to the school who neither work nor go to school. Indifference on part of parents a great cause. Like to make a convenience of the school. If there is an infant will send him with other boy, though there is no infant school. Oldest boy 11; girls up to 14; have had adults in the winter quarter; had them 18 years old, and walking three miles. Sunday school, but no opposition school. Don't seem to appreciate evening school. Girls go to service, working both in farms and towns; some few stay to work. Those who work out bear a good character, with the exception of here and there one. Could not count up a dozen. Of the women three parts out of four work out more or less. With few exceptions as good characters and habits as other women. No overcrowding.

48. *Mr. Edward Woodruffe*, occupier.—Farms near upon 400 acres, of which if you leave out the rough land on the hill the larger half is arable; had 65 acres in roots last year. Employs in all eight men, of whom three are in the house, and are employed by the year, carter, under-carter, and groom, the groom being a big boy. Of the five outside has cottages to give three of them, and allows cottage in addition to 10*s.* wages. The least he gives is 10*s.* and two quarts of cider. He thinks giving cider a good plan; it prevents his men going to the public-house, whereas the mechanics go off every Saturday, and spend about half their wages. Gave corn at one time, but that was when it had risen to 8*s.* or 9*s.*; and one of his men with a large family came and said he could not afford to buy flour. Said that he would give them what flour they needed for home consumption as long as they wished at 6*s.* a bushel, and they went on till price fell below that. They all bake at home. The bread is better and more satisfying than what they buy. Most of them eat meat at least once a week.

Employs in harvest more women than anyone else near; sometimes has 20 out. The system on which he goes is to give them as wages the leasing of the field afterwards, and they are all very happy to come out. It is a parish peculiarly circumstanced—a great many of these are the wives and daughters of the Duke's cotters. The Duke's cotters are at one time of the year woodmen, and at other times when he requires extra hands are very glad to come and work. Some of them have as much as two or three acres, and as a rule Mr. Woodruffe will not employ a man who has such a holding of his own. He employs one, however, who is a very good hand, and perhaps lets him off a day or two now and then to get in his potatoes; at present has lent him a pair of horses to plough up his little bit of land. Most of them grow wheat and potatoes. It is only for harvest, however, that Mr. W. employs strange women. In everything else he gives the preference to his labourers' wives, and they are always ready to come out when there is extra work to be done, unless there is a child coming or just come. Many of them with large families will come out in the summer, leaving an elder child in charge of the children. They work among the turnips at 6*s.* an acre; sometimes they make as much as 9*s.* a week. We have no wheat hoeing in this county; know only one farmer who hoes it, and he comes out of Gloucestershire. The youngest boy in Mr. Woodruffe's employ is the groom; employs, however, in necessary times a small boy to scare birds. Has two employed at present, of whom the youngest is 11 years of age. A boy younger than that is of little real use. This little boy will sometimes do another job, such as leading a horse, but is not regularly employed.

Reckon the people here very well off; cottages comfortable and wages high. Have been high for some time; do not remember their rising of late years.

PARISH OF LLANGWYM.

Population, 385.

49. *Rev. W. Price*, vicar.—Rather a peculiar parish, two joined together, Llangwyn, Ischa, and Llangwym Ucha, and the two churches are close together. Though the population is nearly 400 there is no school, and Mr. Price during the 10 years he has

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been here has been engaged in collecting money for it; has now the plans and is going to begin. There is a small farm in the hands of the Charity Commissioners, which he has got applied to the purpose, and when built the rent will go to provide a master for the school. Some of the outlying cottagers send their children to other parishes, some 10 or 12 go to Llansoy, the rest of them go to no school at all, except one or two dame schools, which are now and then established for a time and then die out. But all the people can read more or less; have picked up that, though they cannot write. They seem much to appreciate the want of a school. At one time had a Sunday school, to which 40 children came, but had to give it up; no time with three services every Sunday. Does not think that the people are at all a worse set than in the neighbouring parishes owing to want of education. The cottages for the most part are fair, many of the old stamp, with thatch, but roomy and with sufficient accommodation; none with only one bedroom. About 30 in the place, mostly scattered. The greater part of them are what are called duke's cotters, *i.e.*, held at a nominal rent from the Duke of Beaufort, a cottage and a few acres. Many of them are woodmen, *i.e.*, cut coppice on the hills; some few are labourers, but as a rule it is a parish in which few labourers are wanted. Most of the farms are grass, and few hands are wanted, the farmer's family being generally sufficient, and what labourers are employed living in the house. Most of it belongs to the Duke of Beaufort.

Does not think that because there is no school boys go earlier to work than in parishes where there is one. There is really little work for boys to do.

Parish of Llanvihangel Tormynydd.

Population, 175 - Acreage, 1,031.

50. *Rev. John Price*, rector.—"The cultivation of this parish is mixed, rather more arable, pastoral rather less; with the exception of the hill district more adapted for growing wheat than any other corn; beans seldom tried; it is a heavy clay soil.

"I do not know a boy under the age of 13 regularly employed; they are often sent on messages. Above the age of 13 years there are four or five, but they are hired servants from 1st of May to 1st of May, iving in the farmer's house, and fed by him; wages of course in accordance with age and capabilities. We have nothing whatever to complain of, no necessity for restriction as to boys.

"Girls are never employed in outdoor work, except "occasionally in milking. Women in harvesting, apple-"picking, and root drawing." No necessity for restrictions. "We have no school in the parish, but there "is one in the parish of Llanishen, where all our "children are required to attend, and do attend.

"Our cottages, as to their condition, are good, and may be said to be more cottage farms than cottages. Few cottages upon the farms; our cottagers are generally squatters. They have all of them good gardens annexed to them, many of them in addition one, two, three, or four acres of land annexed, for which they pay only a nominal rent to the lord of the manor, the Duke of Beaufort."

Very small parish, but also has Kilgwrwg adjoining; nothing to complain of in the way of women or children's labour; the people generally are well off; farmers go down to Pontypool, where they always have an abundant market. The poor people are chiefly cotters, who have their two or three acres, and pay a nominal rent, which makes them very independent. He has found a man working for himself, say at a very critical time that he must go off to look after his own holding. Their cottages as a rule are good. They are mostly agricultural labourers, but at the parish of Kilgwrwg which adjoins, and is high up on the hill, they are mostly woodmen cutting coppice to sell all round. The population there has diminished of late years owing to emigration, and there are not above 80.

What is most to be complained of is the bad water supply, especially on the hills, the people having to go sometimes half a mile, and that down hill, to fetch water.

Parish of St. Arvans.

Population, 391 - Acreage, 2,711.

Cultivation mixed and woodland.

51. *Mr. Daniel Baker*, Crossway Green, occupier.—"Boys begin work at 12 to 16 at seed time and "harvest mostly." As to restricting their labour "much "will depend on the size and constitution of the boy; "some boys are more fit at 10 than others at 12 years "of age to begin work." As to women "I think "out-door employment conducive to health and "beneficial to the parents when under their control. "Not many" work out.

(The worst thing done by the women of Chepstow is the carrying wood; they are allowed to pick it up after the woods are cleared for their own use, and they carry it on their heads into the town.

In point of morality Chepstow is by no means improved by the railway coming in; the navvies did harm that has never been undone. There is little other employment for the townspeople who have not business there except agricultural labour; some of Mr. Baker's own labourers come out from Chepstow (one mile). Mr. Baker gives as wages nearly 12*s.* a week; wages high because so near a town. Some of his people have cottages of him, others come out from Chepstow.

He has two farms, one in the Newport Union, where he has a larger interest than he has here. Chepstow is not a good market. Newport seems very much to have taken all that.)

52. *Mr. George Smedley*, Woodlands, St. Arvans.—Farms 80 acres of his own and 11 glebe. Little boys will run after him and ask him for employment; has one of 12 years of age now out keeping crows. The first thing they do when keeping birds is to light a fire; have had two serious fires; lost once 200*l.* through such carelessness. If a boy has been brought up roughly it does not injure him to keep the crows off the corn for a few weeks in the spring or autumn at the age of 10 years.

No girls between 13 and 18 work out; knows of one case of a girl over 18 who has fits, she goes out to work in summer. All go to service, mostly in farms; they prefer farms, because they get more food in a farm than in a town. None go out to keep crows unless they run out with their brothers for their own pleasure. No restriction is required, as they readily get employment as domestic servants, if their character is good.

Nearly all the women except those who make dresses are glad to get out of door work; they rake and turn hay, pull up swedes, turnips, carrots, and mangolds. Do not go in bad weather. They pull swedes by the acre, and it is wonderful how much they do when employed at piecework. Make about 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day. Go out 8 to 12, 2 to 6.

Early work is no great interruption to the school; perhaps no more than is really good for them. The younger boys come to school here, perhaps 50 of them; the elder, about 14 in number, between the ages of 13 and 15, go to the National school in Chepstow.

The cottages are in good order and sufficient for the labour required. During the 20 years I have been here, I have known no immorality that could be traced to overcrowding in cottages.

Parish of Tintern.

Population, 355.

53. *Mr. Morrell*, manufacturer.—A farm servant gets 6*s.* a week, living in the house; an out-door workman 10*s.* to 12*s.* Give our bailiff 12*s.* and a cottage; he is the only man we employ; all we farm is grass land; mow about half of it for the horses, and to do that get other hands.

Women are paid in this parish 10*d.* and cider in hay-making and apple-picking; children come too and pick apples. There is a good school, and most of the children come pretty well. Above here on White Hill live a lot of cotters, not such a good class; they do not work for the farmers; they are generally wood-cutters, and help themselves in the Duke's woods; they always keep a donkey, and poultry for market.

Newport Union.

154. Meeting of the Board of Guardians, Saturday, November 13; from the *Herefordshire Times*, November 20, 1869; the Right Hon. Lord Tredegar in the chair, and present, O. Morgan, Esq, M.P.; Messrs. J. Latch, B. Thomas, W. Jones, J. W. Bebell, R. Graham, G. Fothergill, G. Clarke, J. James, R. E. Rees, Langley, and Rev. J. Davis.

The clerk said that Mr. Boyle, one of the assistant commissioners, had waited upon him respecting the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons, and women in agriculture, on which he was engaged, and was now in attendance, being desirous of obtaining such information in reference to the same as the Guardians could afford him.

Mr. Boyle after some preliminary observations stated that in the first place he wished to know the age at which children were usually employed in farm labour, and the nature of such employment.

Mr. Rees Rees said he did not know that they employed them at all. Occasionally young boys were employed as grooms, but they never hardly saw the children. Sometimes, it was true, they were employed to scare the crows off the ground for a week or two, and this he thought was of some advantage to the children, as out-door exercise tended to sharpen their appetites, and it was generally considered conducive to their health. In the harvest time they went gleaning with their mothers, and sometimes little girls acted as nurses. That, so far as he knew, was the extent of the employment of children in the district.

Mr. W. Jones concurred with Mr. Rees, and said boys were employed to scare away the crows, but when so employed they ate twice as much as a grown-up person.

Mr. O. Morgan, M.P., said if the commissioner wished to see children well employed in the district, he had better go over to their schools at Caerleon. He was glad to say that there the children were employed, and he should be pleased if Mr. Boyle would pay a visit to the schools and see them.

Mr. B. Thomas did not think the inquiry was applicable to this county.

Mr. Graham, with regard to gleaning, the children are not employed by the farmers for that purpose. It was voluntary on their part.

Mr. Rees.—I meant that was all I saw them do.

Mr. Jones.—Yes, just so; that is about the extent of their work.

Mr. Graham.—In the National and other schools the children get holidays in the harvest time for the purpose of going out gleaning.

Mr. Boyle.—Do not the children of the smaller farmers work?

Mr. Rees.—No; I don't consider they do.

Mr. Boyle.—Are they employed on the farms on the hills?

Mr. James said in his district the question would not apply. He knew that they could not get either boys, girls, or women to work on the farms, consequently they had to pay high wages to men to do work that ought to be done by women. The boys were generally taken away to the collieries to work, and the wages which men earned there regulated to a great extent the wages which they had to pay for farm labour.

Mr. Boyle.—Do not children work in the low parts of the country?

Mr. James said he had a farm on the moors, and so had Mr. Rees, and what they had already stated applied to the low part of the district as well as to the hills.

Mr. Boyle.—The next question is as to the means of education, and the extent to which they avail themselves of it.

Mr. Morgan, M.P., said there were many schools in the several parishes to which the children were sent.

The Rev. J. Davies, said in his parish most of the children were sent to school, and the children generally were pretty well educated.

Mr. Jones.—And I can speak the same of my parish.

Mr. Latch said that in most of their districts there were plenty of schools, and nearly every child was sent to school.

Mr. Rees said there were schools in which the children were educated and clothed.

Mr. Morgan, M.P., said there were some very good schools at Marshfield, Bassalleg, and other places in the district. In some places there was a practical difficulty in the way, as some of the parishes were very extended, and if a child lived two or three miles from the school it took him half the day to go there and back again. For instance, if they took the parishes of Mynyddislwyn, Risca, and Bedwellty, there were remote districts which would take a child half a day to get to school, and the other half to return.

Mr. Rees said Mynyddislwyn embraced an area of 16,000 acres, but he believed there were four or five schools in the parish.

Mr. Boyle.—Are there many children growing up not educated at all?

The noble Chairman did not believe there were.

Mr. Boyle.—Do you think that most of the children go to school.

The noble Chairman.—I believe that most of them do.

Mr. Rees.—Yes; and there are numerous Sunday schools, and you would be astonished how the children are taught there, and the answers they give to the questions put to them.

Mr. Graham said in his district there were abundance of schools. There was also a good blue coat school, and there was an excellent school at Christchurch.

Mr. Boyle.—But in harvest times do not the girls work?

Mr. Rees.—Not at all; young girls are too gay now-a-days to work on a farm.

Mr. Boyle.—They are not regularly employed there?

Mr. Thomas.—We cannot get them.

Mr. Boyle.—Do they not work in the turnip fields, hoeing swedes?

Mr. Rees.—Not with us.

A Guardian.—They can go and steal them (laughter).

Mr. Morgan, M.P.—The only way they employ themselves in turnip fields is to take them up and carry them to Newport to sell.

The noble Chairman said the custom in this country was different from any other—take Wiltshire for instance. There the women were regularly employed in hoeing turnips, but he never saw such a thing done in this county.

Mr. Boyle.—Do the girls go to service?

Mr. Rees.—No, not many; they would rather be dressmakers or milliners.

Mr. B. Thomas.—The tide of emigration is very great from this county.

Mr. Boyle.—The next question is, what is the state of the dwellings of the farm labourers?

The noble Chairman said some years ago the cottages of the labourers were not so good as they should have been; but they had been very much improved of late years.

Mr. Boyle.—How many bedrooms have they?

The noble Chairman.—Two in most of them, and some have three.

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Mr. Rees.—I know of none in my district with only one bedroom. In many cases the cottages belong to the occupants, Lord Tredegar having kindly given them the land to build on.

Mr. Boyle said on the other side of the county there were a number of squatters.

Mr. Rees said there was in the neighbourhood of Shire Newton, but it was very different here.

The noble Chairman said in most cases the cottages had garden ground, and the occupants took great pride in cultivating the same.

Mr. Boyle.—The last question is as to the rate of wages. What is about the average rate?

Mr. R. E. Rees.—The average rate of wages is 15*s.* per week. We can fairly put it from 12*s.* to 15*s.*

Mr. Latch.—From 10*s.* to 14*s.* Men will work for 2*s.* a day.

Mr. Rees.—Many get 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. Some may get 2*s.* a day.

M. B. Thomas.—Do you know of any getting 10*s.* a week?

Mr. Rees.—No, not any.

Mr. O. Morgan.—No able-bodied man would work for such wages. An infirm man might do so.

Mr. James.—In my parish we have to pay 18*s.* to 1*l.*, as agriculturists expect to get paid the same as colliers and miners. The one governs the other, and the men go where they can be the best paid.

Mr. Langley said he was paying his men at Henllys 15*s.* a week.

Mr. Boyle.—And do you give them cider?

Mr. Langley.—No, beer occasionally; but extra wages are given in lieu of drink.

Mr. B. Thomas said it was not the same here as it was in Somersetshire, as here they got more wages and less drink.

The Clerk said in 1861 he made a return to Mr. Graves, the Government Inspector, as to the rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers. It was dated February 8th, and he found that he stated the average then to be from 13*s.* to 14*s.* a week for men, 6*s.* for women, and 4*s.* for children. He had also made a similar return in which he had consulted his friend Mr. Rees, and was about to forward the reply to Mr. Graves.

Mr. Boyle asked if any labourers lived on the farms.

Mr. Jones said not so many as formerly, but he liked to have them in the house, so that they might be close to their work.

This brought the inquiry to a close, and Mr. Boyle thanked the Guardians for the information they had given him.

55. (Lord Tredegar has all his cottages in hand. Finds it better for the labourer, as he only charges 3*l.*, whereas the farmer charges more; but if there is a cottage to let on a farm he always asks the farmer who he would like to have there. A cottage must pay six per cent. to pay the owner; all Lord Tredegar's have two or three bedrooms; generally builds them in twos and threes.)

56. *Mr. Evans*, clerk to the Union.—The law of settlement has interfered much with the increase of cottage accommodation. Two parishes of this Union, Lanwern and Wilcrick, were at one time utterly denuded of cottages, in order to send the people into the villages. Matters are, however, being mended now. At Lanwern the population consists of the rector's house and one cottage. This district between Newport and Magor consists of very rich land, that lets at 3*l.* an acre; the population is thin, as the farms are chiefly grass, and employ few hands.

57. — *Lyne, Esq.*, agent to A. Herbert, Esq., of Llanarth.—The employment of women is going out very much now, even for harvesting. For haymaking the men do not much like having them out with them now, for they make a noise. This year Mr. Lyne, who farms himself about Newport, had no women out at all. Perhaps the principal reason they do not go out is the rise of wages. Mr. Lyne himself gives 15*s.* a week, but he is near a town. At Llanarth, however the wages are 12*s.*, out of which the men have to pa for a cottage. There has been a great diminution population, and but for the introduction of machine it would have been impossible for the farmers to ge on. They do not only go to the mines, but th emigrate a good deal. A man goes to America a writes back saying he makes his two dollars a day, nev mentioning how expensive all necessaries are, and th man left behind thinks himself as good as the ma gone, and does not see why he is not to make th same. There is a great move too among the peopl with the spread of education; they learn of place where they would be better off, and do not see wh they are to be tied down to being agricultural labourer all their lives. The boys do not work near so muc either; with the move in favour of education they ar kept longer at school.

The poorest people are the farmers up on the hill who have only small holdings of perhaps 50 acres (thos who have sheep walks have of course more), and wor it with the help of their families; their children gro up with little or no education, and are the only peopl who have little chance of rising. Some of them liv in very bad houses. Labour too is so dear that the positively cannot afford to hire labourers.

There is a great want of cottages over the count generally, and it ends in men walking two or thre miles to and from work, and carrying their dinne Many of them live in the villages. There are n cotters about here. It is very natural they should no wish to improve their cottages, for they find that a long as they live in a mere hovel they are not inte fered with, but when they improve they are com down upon for rent.

A landlord cannot make money by his cottages, b must consider them as part of his farm buildings. A good cottage costs 100*l.*, and to make it pay you wa a rent of 8*l.* a year; a labourer on 12*s.* a week cann afford more than 1*s.* 6*d.* for his cottage. At Llanart few cottages are let with the farms. It is better t let them directly from the landlord. The farmer ma get in a man the landlord has reason to object to, an as long as he pays his rent and does his work insist o keeping him; besides, the farmer being a man of le capital, will be less able to repair it, and if he goes o perhaps leaves it in ruins, so that a great outlay is once demanded. Most landlords like to have the cottages in hand. When a farmer lets a cottage the is no implied stipulation that the labourer's wife worl in busy times; some of them, however, do so.

The cultivation about Llanarth is mixed, but th extent under grass is being increased, for the supp of labour is diminishing, and wages rising, and gra requires fewer labourers, and the value of cereals diminishing.

One great reason of women being less inclined labour is the facility of getting out-door relief. they work three days a week they only get fro 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*, and they can get 2*s.* equally well fro the Union without wear and tear of clothes.

Parish of Magor.

Population, 740.

58. *Rev. A. C. Saunders*, vicar.—Wages here a usually 2*s.* a day and drink. No cottage, and cottag rent high, the great misfortune of the place being th the cottages belong to many small proprietors, who g little or nothing for them, and ask a high ren Wages are paid by the day, and if it is a wet day an no work done no pay is given. Men who live in th farmhouse are however paid by the week. The low part of this parish is mostly meadow, a good deal arable in the upper. The parish of Redwick, which also attached to this, is small, only about 200 people it is all rich meadow land, and there are no poor, th people being all farmers, and farm labourers livin with them. The nearness of the mines keeps up th wages in Magor, and makes the people independent, f

y and the farmers alike know that good wages are be had within an hour's railway. Nearly all the ple live in the village. Few detached cottages. d there are several small farmhouses also in the age. Mr. Herrick is the chief proprietor. It is misfortune of this county that so many of the ge landed proprietors are not resident. There is a at want of gardens and privies to the cottages. ter supply good. Some cottages have no garden, ers a very small bit.

9. *Mrs. Burris*, wife of labourer.—Works out ; glad to work out, must do it; would like not if she could afford it. After all do not make much it ; children pull about and do a deal of damage ; four children ; eldest boy about 12 ; does a bit of rk sometimes. Is a bad boy to go to school. Mr. came and carried him there in his arms once. s to look after the younger ones when mother is Thinks out-door work ruins the clothes, and has few cannot afford to do that. Always works at vest ; works too by pulling swedes and turnips, ich is hard work ; also potato planting and setting. ual pay is 1*s.* a day ; but among the turnips and des work by the acre, and has to work very hard make 1*s.* at that. Used to work in the farmse, but only got 8*d.* a day for that. Husband kes 2*s.* a day, but is not always in work. Made 6*d.* part of the summer as a sawyer.

Cottages at Magor.—Diary, October 26, 1869 :— Rev. Mr. Sanders took me to some cottages. First ery good one ; one of Mr. Herricks', put in order en years ago, when the present man and his wife ne to live here. Three rooms downstairs, three ove. Two lodgers, schoolmaster, and a bedridden old n of 96. Family, man and wife and daughter. Rent 10*s.*, "a good bit of money." A good class of tage, but above a labourer's. Visited a row of three tages close to the churchyard; very bad, each coning of only one room above, one below. The one were told was the worst was locked up ; man and fe out to work. The next was open ; a girl about minding a younger child in it. Cottage fairly tidy ide, and room fairly large. Girl told us that she d her father and mother, little brother aged 5, and o little sisters live in it. This was one of the families e schoolmaster mentioned as never coming to school. e worst feature of these cottages is, they have only e door in front, leading a few yards to the road, and is strip is all the garden they have. There is no or or window at the back wall, to which runs up e garden of another cottage. No privy at all. A tle further a row of whitewashed, slate-roofed cotges, mostly only one room above, one below. Very w rooms with open rafters; went into two; the first habited by a tailor and his wife; the tailor reduced, cause he had been ill and could not work. Pays 5*s.*, more than it is worth. A back kitchen, a lean-, but so many holes in the roof that it is useless for rposes of shelter. A few doors beyond Mrs. Burris es, husband, wife, and four children ; husband inks, so family very poor ; she works out a good al. Rent 3*l.* 6*s.* All these cottages have a common ivy.

61. *Mr. Butterworth*, schoolmaster.—The time of ar when boys are taken away to mind crows is in ptember and October ; there is a boy of 10 now ay minding crows. In April and May they go to nt potatoes. As a rule they come back ; but the hoolmaster generally has to go off to the cottages to about getting them back. Am going after two or ee to-night.

Some of the children in the village never come. here are two cottages close to the school, one, I ink, you were in to-day, where the children living ver come, except to Sunday school. There are two hools in the village; would say, that as a rule, all tend somewhere.

As a rule boys and girls both stay up to 12 or 13 ; ve one boy in the school, who will be 16 next birthay ; there are five boys over 14 and one girl.

There are 71 children on the books including a few infants. 52 children to be examined this time.

Girls do not do out-door work in the parish, but some are kept at home to mind the younger children. The "monthly market" takes place on Thursdays, and that is a bad day for girls' attendance; in summer markets are very frequent, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the girls are kept at home the afternoon before. A good many women do out-door work.

There is no evening school ; the children could not come regular.

Parish of Llanvaches.

Population, 235.

62. *Rev. W. J. C. Lindsay*, rector.—Boys leave school at about 10 years of age ; cannot say what becomes of them immediately, but soon after they get work at some farm. Farmers want a boy about the farm for light work. Most of the children come to school ; but of course, as everywhere, here are some families you cannot get hold of. They do not see the use of it ; make excuses, such as no shoes, not properly dressed. There are a good many cots in the parish up on the hill ; small cottages held under a nominal rent, 1*s.* a year, of the Duke of Beaufort. As the land improves rent is raised, and the cottage put in order ; but meantime some of the cottages are very wretched. The people themselves bear a sufficiently good character.

Parish of Caerleon.

Population, 1,594.

63. *Rev. H. P. Edwards*, vicar.—There are tin and other works here, which employ a good many of the people ; consequently there is not much labour for women and children in agriculture. Hardly any women go out except perhaps in harvest. The children are kept at school by the advantage of a very large endowment, which is worth 800*l.* a year, and supports three schools, one for infants, one for girls, and one for boys, besides clothing a good many, and apprenticing the boys. Mentioned the names of two farmers, one a widow, who employ their children a good deal on their farms.

The wages are not so high here as might be expected from its nearness to the mines. Mr. Edwards has to give a man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, but he will work for a farmer for 2*s.* No liquor given. Out of 12*s.* a week he has to pay for a cottage, which comes to quite 2*s.* If he comes to work he is always paid, however wet it is ; for there is always work to be done about the farmhouse.

There is a considerable colony of Irish ; they are good sort of people, and receive about as high wages as the rest, but are content often to live in very bad cottages. There are a good many Roman Catholics about, who like to get Irish labourers, and the consequence is that many of them go out to work in other parishes 4 or 5 miles distant, which is very bad for them. Some of them get as wages 1*s.* a day and their food, which is calculated at another shilling; but of course it is a bad system for those with families. For a long time they had no school, but one has lately been established with a mistress, and they go now pretty well.

The parish includes also Llangattock Caerleon, which is the only really agricultural part of it; it is small, with about 200 inhabitants. Unfortunately it has no school, and the trustees made a difficulty about admitting the children into the Endowed school in Caerleon. Mr. Edwards got permission at last to admit eight. Most of the rest go to school in the neighbouring parish, Llanhennoch.

The cottages are improving now. Mostly very fair, and few of the old one-storeyed thatched cottages left. As a rule the Irish do not seem to care to live in as good homes as the rest. In one lane off the street there were several families huddled together in a perfect rookery of wretched cottages, and in one of these was

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a man and his son earning about 1*l.* each, and drinking most of it. They came at last into the hands of a lawyer, who pulled them down and built up two cottages, and most of the people went into Newport. There is not much overcrowding now. There is a great deal of drinking. At the works the wages are paid monthly, and then there is a general drink.

64. — *Llewellyn, Esq.*, Caerleon.—If he wants a man has to give him 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and that seems to be the general price in the parish. Caerleon is rather an increasing place, as people live in it and go into business in Newport.

The farms about here are small, few being as large as 200 acres, and chiefly grass, so that much can be done with men living in the house.

Up in the hills is a very poor class of farmers, who work a good deal of their land with the assistance of their children. Never heard of much difficulty in procuring labour there; for, though the wages are high, a poor farmer can get a labourer to live in his house and receive low wages much more easily than a rich farmer. The former is little removed above the labourer, who lives in the house with him on equal terms.

About Caerleon a farmer finds it pays him best to have three or four men in his house, so as to be up early and late when required about the stock.

65. *Mr. Williams*, schoolmaster.—Only three boys employed, and they in the same family, and that was only nine days, driving horses and scaring crows. The oldest 10, youngest 8. Farmer's own children. Small farmer. Only in the wheat sowing season. Of course farmers strive to do without them as much as possible. Boys stay as late as 14, then are apprenticed.

Everybody liable to be on foundation as soon as can read or write and do simple rules of arithmetic. Have an infant school that prepares. In this school about 80 boys. In one 90 girls. Rest, infants. Mixed. Kept on an average 80 in each for four years.

Girls stay as late as boys. Go to service. If they have a good character from each place get a bounty of 6*l.* Boy gets same for buying tools when his time is up.

Parish of Llanhennoch.

Population, 228 - Acreage, 1,425.

66. *Rees Keene*, occupier, Pencraige.—The cultivation is average. Crops chiefly grown, wheat, barley turnips, and clover. Has in-door servants hired yearly. Ages 14 years and upwards. "I think no restriction necessary." Boys are very useful when 12 and 13 years old. No girls employed. "Not all women." A school provided by landed gentry. They take advantage of it.

Cottages "very good;" quite sufficient; not overcrowded. Have all very fair gardens, besides allotments to a portion of them.

Parish of Tredunnoc.

Population, 164 - Acreage, 1,300.

Cultivation mixed.

67. *Rev. C. T. Salusbury*, rector.—Boys are employed "during harvest and at corn-sowing from the age of "7 years. For regular employment two at 12 years." They ought to be employed "not earlier than 12 years "old, except for occasional work." Bird-scaring is only for a short time, and does not much interfere with schooling. There "is a day school in the adjoining "parish of Llangibby (one and a half miles) of which "the children here take advantage." Women work out very little, except in haymaking. There is only one large farm in the parish, which is purely agricultural. Oddly enough there are very few children in the parish. Only four families with children, but all those four have a good many, one seven children.

"The cottages are poor, but not overcrowded." None have more than two bedrooms. But the girls are got away very early into farm service, some as young as 10, as soon as they can make themselves at all useful in service. "Unmarried labourers are "boarded at farmhouses." All the cottages have more or less gardens attached to them, besides an allotment ground, which allows a piece to nearly every cottage.

Parish of Coedkernew.

Population, 163.

68. *Mr. James*, occupier, Cefn Llogall.—Keeps six farm servants in his house; mostly boys 16 to 20. All unmarried. A married man goes to a cottage. Does not keep them in the house because there is a bad supply of cottages, but to have them nearer their work and earlier. Keeps more in the house than anyone near. Prefers boys at that age. Keeps oxen and wants them for that. Farm is on the hill, but is a tract of grazing land. Employ four men besides regular labourers. They are married, and all live except one, on the farm; he lives in the village. Three of the cottages are let with the farm. Mostly arable. Pasture in front of house. Holds under Lord Tredegar.

Gives 10*s.* and a cottage. Only gives drink in summer. The men prefer beer. Don't make much cider, and they like beer better. Never employ women. Don't know of any who employ women between our town (Newport) and Cardiff.

Plough very little beyond Newport by the sea. Best land in the county. A man will have, perhaps, 25 acres, and employ one, two, or three men, and most live in the house. Very thin population. Same down by St. Bride's and Peterstone.

Parish of St. Melan's.

Population, 688 - Acreage, 2,574.

Cultivation mixed.

69. *Rev. J. W. Evans*, vicar.—"Boys are employed on farms in the parish from the age of 10 or 12 years as regular servants, and occasionally, as at seed time, but this to a small extent. The limit for boys' work might be from 10 to 12 years, but in some cases, as is that of a large family, too strict a rule would be a hardship. There is a National school.

"Girls are not so employed." Women are employed "in harvest time, and sometimes in picking up stones in fields intended for hay fields. Stone-picking is usually job work. In harvest the hours vary as the weather serves.

"The supply of cottages is not now very abundant in this parish, which is an increasing one, but probably the want will procure the remedy. Except in cases where extraordinary work, building, &c., has brought an influx of stangers there has been no great overcrowding with attendant evils. Most cottages have gardens. There are no allotments.

Parish of Michaelston-y-Vedw.

Population, 203 - Acreage 1,220.

Cultivation mixed, nearly equal arable and pasture.

70. *Rev. Wm. Jenkins*, vicar:—Boys are employed "from 11 to 13 years of age. The first work boys of 11 do is to keep the rooks from eating the early sown corn in the month of March. Boys are allowed to go out of the school for a month or six weeks for that purpose, and return again to school. Boys of 13 generally live with the farmers in the house; they are hired by the year. Boys of younger age looking after the rooks frequently live in a cottage on the farm with the parents, so they have no great distance to go to work. They should not be employed in any kind of work under 10 years of age. They are of no service to the farmer under 10. They attend the school regularly at that age. There is an endowed school in the parish free to all the children in the parish. All necessary school materials are provided for the children entirely free. Every advantage is taken of the school. When a cottage becomes vacant and a family out of the parish take the cottage they immediately apply to admit their children in the school.

"There is one class of superior cottages. There is another class of old cottages, not so good. They are sufficient for the supply of labour, and many of them on the farms." No overcrowding. "Every cottage has a good garden and well cultivated."

Girls and women are not employed on the farms. The women stay at home and attend to domestic affairs." Young girls should not be employed in riculture, they should go to service to learn domestic rk. Women might be of service to farmers at rvest time, but in this district they are not ployed.

71. *Miss Oden*, schoolmistress.—Sometimes a boy es to scare birds at 10, 11, or 12. None go much, d most come back to school when it is over. They picking potatoes and beans.

There are 68 on the books. There are 47 present -day.

There are more girls than boys; some of the boys to a man's school, but they have to pay more; this hool is free. The oldest boy is nearly 13; he is pt away sometimes, more than any of the others. rls stay sometimes up to 14.

There is no night school; it is a scattered parish; ne children have to come two miles.

71*a*. *Rees Edward Rees*, occupier.—"Boys are dom employed under 14 years of age; when they e employed it is to keep off birds from feeding on e corn. Girls are never employed at outdoor work." ble-bodied men get 12*s*. to 15*s*. per week. They e paid by the week, wet or dry. We are within ree miles of the mines, which raises wages. Give harvest time three or four quarts of cider, but that more than most people. Farms 150 acres. Employs ar men constantly, of whom one a carter, and the st generally employed. Labourers here are better than in most parts; there is no need for women to rk. There is a deal of dissent about here; is a ssenter himself; but people are all liberal, and get well together, even as regards church rates. Conders the farmers and people well off here; holds der Lord Tredegar; average value of land 25*s*. a ar, but less than the rent of most proprietors. Has freehold of his own at Lantarnam, and thinks people ll off there as here; there are works in the place.

There are few cottages down in the flat; a good any of the people employed at Peterstone live in ese parishes; a distance of two or three miles to me to work.

72. *George W. James*, waggoner.—Waggoner to r. Rees Rees. Gets 12*s*. a week, and one deducted ecause he has a cottage given; also gets food on ndays.

Wife never works; has a young child, and besides is not the custom in these parts. Came from Worcestershire; do not think there is much difference wages between those parts and this. Got two arts of drink there, but not here; you do not want much food if you have drink. Boys go out with rses in Worcestershire, but not here, as ploughing done with two horses, who are driven. Not much r a boy to do here before he is 14 or 15 years of ge.

73. *Thomas Maull* (oldish man, general labourer Mr. Rees' farm).—Has 10*s*. a week, and drink and ctuals; generally works in the garden. He hires a ottage, paying 3*l*. a year for it. Wife, four children, nd grandchild live in it; only two rooms, and thatched oof; does not belong to Mr. Rees. May as well peak the truth at once. Landlord not very parcular about rent, but does no repairs. Children all ung; eldest son was drowned at sea, his wife is in rvice.

74. Cottages at Michaelston.

1. *Mrs. Griffith.*—Cottage, two rooms below, two ove, stone and slate; holds direct of Lord Tredegar; *l*. Husband dead; eldest boy of 15 is clerk and exton. Has four other younger children. Gets 6*s*. om the union; two for herself, one for each of the hildren who cannot work.

2. *William Norris.*—Cottage held of Colonel Tynte 3*l*. a year. Three rooms; kitchen with large old-fashioned open chimney, bedroom opening into it, very small, and with no light, and bedroom upstairs. No children at home at present; sometimes has two. Dilapidated-looking, and the door was below the level of the ground.

3. *Joseph White.*—Nice looking cottage, two windows on each side of door, and two above; whitewash and slate; two rooms below and two above; neat and clean; the staircase opens into the first room. Mrs. W.'s husband works for Lord Tredegar; gets 13*s*. a week, but has to be out on Sunday as well among the stock. Has five children; a big son not at home, except now and then, and two daughters, who seemed to be about 14 and 15. Does not work in the fields herself, there is not a many do about here. Rent 3*l*. 15*s*.

4. *David Howell.*—A thatched cottage that wants a good deal of repair; inhabited by an old man, his son and daughter, and three children. Big kitchen downstairs and the old man's bedroom. Upstairs one other bedroom, a long room extending the whole length of the house; roof sloping to the floor; thatch bare, except for some newspapers put over it. Staircase like a ladder into a loft. Eldest child, a girl aged 8, goes to school; a boy aged 5, another $2\frac{1}{2}$. Pays rent 2*l*. 10*s*. to Lord Tredegar.

5. *William Lewis.*—Neat cottage, all on one floor, but has two sitting rooms and two bedrooms, and generally only self and wife at home, except sometimes when only son comes to see them. Has worked for Lord Tredegar as woodman 33 years. Rent 3*l*. 15*s*. Capital large garden.

75. Cottage on Mr. Rees' farm.

Let with the farm, and lets his waggoner have it at a shilling a week; stone and red tile; high sloping roof; one room above, one below; looked tidy and clean, and seemed nice people in it; only husband and wife and child. The calf-shed adjoins. Mr. Rees says if family increases must turn the loft into another room, and perhaps the calf-shed too. Went upstairs. The roof slopes, but is well ceiled. Garden of nearly 30 perches.

76. *Mr. James* (occupier), Mynyddyslwyn.—Gives 15*s*. a week; obliged to do it, because of the mines, or men all go away, as they are close. Does not find women work, for men are too well off. Fortunately do not require so many men, as there is a great deal of sheep-walk, and most of the rest is dairy. Farms are smaller than below, but people as rich because of the extent of sheep-walk. Farm servants, girls, do the milking, and have two big boys in the house who drive the cows. The 15*s*. is in money; sometimes they take a cheese. Much the case with other farmers of the parish.

Boys do not go with the horses now; driving is done with reins; oxen ploughing has gone out.

Pontypool Union.

77. Meeting of Pontypool Board of Guardians, November 18, 1869; — Lewis, Esq., in the chair. Present, — Ralph, Esq. (Usk); — Morgan, Esq. (Mamilad); Messrs. Dunn (Usk), James (Goytrey), Jenkins (Glascoed), &c.

Boys are never employed under 12 years of age; it is a rare case to see one as young as 10. There are a great number of small farmers in this county who work their children; but boys are not wanted now to drive horses with the plough; it is all pair-horse driving.

The questions do not apply much to the Union; a great part of it being mining, and children are taken as soon as ever they are 12 years of age to work in the mine. Girls are taken into the farmhouse at about 14 in the agricultural districts; and Mr. Evans says they are not much use at that age; they keep fowls, &c., weed the garden, &c.

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There is no parish without a school; and a good many in some Mr. Ralph thought. Around Usk the means of education are very meagre, but where there is a good opportunity small farmers send their children; labourers as a rule do not. The schools are principally little dames' schools, where reading and writing are taught and little more.

In Usk they are well off for schools, and attendance is regular. There is an elementary school under Government, and aided by Roger Edwardes' charity, which only diminishes the Government aid, and the rest is made up by private subscription. There are also dames' schools, and a Roman Catholic school, very good, and soon to be a Church school also.

In Llangibby two good schools; well looked after; none at Llanbaddock; they go to Usk and Llangibby; principal part go. They are more disposed to avail themselves of it than town population was Mr. Dunn's opinion, but not generally echoed. At Goytrey a National school is kept under Government, and there is also a British school.

There are not a dozen children who don't go in the parish, and there is quite a fight for the children which school they are to go to.

Women assist their husbands when they get such a job as swede pulling; they do a bit when land is wanted to be cleared all at once.

You cannot always get women; much of the work about Usk is done by the Irish women there; they come and ask for it. Some are more active than men. Take work for perhaps a week or fortnight. They weed spring-corn and set potatoes, and they are better than men to do such jobs. Useful in harvest. About gentlemen's houses they are got in preference to men to weed. Too few looking out for work; each year fewer.

In mining districts they work with their husbands on the small holdings. Mr. Dunn thinks a girl pretty well educated won't go out. Irish daughters won't go at all; it is only the mothers. Some who work out are quite as good a class as those who do not. Little immorality arises from it.

Less said about dwellings the better, seemed to be the general opinion; dwellings of farmers not good even, much less of labourers.

Many small farms; great deficiency in cottages on farms, and farmers obliged to keep them in houses, and cottages are crowded with lodgers, which leads to immorality.

Mr. Morgan thinks labourers selves much to blame; they will not pay a rent sufficient for the value of a cottage.

They cannot afford it, Mr. Dunn says.

Mr. Morgan says a cottage costs 100*l.*, and you won't find a man give more than 4*l.*, even a man who makes 15*s.* a week.

Mr. Evans says 4*l.* 10*s.* or 5*l.* is the rent at Llangibby, and Mr. Lewis says a good bit of garden is added generally.

Mr. Ralph says you seldom see a cottage with front and back door, and Mr. Morgan says nothing improves habits of labourers like a good cottage. When the Irish first came they were a wretched set, but now they are getting wonderfully civilized. There are very few cottages with two bedrooms; hardly one with three; many with only one.

Mr. Morgan thinks the badness of the labourers, dwellings one of the wretched features of agricultural life.

Mr. Ralph says there are a number of tumble-down cottages, and thinks it a good deal the landlord's fault, who find cottages do not pay and let them fall to pieces. They are consequently driven into Usk, and lodge in the other villages, or have to go into lodgings.

Mr. Evans gives 10*s.* and cottage at Llangibby; they also get a meal now and then, and three parts of their meals in summer. The gentleman from Trevethin, which is a manufacturing parish, gives in kind and all about 14*s.*

Mr. Morgan (Mamilad) gives 12*s.*, cottage free, taxes paid, and potato-ground, and never deducts for loss of time.

Mr. Ralph says a view to take is that some are much better off than others; a waggoner has good fixed wages; a lot are thrown out in bad weather who work by the job.

Mr. Morgan, who is close to the mining district, could not get a good man under what he gives. Considers they get as good as 18*s.* to 1*l.* a week.

Mr. Lewis says there are a large number of casuals employed in harvest and other busy times, who do not work out generally, and Mr. Ralph says they are not as a rule agricultural labourers. Inferior made men, but want 3*s.* a day very often, at least 2*s.* 6*d.*

Boys live in the house generally (Mr. Evans), and begin with 5*l.*, go to 12*l.*, and more sometimes.

Mr. Morgan says the cider and beer very bad given by the farmers. Don't make a rule of it himself. Injurious to both employer and employed. They have so much the employer loses by it.

Families are better off if money is given instead; they take too much and can't do work after; the general allowance is two quarts a day.

Mr. Dunn offered a man 3*s.* a week instead of drink and he refused it; gives about two quarts a day. Mr. Lewis gives only two pints.

Mr. Ralph would say at Usk 13*s.* a week is the average wage, and find everything, cottage and all, out of it.

Mr. Evans says some men are better than others, and of course have higher wages. A good waggoner often gets 16*l.* a year; a bad often 9*l.* only.

Parish of Usk.

Population, 2,112.

78. *G. R. G. Ralph, Esq.*, thinks one of the worst things done by women and children here is "going to wood." They may be seen coming in with great bundles of wood on their heads. They are allowed to go out and take the dry wood from the many woods about here and from the hedges for their own use; but it ends in many of them bringing it into Usk and selling it to the bakers, &c. Some of them will make at this more than 1*s.* It is principally the Irish women who do field work; the Irish labourers are not skilled—they cannot plough, and so are not worth the wages of a Welshman.

There are many cotters in the hamlet of Gwenhellog, most of them holding of the Duke of Beaufort, who also has cotters in the parishes of Monkswood and Glascoed; would put the average of the rent paid to him at 1*l.* a year; the greater number pay about 10*s.*, some as little as 6*d.*, but as the leases on lives fall in some of the rents are raised. The farm buildings in the district are very bad; but then it must be remembered that the tenants are a class who would not appreciate better; they farm from 100 to 150 acres as a rule. The usual rent in the district is about 1*l.* an acre, but the farming is bad, though some of the land, especially beside the river, very good.

Mr. Ralph was good enough to show me the rate book, from which it appears that nearly every cotter has at least an acre of land; in one page of about 20 holdings were only two of less than an acre. Usk is a town, or rather large village, full of gardens; each house has its garden at the back; some very large in the middle of the town.

79. A day in Usk.—Diary, November 20, 1869.

Mr. Falconer (County Court Judge) took me to see the club room that he has built for the townspeople. Mr. Falconer considers that there is no great harm in the number of public-houses; they cut up the people into different sets, and there is less harm comes of that than of a large party drinking together. His club room is on strictly temperance principles; coffee and buns the only refreshment allowed. It is open at

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in the evening, and sometimes there are as many as 0 or 90 present. Newspapers are provided, and a agatelle board, and draughts and backgammon; but o cards or playing for money allowed. The bagatelle oard was bought for them, because there was one at ne of the public-houses, which kept people away from e club-room. There is also a small library, but some ing their own books, and there is now and then ading aloud. Mr. Falconer hires the house at 14*l.* year; the room has once been a school, and is fficiently well adapted; the rest he lets off; but is his great wish to be able to build a bigger and tter room. There is in connexion with it a savings nk, and Mr. Falconer was good enough to show me s accounts. Sums exceeding 4*l.* in all are paid in some weeks; and he has opened an unlimited count with Government.

We went also to see the Church, and the school, hich is partly under Government, and receives also d from Roger Edwardes' trustees; this year 41 chilen were presented for examination. There are two ry good rooms, but there only being a schoolmaster present it is a mixed school; it is open to all enominations. The vicar has just finished the conruction of a Church school. Visited the jail, and en the Rev. W. Wilson, R. C. priest, took me to e the homes of the poor Irish; there is a good deal overcrowding in many of their cottages, and the nts are generally enormous in proportion to the uality of the house.

1. The worst case of poverty I saw was one ctually in the town, where a husband, wife, and four hildren all live in one cottage, beside a little wildooking girl, whose parents are "very bad, and is as f she had no parents." The cottage has but one oom below and one above, but both rooms are large, ut the floor of the downstairs room is very rough, aved with big stones. The husband earns 10*s.* a week, nd that not always certain. The house rent is 7*l.* year, rates and taxes beside. The husband is a arm labourer; the wife goes out sometimes to get little money, but only washing and such like; does ot work out. "One day out in the fields is worse than six in the house." The Rev. Mr. Wilson nentioned another case of a labourer on 10*s.* a week lose by.

2. Close by a two-roomed cottage, one above the ther, containing husband, wife, and four children, he eldest a tidy looking girl of 14. Rent 7*s.* a month, nd rates to pay; was 8*s.* formerly and all rates paid. Next door a similar cottage, containing husband, wife, a son, grown up, with rheumatism, a servant out f work, and two younger children. Rent, 3*l.* 18*s.*

3. A row of cottages close by the church, consisting each of only one room downstairs, and a lobby nd one bedroom upstairs. Rent 6*l.*, and besides this ates and taxes to be paid; at the Reform Bill rates were thrown on the occupier, but rent not lowered. In one cottage lived a husband and wife, husband earning 12*s.* a week, and four young children, the youngest a baby. Wife cannot go out to work. Husband works for Mr. Ralph. The wife is going away to Cork to fetch the child that her brother has just died leaving.

4. Tanhouse.—A row of houses in the suburbs we visited, containing one room downstairs, and one or two up; let at 2*s.* 6*d.* a week each, and rents and taxes to pay. In one lived a husband and wife, and four children; the husband has a bad arm, and is lucky if he makes 7*s.* a week; does not always make that. Wife goes out sometimes, but cannot often, as there are the children to mind; eldest boy is out keeping birds for Mr. Lister at 4*s.* a week. The smallest cottage was at the end, and when we entered seemed full of children; only two rooms, one above and one below. In it live a husband, wife, and six children, generally only five, but the eldest a girl of about 17 was at home, having left her place in service. The husband makes 12*s.* a week, and that seemed to be all the money that comes into the family. Rent, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

5. Walcheren.—Went into one of a row of cottages that branched off from the road; only one room above, one below; in it live a husband, making 12*s.* a week, wife, five children, and the old grandmother. The biggest boy is about 17 or 18, and works out, the rest at home are little children.

80. *Oliver Davis*, Usk, district surveyor.—Very well off for schools in this parish, and in the district generally, partially owing to Roger Edwardes' charity.

1. Middle class school, under Roger Edwardes' charity, to which farmers' sons, tradespeople of the town, and some clergymen send their children.

2. Church school, also partially supported by Roger Edwardes' foundation.

3. Elementary school for boys and girls, under Government, partially supported also by Roger Edwardes' charity and by the people of the town.

4. Roman Catholic school. There are out of a population of about 1,600 more than 200 Roman Catholics in Usk, a circumstance which has brought in a good many Irish labourers, who are generally the poorer classes in the town, and live in the worst cottages; they are, however, well behaved.

There are besides ladies' schools and Sunday schools in the neighbourhood.

At Llangwym (four miles) the dissenters have a school, and there is also a new National school going to be built, partly in connexion with Roger Edwardes' charity.

At Llansoy there is a Church school for boys and girls, and a dissenting school.

At Llantrissent (three miles) there is a large school.

At Llandenny a very good school; also at Llangibby.

At Glascoed the dissenters have a school.

At Monkswood there is a very good school for small children, to which children come from all the neighbourhood.

At Mamilad there is a good school.

At Goytrey, also, one just built by Colonel Bird.

There is little employment of boys before the age of 10 except bird-keeping, and after that age their parents generally contrive to get work for them. Some live at home, and some go into the farmhouses, where they look after sheep, cattle, &c. Plough driving has gone out a great deal for boys since the gee-ho driving came in. The soil is tolerably stiff, but they manage to plough without boys to lead the horses. They begin first for, perhaps, only their victuals. Girls go a great deal about the same age into farm-service, but do not work in the fields.

The wages in the district are pretty high, averaging 13*s.* Considers that the new Highway Act has had a good deal to do with the rise of wages. In his own capacity as surveyor employs men at 3*s.* 6*d.* a day on the roads, and finds them always ready to come. In getting men to break stones at 2*s.* 6*d.* he has a greater difficulty. You may always settle that people are well off when you see stones lying unbroken by the road. A good many of the men who go away to the mines come back crippled and bent while quite young. They are drawn away by the temptation of higher wages, quite forgetting that everything in the hills is more expensive.

Women get 10*d.* a day for picking swedes, haymaking, &c., but the English and Welsh women do not work much now; nearly all the women's work has been taken by the Irish. The Irish labourers are not so well off as the English, and are more stupid. Reckons the people of this county a more enlightened set than those of the West of England. The Irish will begin on 10*s.* a week, and go on perhaps on that for 10 years, finding a cottage out of it. Many of them rise however ultimately, and some, when they become skilled, will make as much as 18*s.* a week. It is their wives who do most of the out-door work.

Some of the Usk people, especially the Irish, go as far as five miles to work. Before the Act it was the custom very much in the neighbourhood to pull down cottages, so as to drive the people into the open parishes like Usk. Llangibby was a parish (three miles distant)

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where this was much done. The plan is going out now, and more cottages are being built; still many of the Usk people go long distances to work. Nearly all the Irish are agricultural labourers.

In the county generally the cottages are bad, but improving. There are some very bad specimens in Usk, especially where the Irish live; they bring in their native habits of not seeming to care where they live, and they herd together in wretched little hovels. The worst are the Tanhouse and Walcheren cottages. Mentioned a case in Newport of a street entirely inhabited by thieves and prostitutes; an Irish colony came over and entirely routed them.

81. *Rev. Thos. Wilson*, R. C. Priest, Usk.—The Irish colony here is chiefly from County Cork, and came over at the time of the famine. They are very badly off, but not worse off as a rule than the Welsh labourers, only they are a separate class and live much by themselves. Have many of the boys taken away from school to field labour very early, say about 10; go into the farms to do a bit of work there. Contrives to keep girls much longer. A good deal of work is done out by the Irish women; they go out to pick stones and cut swedes. Some men go as much as four miles to work.

Parish of Llangibby.

Population, 525.

82. *Rev. E. A. Williams*, rector.—Llangibby is a very scattered parish, purely agricultural. There is no great cluster of houses at all, consequently many of the children have to come some distance to school; they are tolerably regular notwithstanding, and there are very few that do not come to school. They will go away at the age of 8 or 9 for bird-keeping, but come back again. There are about 60 children at the school, and about 20 more at another in one of the hamlets. The wages are about 12*s.*, 2*s.* a day, and women work out very little, except in haymaking.

83. *Miss E.* ———, Llangibby.—Brother never employs children, except perhaps a boy to keep crows. Next to him our youngest would be about 17; he is under-waggoner, and lives in the house.

We have no less than four workmen living in the house; have to have a good many here, because there is a great want of cottages; we have only two, our head-waggoner, who is a married man, lives in one. Mr. Williams, the squire, did not build cottages, partly to keep down the poor-rate, partly because he also thought that boys and girls were brought up better living under the farmer's eyes. We give our men 12*s.* a week, and other advantages; they have their food in harvest, and the waggoner always his dinner. The men who live in the house have exactly the same food as we, and if you go into the cottages you will find the workmen living there nearly as well off. They all keep their poultry and pigs.

We have no one from Usk that comes out to work here, except one Irish woman, now an old woman, who comes every day, and has worked for us five years. She always works out, will not work indoors. We have also three or four women out from Usk for apple-picking or topping swedes. We have a good deal in roots, a great deal in pasture, but no dairy. Wheat does not grow well in the valley because of the blight. Our farm is 300 acres; it is the largest but one in the parish.

When our men marry, most have to leave us, because they cannot find a cottage. No new cottages are being built.

84. *J. Jenkins*, Glascoed, occupier.—Gave a shepherd 11*s.* a week and a cottage and garden, and about 30 perches; considers as good as 15*s.*; gave him dinner and supper lambing days, because cottage half a mile from house. Now my own son shepherd.

Gives waggoner who lives in house 12*l.*; and a boy in house 4*l.*, aged 14.

Only men in regular employ, do all else by job work. Will sometimes get 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* Some fond of a drop of drink, will spend as soon as get it. Give drink; one man never happy unless drunk; getting 7*s.* 6*d.* a week and his board, May to September. Farm about 180 acres. In harvest would have employed a good many; three or four hands extra for a month this year; not many employed now; no apple-picking.

Puts mangolds out to piecework; sometimes a man and wife come, sometimes with one or two boys; has about 10 acres in roots. Gives about 8*s.* an acre. No boys keeping birds; not bad off in our part for rooks.

Parish of Goytrey.

Population, 567 - Acreage, 3,330.

Cultivation mixed; some farms as small as 20 acres, and the average about 35.

85. *Rev. Thomas Evans*, rector, Nantyderry.—There are no farms in the parish up to 100 or 200 acres; the consequence is the farmers are little better off than the labourers. Boys are employed "from 12 to 13 in hay and corn harvest, and potato "setting and picking;" sometimes they go keeping crows; youngest boy never less than 10 years of age.

"Girls are not often employed, perhaps a dozen "between 12 and 14 years of age occupied in harvest, "hay and corn, and potatoes." They are not in service, but live at home. They are no worse than other girls. "About half-a-dozen women in the parish" work; they weed and pick stones; some are pretty regularly employed, others only by the job; they are labourers' wives; pick stones and set and pick potatoes; little work among the swedes.

The cottages are pretty numerous on the farms; they go to work "from a mile to a mile and a half;" condition fair. Mr. Evans himself has just built a cottage with three rooms, but few are so well off.

There are two schools; a National school with 80 on the books, attendance to-day 40, which is very good out of a population of 557. There was a small dissenting school, but that has been shut up. The second school is kept by Mr. Bird over his stables, and he is engaged in building a school.

86. *Mr. James*, Goytrey, occupier.—Keeps his men in the house. Has no cottages; most people who live in cottages are employed out in piecework. Averages four in house all year. Two waggoners and another man among them; all unmarried. Some keep a labourer or two out. Average pay for a house servant 6*s.* 6*d.*, with board and lodging; is worth nearly 16*s.*

Hedging is done by the perch, mowing and swede pulling by acre. A man will make 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. In summer often 3*s.* a day and victuals.

Women only work out in harvest. Very few in parish; never get less than 1*s.* a day. There is little going to wood now. They buy coal, 7*s.* 6*d.* a ton; 10*s.* at Nantyderry.

Never employ a boy; generally try to shoot down crows. Not badly off for rooks in the neighbourhood.

Parishes of Gwernesney and Llangeview.

Population, 216.

87. *Rev. J. Blower*, curate.—Two very small parishes, with scarcely 200 people between them. Very well provided with schools, but do not seem to care to avail themselves of them. The parents seem to like to get their children out as soon as ever they are able to earn anything. Will send them out at 10 to keep crows, and soon after get them work in the farmhouses. Nearly all the women work out more or less, turnip and swede cutting, or in the harvest. Reckons those who go out to work about the best of the women; those who stay at home get idling about. As a rule girls do not work; only know of one case of a girl about 13 working; she goes out to do work like a woman. She is the daughter of a man who works for Mr. Blower, rather a silly man; gets 12*s.* a week,

wife washes, and does field work too, when she is a job. Has a little boy besides, who hawks coal the poor; so there is a good deal of money coming o the household. They pay 4*l.* a year rent for their ttage, and keep a donkey and cart.

The regular wages are from 10*s.* to 12*s.*, but though ages are good men generally prefer irregular job ork. They want to get on the roads or railway; his n man will probably go away at hay-making time, d work at that and at reaping through the summer, e consequence is, when that sort of work is over y are often thrown out of employment; then they pretty ready to come and tell Mr. Blower. A od many idle hands, who he would rather get rid come and live in the village of Llangeview, with e idea of getting admitted into an almshouse when l.

Most of the cottages are conveniently situate on e farms; a farmer likes having a cottage let to him a farm where he can have his own man, and get t of him as much work as ever he wants. Many of e cottages are very bad, but none so bad as those the neighbouring village of Llangwym. The prinpal landowner does not build up the falling cottages, d so a good many of the people go away. Fornately there are not very many children in the ace, so there is no overcrowding, and the parents e very eager to get their daughters out into service, y at 10 years of age. Knows one instance of a mily living in two rooms. One woman had too uch room, and kept her pig in the house, and we d much difficulty in getting her to turn it out. here are a good many cot-rents, some heavily ortgaged; mentioned an instance of one man who rrowed 10*l.* on his, and brought up two pigs to pay f the debt; when the pigs where killed he spent the oney, and let the debt go on.

As a rule reckons the people very well off, or they ould not stay in the county.

Girls are kept at home a good deal to mind younger ildren while their parents are out at work.

Parish of Llantrissent.

88. *Mr. Jones*, occupier.—Is giving now 9*s.* a week d finds his men their cottage. Has only a little y in the house. Give from 12*s.* up to 15*s.* I am ving a little more than some. In some places many ing in the house begin at 4*l.* as a boy, and go up 12*l.*

Boy in house about 12; keeps crows. Seldom mploys women; they weed corn, pick stones off over. Workmen's wives chiefly.

A good many cots, more than in most parishes. hey pay an acknowledgment to Archdeacon Davis, rd of manor. Few freeholds. Cannot mortgage. s well (giving a man 7*s.* 6*d.* and victuals and drink) ff here as most places. Have to keep in repair emselves; do a little every year. Some cover with ones, slate, straw, &c.

150 acres, rent under four gentlemen. Only a ouse where I live, on others no building. Men at ork live close by. Farm, more corn than grass; ather on the hill. Much difference in land in the arish.

In summer gets about three men; in winter often do ith one. Employ only one man regular, and a boy. Part job work; thrashing now by the bushel. Always ct work; often a difficulty in getting men.

89. Abergavenny Union.

Meeting of the Board of Guardians, *Hereford Times*, November 20.

The usual fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday eek, Thomas Watkins, Esq., in the chair.

Agricultural Employment of Women and Children.

Mr. Robt. F. Boyle, assistant commissioner attended and stated that he should be glad to ear the views of the guardians, and should feel obliged or any information they might afford him. The first question was: At what age were children taken to work on farms, and what was the nature of their employment? The answer in general was, that 12 was the average age, and that the children were chiefly engaged in minding cows, running errands, and other similar light work.

The Commissioner.—What work are they usually first put to?

A Guardian.—Minding cows and pigs, and doing light work about the farm and in the house.

The Commissioner.—Do the boys generally live in the farmhouses?

A Guardian.—Yes, almost always. Sometimes they live at home when it happens to be convenient.

Mr. Gwillim.—Farmers' sons go to work a great deal earlier than other boys, and work harder too. He considered it was a very great mistake to keep boys from work till they were 12 years of age. It was much more difficult to get them into habits of usefulness when they arrived at that age. A lad worked far better out if he began when he was about 8. If they were not sent to work before they were 12 they were doing something worse.

A Guardian.—There is a scarcity of children.

Rev. S. W. Gardner said that the work to which the children were put to in this union was not of a distressing kind. He was confident they were never put to any work that was not suited to their strength. The farmers' own boys worked harder than the other boys.

It seemed, from further inquiries, that the only kind of work which might be said to be performed in gangs was that of hoeing turnips and potatoes, and then the numbers were very few.

To the second question, as to the means of education provided, and the extent to which such means were taken advantage of, the result of the answers seemed to be that, with the exception of the hilly portions of the agricultural district, ample means were furnished, and that the extent to which parents availed themselves of those means were on the whole satisfactory.

Mr. Williams (Pontwsgib) and Mr. John Watkins thought that compulsory measures ought to be passed to compel parents to send their children to school. In speaking of their own parishes, they pointed out one or two instances in which the fathers, instead of sending their children to school, spend the means of doing so in drink.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd) said that among some of the old sort a prejudice existed against educating children. He had heard it said that if it were not for so many schools they would not have so many cases of forgery.

The Rev. S. W. Gardner said that so far as his own neighbourhood was concerned the means were abundant, and the children generally attended school very well. If the parents did not happen to be in a position to pay the school pence, he always took care that it was paid. He considered that the means provided in this union were, generally speaking, sufficient. He was sorry to hear such an unfavorable account of the adjoining parish of Llantilio Pertholey.

On the question of wages it seemed that the usual daily wages of women was 1*s.*

The Commissioner.—With drink?

A Guardian.—No, without drink. The women are principally employed in picking apples, pulling and topping turnips, and picking stones. They don't work very hard. The same remarks applied to the whole district.

A Guardian.—Very few women worked on farms. They could not get them.

A Guardian.—That may, I think, be attributed to the fact that they have not the same scruples at attending at the workhouse for relief that they had formerly. They didn't seem to have the same pride now. They seemed to have become acquainted with the workhouse, and rather than work they very often sought relief.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—Girls were very rarely

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employed in outdoor work. They would not do it; they were too high. If you called Elizabeth "Betsy" you would give great offence.

Touching the question of the condition of labourers' dwellings, Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd) said that they were improving very fast.

Rev. S. W. Gardner.—And not without cause.

The Chairman said that on large estates the cottages were mostly occupied by the workmen.

The Rev. S. W. Gardner said that improvement was needed in the dwellings of labourers. Formerly they were nearly all thatched, but they had lately taken to slating them, and there being no ceiling the bedrooms were intensely cold in winter, while they were unbearably hot in summer. When there was more than one bedroom they were so constructed that in going into one you had to pass through the other. They were often badly built and badly ventilated.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—There is a lack of cottages.

A Guardian.—Occasionally the labourers had to walk two or three miles to work.

The Commissioner.—Is it usual to permit the men to live in the farmhouses?

A Guardian.—Generally, a few single men.

The Chairman.—There is a want of labourers.

Mr. Williams (Aberffrwd).—If there's a good man in this country he is picked up as a policeman, and those that are of little use are left for us.

The Commissioner.—Is it the exception to have more than one bedroom?

A Guardian.—There are generally two, but they have to pass through one to the other.

The Chairman.—Where there are more, they are often let to lodgers.

The Commissioner asked what the average weekly wages of farm labourers were.

The Chairman.—About 12*s.* weekly. Less than that sum is an exception.

The Commissioner.—Is any drink allowed?

A Guardian.—Cider—that is the usual drink.

A Guardian.—Where the labourer lives in a farm cottage the wages were not so much; sometimes he had the keep of a pig. With perquisites, he had at least 12*s.* a week.

Mr. Forrest.—I have had to give 15*s.*

A Guardian.—In the case of a waggoner 1*s.* a week extra is allowed, because he has to look to his horses on Sunday.

The Commissioner.—And what wages do you give boys?

A Guardian.—Well, he generally gets his victuals only to begin with, and as he gets more useful he is allowed wages—3*s.* or 4*s.* a week.

Mr. Gwillim.—Some boys at 12 years of age, if they have been put to work in time, would be worth 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week; but if left till they were 12 years old, they were very often entirely worthless. After being at school till they are 12 they think they ought not to work.

The inquiry then closed.

90. *Major E. Herbert*, Chief Constable, Llansaintfraed Court.—Farms himself. Employs no boy under 12 now. It is very difficult to get a boy even to keep crows, and keeping crows is a necessity, or they come and take the crops out of the ground. But really no boy need be worked under 12 years of age. Used formerly to employ a good many little boys, and his sister gave them schooling for two hours in the middle of the day, when they left off work, so it was really rather a good thing for them.

Hopes nothing will be done to prevent women working. The younger women do not work now, but some of the older ones support themselves entirely by coming out on such light jobs as picking turnips, &c. Has two old women almost in regular employ; one of them brought up a couple of daughters very well upon her earnings; they do not work out, but have gone to service. Get 1*s.* a day, and do not come out in wet weather.

Gives 12*s.* to 14*s.* on an average as wages, but no cider. This is more than most of the people about, who give 10*s.* and cider. Out of this they have to find a cottage, which generally costs 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. Major Herbert however gives them to his men at less. The great evil of the county is the scarcity and bad character of the cottages. The fact is that cottages do not pay, and people will not build them. The farmers cry out very much now since the Union Chargeability Bill about the increase of rates. The fact is that the Bill was passed with the idea of benefiting them, which it does not do. The idea was to prevent people letting cottages go to ruin on their properties with a view to escaping having to support the poor. But it has not increased the number of cottages. It was thought too when the Bill was passed that it was only fair that farmers should pay for their labourers who live in towns when old or disabled, but the result is that many farmers who live far out of reach of town labour have to pay rates for the towns.

It is very strange that the cotters, who get their cottages almost for nothing, never seem to be as well off as those who hire. Major Herbert says he cannot understand the reason. Perhaps it is that the knowledge that whatever happens they have a roof over their heads makes them unthrifty. They will do job work for their richer neighbours, but like the Irish consider themselves above doing regular work. Many of the very best labourers in this county will not take regular work. If hired for a job they expect 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*, and if hired at harvest 5*s.* and 6*s.* a day, and such is the scarcity of labour command their price. One came the other day and asked for work when not wanted, and told Major Herbert, when he said that he would not work when he was wanted, that he had been out of work a fortnight. They like to be out of work a few days, and then get another job.

The character of people on the two sides of the county is entirely different; on the west side all Welsh, and small holdings; on the east side all English, and larger farms. Major Herbert can tell one of his men, and a Chepstow man, by his accent. When he wants a labourer he often employs one of the latter. The people in his parish are very well off. When the clergyman at Llanarth asked him to name people to whom to give poor-money he had rather a difficulty in finding any. On the hills is a very poor class of farmers, who do most of the tillage with their families.

Major Herbert observes everywhere an increasing desire on the part of the people to send their children to school.

Parish of Llanvihangel Crucorney.

Population, 479.

91. *Rev. A. F. Hogan*, curate.—Have been rather curiously circumstanced about schools here. When Mr. Hogan first came there was one school under the care of Mrs. Rodney, a dame's school, to which girls were admitted up to any age, boys only up to 10, as they were supposed to become unmanageable after that age. Many of them were therefore sent to school in Abergavenny, and some actually walk there every day now, a distance of 4¼ miles. Mr. Hogan when he came established a school for the older boys, and he is happy to say with very satisfactory results. He has boys of from 11 to 16. The number who attend is 12, and he has adopted the half-time system, only having school from 9 till 12, the boys generally helping their parents in the garden. None of them is actually an ordinary labourer's son. The eldest boy is the son of a gardener, and another is the son of a blacksmith, two others of small tradespeople, three belong to one family, a small farmer's, who employs no other boys but his own to assist him in farm work. The nearest approach to a day labourer is the son of a bailiff of Mr. Rodney's, in receipt of 15*s.* a week. Mr. Hogan has lately (this month) established a night school; it has only just begun, but very well,

o he cannot judge yet of his ultimate success. In a istant part of the parish, which is quite three miles ong, another man has set up a school, at which he has bout 40 pupils. [Mr. Hogan was good enough to how me his schoolroom, which is capital; it is made ut of a bit of an old tithe barn partitioned off. The partition comes down if necessary, and makes enches for concerts, which now and again take place n the barn.]

Most of the labourers' boys get taken into farm ervice at about 12 or 13, and live in the farms. There is a great wish among the parents to get them ut to service. Some of the girls will stay at Mrs. odney's school. Nearly all of them ultimately go o service. They prefer town service to farm service. Many go to Cheltenham, and Mr. Hogan remarked on he eastward tendency of service emigration. Carmarthenshire people are very glad to come to Newport nd Cardiff, but Monmouthshire people must go to Cheltenham, and London is the great object of their mbition. Few girls will go out in the field; cannot uite say it is never done; and of women who still do t Mr. Hogan could only mention isolated instances, nd those the older women. [A lady who happened o come in, residing in an adjacent Herefordshire arish, mentioned that there nearly every woman works out.] The work would principally be weeding urnips. Thinks that here there are no actual poor, o there is no necessity for women's labour. Good en will get at least 12*s.* a week, and cider in harvest. Has generally to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a day if he wants a man or a job, but very often actually cannot get one, which ooks as if there was plenty for the men to do. He as often employed a tramp who has come to beg. Some are willing enough to work; one stayed with im three weeks; slept once in the barn, but the olice not liking that went and got lodgings at Abergavenny, and came out every day. Some, owever, will come and cut a bit of wood, get their inner, and be off again.

The fact is the supply of cottages has been very imited, the squire having gone on the principle of not ncouraging the building of more than absolutely ecessary for the farm work. Nothing has been done yet since the new Act to make more, but Mr. Hogan is very sure it would be well worth anyone's while to build half a dozen new cottages. The consequence is that many of the men come a mile and a half to their work. Mentioned an instance of a young man lately who married, and wanted to stay on and work in the village, but had to go, not being able to find a dwelling. Rent about 6*l.*

Many of the cottages are very bad, but would not say there is much overcrowding, owing to children of both sexes being generally located in service before the age of 13. Some cottages have three bedrooms, in which case they would be small; some two, but many, and some of these of the more roomy, are only divided by curtains. Mentioned especially two wretched cottages, which were built when the railway people came, all on one floor, and which contain only two rooms each. One of these is a mere wooden shed, but only inhabited by a labourer and his wife; the other is built of stone and slate, but there live in it a labourer and his wife, a big son, and a small one; they all sleep in the same room, with only a curtain partition. Nearly all the cottages are built of stone and slate. Even in the large inn a curtain partition is all there is to divide the large apartment in which the family sleep. As far as healthiness and drainage are concerned these two are as good or better than many larger.

Parish of Bryngwyn.

Population, 313 - Acreage, 1,484.

Cultivation mixed.

92. *Venerable Archdeacon Crawley*, rector.—Boys are employed "not usually under 12 years of age; younger boys are occasionally employed in potato-setting, apple-gathering, bird scaring, &c. No restriction is required hereabout; but if in any case desirable I would place the limit at 12 years of age.

"Girls are not employed. I know of four women only who are so employed (except in hay-making), and those only occasionally. They usually do job work, and come to it and leave it at their own convenience; when employed by the day they have their meals at the farmhouse, and are thus engaged from 6 or 7 in the morning till supper time."

There is "a dame's school for the younger children, and good school in the adjoining parish for the elder, of which most of them take advantage. If not, it is owing to the carelessness and indifference of the parents.

"The cottages in general are in good condition, and more in number than are sufficient for the supply of labour here. They are conveniently situate, and not overcrowded. Water is usually to be had near at hand, though few have wells or pumps on the premises. They are not ill-ventilated. Almost all have good gardens; allotments of land are not convenient for so scattered a population as that of this county."

Parish of Llantillio Pertholey.

Population, males 509, females 475, total 984.

Acreage, 68,590. Cultivation mixed.

93. *Rev. Thomas Morgan*, vicar.—"There are few boys, if any, under 13 employed in agriculture in the parish generally; in this parish there is no real occasion for any restriction with regard to the labour they perform, as it is very moderate, and only a little extra on fine days in harvest."

Girls not employed; women only in harvest.

"There are parochial schools for the children suitable to the labouring class, and in most instances they take advantage of them. There are instances in which parents do not take advantage of the privileges they might have if they sought it."

Cottages "on the whole very good." Most have gardens, and some allotments.

Parish of Cwmyoy.

Population, 649.

94. *Rev. Lewis Lewis*, vicar.—Oddly enough there are few children in the parish; have only baptised four in as many years, which is very few, even allowing for half the people being Baptists. Built a school here about six years ago, a good stone building; has a schoolmistress; no Government aid; is open to all denominations; but the Bible is read. Usual attendance is small, but the distances to come are very great, the parish being 6 or 7 miles long; sometimes get as many as 40, which is pretty well considering. Was up yesterday at what is called the Castle, in Llantillio parish, two miles distant, and saw a capital school with 40 children.

The population of this parish is very much diminishing, owing to the smaller farms being amalgamated into large; a good many of the old farms about here are going to ruin. The people do not like it; but it cannot be helped. Mr. Landor's agent, who is a Somersetshire man, is bringing in two Somerset farmers.

95. *Miss Browning*, schoolmistress.—Has 23 in school to-day, of whom nine are girls. Has 27 on the books this week. In January, February, and March, months in which there is least to do, will have about 10 more. In summer only gets about 14, and they only little ones, the youngest a boy only 2; the eldest who comes in summer is a girl of 11. The farmer's boys are taken away in the summer at an earlier age than the labourers'. Often find a labourer's boy much sharper than a farmer's. Girls are generally sharper than the boys. They too are taken away to the fields in summer, though not as much as boys. They go haymaking. Many of the children have a

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long way to come. As it happens, only two girls live near. Some come 2½ miles, but they come pretty well all the winter months.

96. *Robert Gwillim,* Llanthony Abbey, Cwmyoy Upper.—Gives in money 8*s.* a week, but gives besides a cottage, two quarts of cider, corn cheap, feed of a pig, &c., and reckons his men's place worth 12*s.* a week. It is a mountain parish with a deal of bad pasture. The farmer's own son begins work earlier than the labourer's. Some of them begin at 8 years of age to work for their parents ; not only the small farmers but the large farmers too. They learn their work much better from beginning early.

97. 19 November 1869.

Overtaken half a mile from Llanthony by a farmer going to Abergavenny fair. Lives two miles above Llanthony. Most of the valley belongs to Mr. Landor. Formerly was all small farms, 20 to 50 acres. Is being gradually now consolidated into large farms. Population is diminishing. Not half what I can recollect. A many goes away to the mines. Mr. Gwillim's is the largest farm, and there's another large one down there, two joined together. No one lives in one of the houses. Cottages are not much wanted for labourers. There are few labourers here. What there is lives in the house mostly till they marry, and then has to look out for a cottage. In the farm servants live like one of the family.

Many of the farms are so small that a farmer can manage them with his family only. My boy works for me, and I have two men living in the house. My boy began to work a'most as soon as he could walk. Would come out and lead horses in harvest and liked it. Could lead a horse at 7 or 8 years old. A farmer's boy who begins early always manages a horse better than a labourer's boy who don't begin till 10. A labourer's boy has not the same advantages. There's no bird-keeping here, and all ploughing is done now by gee-ho teams, so a boy is not wanted to drive the leading horse, as when ploughing was done tandem.

"There is no work for women much. Labourers' wives will do a bit of swede-cutting, but 'tisn't like it is in Herefordshire ; we don't expect labourers' wives to work. When we hire extra men we have to give 12*s.* a week, and if he takes a cottage give him advantages in food for fowls and pigs and two quarts of cider. But there are not many men regularly employed ; two down here at this farm, two at Mr. Gwillim's, and two on there. A man will come out for us in summer, and do planting for Mr. Landor in winter. There is a deal of planting being done along the slope of those hills. Mr. Landor gives 12*s.* a week, but no cider.

"Very little Welsh is taught in the valley now. English is taught in the schools, and Mr. Lewis preaches in English. Remember a deal more, mostly that side (left bank) of the river. Better soil for wheat there. This side grows oats and barley. There is a school at Llanthony ; another, a new one, at Cwmyoy. All one parish. Lots of dissent. Two chapels. Father Ignatius also is going to build a monastery beyond Llanthony."

RADNORSHIRE.

Radnorshire.

Rhayadr Union.

1. Meeting of Board of Guardians at Rhayadr, Wednesday, November 24, 1869.

As a rule children do not work out much under 12, and the children of the smaller farmers work out more than those of the labourer, and at an earlier age. The chairman said that the schooling of children whose parents cannot afford to keep them at school is paid out of the rates. Very little bird-keeping is done, in fact there are very few crows as it happens. Most of the boys when they begin work go to live in the farmhouses, where they are treated as one of the family. If they do not begin at 10 or 12 they are little good as farm labourers.

The parishes in this union, as a rule, are well provided with schools, though of such large extent that many are obliged to have two.

Some of the gentlemen having mentioned St. Harmons as an exception, Mr. Meredith mentioned that a new school has just been opened, at which were more than 45 first time. There is also a small school in another part, kept by a schoolmistress on her own account. The new school is built by subscriptions among the farmers and people, the scholars, of course, to pay. Mr. Rice had not wished to subscribe, as he thought that, while about it, they might have had a school on a better footing.

At Nantmel is a school well attended. Mr. Edwards counted 30 boys, and supposed there was as many girls. There is also another, supported by a dissenting body, to which an old gentleman left money.

In Cwmdauddwr are two schools, and an endowed school close to the town, which has been put under Government. Over the rest of the parish the population is small, and upon the border there is little or no schooling : at Nant-Gwyllt Miss Lloyd keeps a school.

Mr. Price mentioned that for 10 miles up the Wye there is no school beyond St. Harmons ; the population, however, is small.

As an instance of the interest generally taken in the schools, it was mentioned that some of the farmers four and five miles distant have been known to send their children into Rhayadr to school.

Women work out very little now ; a decent servant won't take out-door work. Perhaps one or two will go out here and there to pick swedes and set potatoes. Mr. Meredith, of St. Harmons, mentioned a case of a woman from Abbeycwmhir coming to work in his parish.

As a rule the cottages are very much improved of late years ; but there are some very bad still. You will find them generally as bad in the town as in the country round. At St. Harmons there are some wretched hovels, and a few in Nantmel are bad. At Abbeycwmhir they are generally good.

The chairman calculated the rent of a cottage in Llanyre at 4*l.* ; in Abbeycwmhir, at 1*s.* a week ; they belong at the latter place to Mr. Phillips ; at Nantmel also Mr. Edwards mentioned that they are let for 1*s.*

To an inquiry as to the quality of the shepherds' cottages on the mountains, it was stated that since the enclosure there is no necessity for shepherds, and most men employed in the mountains live in the employer's house.

At Nantmel, Mr. Edwards stated the wages at 10*s.* and a cottage, firing, potatoes given, and cyder in harvest. Mr. Phillips, at Abbeycwmhir, gives 12*s.* ; at Llanbadarn cannot get a man under 15*s.*

The greater part are employed by the year ; but many men will be employed by two farmers, taking perhaps three days for one and three days for another. Some men are never regularly employed, but work only by the piece.

Parish of Abbeycwmhir.

Population, 540 - Acreage, 10,961.

Chiefly pasture.

2. Rev. James Evans, Vicar of Abbeycwmhir and Llanyre, Chairman of Rhayadr Board of Guardians.

"Boys, as a rule, are not employed here under 13 : "they never work except on the farm on which they

live. I find but little difficulty in inducing the farmers and labourers to send their children to school; there may be exceptions, but there are very few." School attendance is affected by distance "in no degree. Children, where the distance is too great for them to walk daily, lodge at some convenient cottage or farm for the five days of the week." The girls are "simply taught to sew, make and cut out every kind of garment, and knitting."

"The cottages, upon the whole, in this parish are of a very superior class, and the labourers and their families who occupy them are intelligent, moral, and industrious; their children are well educated, and in most instances attend school up to the age of 13, and I find these children often return for a few weeks to school at the age of 17 or even 20, so much do they value education. I know that improved cottages have very much to do with the much improved morals of the labouring class, and without proper cottage accommodation it is most difficult to improve the morals, or to make them respect themselves."

The Annual Table showing the attendance and payments of the Abbeycwmhir National School, as shown to Her Majesty's Inspector, May 1869.

Quarter.	Average No. present.	No. present at all.	Average No. of Days attended by each child present at all.	No. on Register.	School Pence. £	s.	d.
1	33·6	35	4·8	53	1	16	3½
2	41·5	44	4·6	63	3	6	1½
3	44·	45	4·9	67	3	8	4
4	46·	48	4·9	57	3	2	4½
Result or Year.	41·3	43	4·8	60	11	13	1½

The above Table ends with April 30th, 1869.

On the Register of Abbeycwmhir school.

	Boys. Under 10.	Over 10.	Total.	Girls. Under 10.	Over 10.	Total.
Summer - -	16	12	28	23	8	31
Winter - -	14	15	29	13	11	24

In average attendance.

Summer - -	28	8	20	16	8	24
Winter - -	10	13	23	9	10	19

3. *Mr. Attridge*, Schoolmaster.—Average age of boys is 12; we have them up to 16. All biggest are away to day beating for the squire, Mr. Phillips; 14 out of the first and second classes are taken for the purpose.

On average on books 60; about even the boys and girls in number. Average attendance 41; that was the number presented for examination.

There are some children in the parish who never come, principally those that live a long distance off, or the parish runs five or six miles. Little ones come in the summer more than the winter, because of the distances and bad weather.

Farmers children are taken away to work more than labourers, and begin work earlier, almost as soon as they could walk. Considering the population the school attendance ought to average between 50 and 60.

The distances very great; but some distant children come.

In the summer had two big boys coming four miles who stop in place: the children of men with small holdings.

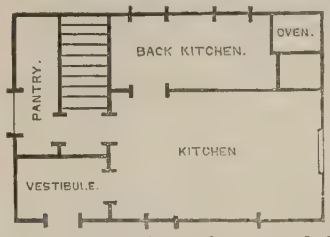
The farthest distance a little one comes is nearly two miles.

(It is a mixed school; all taught by one master, and the youngest is four years old. Some girls stay up to 16 or 18. There are on the books two young men of 19 and 20, but they only came for one quarter when little work was doing.)

4. *Henry Robinson*, agent to G. H. Philips, Esq.—"Boys are seldom employed as servants in this district under 14 years. Girls are scarcely ever employed here in work on the farm; I mean out-door work, unless it be in the hay-fields. All our work-people live in cottages on the farm or very near to it. There is a National school under Government inspection; a certificated master and sewing mistress. The children are all well educated, and very regularly attend school."

5. Cottages belonging to G. H. Philips, Esq. Diary, Nov. 26, 1869.

"The first pair were inhabited by his labourers at 12*s.* a week, and let to them at 1*s.* They were substantially built of brick with slate roofs, and no ornament. The rooms were larger than any I have yet seen in model cottages. We entered a vestibule, out of which a door on the right led into the big kitchen; at the back was the back kitchen, containing the oven and boiler, and a door led out into the back yard. At right angles to the door into the back kitchen is the door that opens on the staircase, and facing that door the door into a pantry, a long narrow strip. Upstairs are three bedrooms, two very good indeed, one with a fire-place. All three are lofty, and have very little sloping roof. There was a little too much room taken up in passages on the upper story, but this we saw altered in a second pair that we visited. In this latter pair the three doors of the three bedrooms opened on to a square landing at the top of the stairs, so that every atom of space was made use of. This latter pair were rather larger than the others, and had some slight ornamentation with variegated bricks outside. In one of them the cowman lived, a man on 12*s.* a week, in the other the schoolmaster. At the back of each is a small yard, walled in, with a privy at the end of it. Mr. Philips told me that this latter pair cost about 400*l.*



Parish of Llanyre.

Population, 744 - Acreage, 5,901.

6. *Mr. Tewdwr Thomas*, schoolmaster, Newbridge-on-Wye.—"The age at which boys are generally employed in agriculture in this parish is about 14 or 15, all times of the year. Very few girls are employed, except at harvesting and potato-planting. It is desirable that boys should not be allowed to work in the fields until they are at least 13 years of age; but if there were no night-school in the parish I should certainly limit the age to 14. There is an excellent national school in the parish, which is well attended. There is no difficulty in this school to secure good attendance; as a rule the farmers send their children to school very regularly; though in some parts of Wales I have experienced great difficulty in getting farmers' children to attend. The average attendance at the school last year was 74.

"Women are very little employed, except farmers' daughters, who assist their own parents.

"The cottages are very rapidly improving in this parish, though there are some of the old-fashioned ones still remaining; there are not many built on the

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farms. As a rule farmers in this part hire single men for the year, who sleep and eat in the house. I know of no instance where the cottages are over crowded in this part. Water is sufficiently near to all the houses. All the cottages which I know of have good gardens; even those which are in a dilapidated condition have excellent gardens attached to them."

Attending in the school to-day are three young men, and three big girls. The biggest of the latter is daughter to a gamekeeper, and the next a farmer's daughter. The young men have been in service, but have only taken service this time for six months in order to come to school six. There is great interest taken in the school here, perhaps from having felt the want of it for so long. Most of the children come from the village, but there are a good many come four or five miles, walking here and back every day, some from both sides of the river, some from the adjacent parish of Disserth. It is entirely an agricultural village; most of the labourers who work for farmers, except those on Mr. Watt's place, live in Newbridge. Mr. Watt has cottages.

When the Enclosure Act came, a small man would buy up a bit of land in the village, and run up a few cottages on it. Some are very bad indeed; but the rent comes to from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* Would not say there are six women in the parish who ever do any work out; girls are kept at home to nurse children, but not from that special clause. The labourers' children attend better than the farmers'; the fact is the farmer's child has more outdoor work to do. Many of them will hardly come at all in the summer months; a difference of 18 perhaps is the average. Tried a night school last year, but it did not answer. They did not take an interest in; got about a dozen at first, and then it dwindled.

It is a mixed school under Government; private subscriptions amount to 39*l.*, and the pence and Government aid pays the rest. All denominations come, and have never had any trouble in that way; each has its separate Sunday school.

7. *William Price* (aged 17).—Used to go to school at Llanyre; first came here at 17. Used to work for father at 11 years old. General work about the farm; the farm is a stock-farm. Have eight brothers; we do all the work for father. There are three little ones who work for him, from 12 years down to six. The youngest could do something, run about on errands, or something of that kind. Begin work about May, and come to school about this time of year.

8. *Rees James* (aged 13).—Work on father's farm. Began at about 8. Mind sheep and cattle; lead horses. Didn't go to school then; but was at school a little before this school was built. Go off in May, and come back here about two months ago; have no brothers.

9. *Sarah Ann James* (aged 16). — Go setting taters, and doing another other work father will ask me to do. Don't like it much; like work in the house better. Used to set taters, and do other work when 9 years of age; besides setting taters used to spread the muck on the land, when it was to be sown. Never minded the sheep; my sister used to do that; she is older than me. Mind the cattle very often, and milk. Father is a farmer; only keeps one servant.

10. *Eliza Morris* (aged 16).— Does work with father; goes binding with him; sets taters; never does anything else; never minds sheep or cattle. Only went this last year; was about 15.

11. *Ann Samuels* (aged 15).—Has been in service in a farm-house; would do a little out-door work now and then, such as washing taties and setting them; would go out in the harvest; did the milking; never minded sheep. Master only employed beside me one boy, and his son, and we did all the work. The boy was 22 years old. I went to service when I was 13. Father is a carpenter. Used to go to school, to one kept by two women. Was no school in the village. Only came here and began yesterday.

Parish of Llanbadarn-fawr.

Population, 475 - Acreage, 3,731.

12. *James Homer*, occupier and bailiff to E. Severne, Esq.—Keep sheep, but have no sheep-walk; all commons enclosed about two years ago. All private property of those who a right before. Mr. Severne lets the tenant keep the pasture so long as he pays expenses of fencing. All rents; the others put on are small, Lord Ornathwaite charges 2*s.* 6*d.*

Farm about 200 acres for Mr. Severne; only keep about 12 acres of my own. Keep a good many stock; a good deal of cattle kept about here for breeding; a good many farmers buy them in and sell again. Just about here chiefly cattle; five miles above is all sheep. Down the river towards Builth, cattle and sheep mixed.

All our labourers live in cottages; very tidy and sufficient. Wages 10*s.* a week, cottage and garden, potatoes, and firing. Carter has more. Most give 10*s.* or 12*s.*, but no cottage; in regular employ. Men do fencing work by the yard, and will often make 1*l.* a week. Most of the farmers keep them in the house.

We sow six or seven acres with wheat, some barley, and about 10 oats; not much in this county. We employ in harvest or such work two women, labourers' wives, 1*s.* a day, but so well off don't seem to care. When a boy gets a lump of a boy of about 12 or 14 employ him too. A boy would go into a farmhouse at 12, no one before; farmer might put a boy of his own to work younger. Better off in our parish for schools, and most go. Very compact parish, and so easy for them to come. Other schools bordering on parish, and some of the children go to them.

Parish of Nantmel.

Population, 1,453 - Acreage, 16,387.

13. Notes of Vestry Meeting at Nantmel.

Present: Rev. T. J. Thirlwall, Rev. J. Evans, Messrs. Williams, Walker, Edwards, &c.

The system of the county is not favourable to the employment of labour of women and children. Boys are taken into the farmhouses at 13 or 14. Mr. Walker employs four young men, and one man in a cottage on his farm; they must have men living in the house because there are not enough cottages for them to live in.

All agree that there is a great inclination to send children to school among the people, but the difficulty is that the distances are so great. The parish is 10 miles long. There is a very good school close by the church; and another, a British school, a mile and a half up the road. Children on the outskirts go to Llanwrthwl, Abbeycwmhir, and St. Harmons school. Those who are in the direction of St. Harmons are probably the worst off; of course, there are some children who get little or no schooling, but probably the number is small.

There are some very bad cottages, but improvements have been made. Cottage rent too is very high. One of these bad cottages, thatched and with only one bedroom, often lets for 4*l.* The overseer, Mr. Griffiths, who was present, represented that some of the roomiest cottages are some of the old thatched ones; some are made out of old farmhouses. I mentioned a cottage I had passed on my way from Abbeycwmhir, and was told I had lighted on one of the very worst; it was built of thatch and wood, but seemed roomy. Mr. Thirlwall said there were hardly any as bad as that; it was a small freehold.

14. *Rev. T. J. Thirlwall*, vicar.—Want very much to get new schools; it is impossible in a parish of this extent to get the children to school. At one time had an attendance, up to 90; very good, considering the school is at one end of the parish, and there is no village, only scattered houses. Amounts to 60 or 70 now. (A handsome building, with two rooms for boys and girls.) Was built before Mr. Thirlwall's time, but badly built, and is not substantial enough. Besides this, there is a British school, supported by a grant

from the society, a mile and a half further on the Rhayadr road. Wants very much to get two more schools in distant parts, as all outlying children have to go to other parishes, or to none at all. It cannot be helped, but in such parishes as Nantmel and Cwmdauddwr there must be children who never go to school. Still the people are very good about it, and some children come four miles. The resident gentry are few, so it is very hard to get subscriptions to new schools. The farmers as a class are poor, and so not ready to subscribe, it being money hardly earned and so to be kept; besides though thinking it right that every child should know how to read and write, they do not think it necessary he should do much more than that.

In this district there is little work for women to do. Nearly all the farmers go upon the system of having indoor servants. There are hiring fairs every May at Penybont and Rhayadr, at which they come to be hired, and few will stay at one place more than three or four years. They like change. Everything is upset about that time; you can get no one to do anything. All the lettings take place from the day of the fair. The indoor servants are all young men and boys, and are on the same footing as the farmer's family, with whom they have their meals. The farmers very seldom have fresh meat, but dine on bread and cheese and bacon, and the servants all share. The farmers' sons work out with the labourers, and generally begin at an earlier age than a labourer's boy to do a little work about the farm. There is little difference between the labourer and the farmer. Of actual labourers there are very few. When a young man in service has put by a little money, and a servant girl the same, they will marry, and set up a farm on their own account with a capital of perhaps 80*l.* to 100*l.* They will go to a sale and buy stock, a good deal on trust, and if they are lucky and get on at first, they will prosper; if not, perhaps emigrate. But this system is diminishing now; the farms are being consolidated into large farms, which require more capital, and a small man cannot undertake a farm. Almost the only labourers living out in cottages are those employed by Mr. Morgan Evans, the squire. He gives 12*s.* wages. When extra labour is wanted the neighbours assist one another very much. There is a very clannish feeling, and they have intermarried a good deal. Consequently a man will do, say, two days harvesting for another, and then in the winter the other will perhaps do some work for him. All the farms are stock farms, just growing what corn and roots are wanted for their own use.

15. *John Edwards*, Maesygellig, occupier.—Mr. Edwards farms about 140 acres, about 90 acres hill side for sheep-enclosed. Plough 23 acres, rest pasture. Usual character, plough 20 to 30 acres, rest meadow land and hill, what we call mowing land, not good grazing land.

Keep two men, and a young fellow about 18. All live in the house, generally happens unless with gentlemen. In harvesting and letting out wheat to cut we hire a man, 2*s.* a day, or 2*s.* 6*d.* in harvest, and food. Could have a man all the year round at 2*s.* a day. Such a man is generally in work, say taking jobs or on the roads. Cottages not so much required in this county.

Perhaps half a dozen freeholders on the corner of the common will take a job now and then, or be in small trades.

Milk nine cows, and all make cheese; farm servants milk. In fact, my three men are my three sons, and I have only one farm servant. When my boys were young had to keep two men. My boys are very good scholars, much better than me. Some of these schools in the small parishes have such bad schoolmasters; poor and cannot afford to be under government. We have a good one. A good deal of dissent in Nantmel.

Hardly employ any women; don't have turnips much.

16. *John Griffiths*, overseer.—New cottages built on a pretty fair scale. A great many built lately with three bedrooms. Some of the old ones very large. Some old farmhouses, which have been thrown into larger ones. Generally make one cottage, as only one door. Walls thin and cold. Some of them built of wood; have been lath and plaster inside, but fallen down. They go down and are allowed to. In the town here they build more than in the country.

In Newbridge men live and go out to work two miles. Some stop out and sleep near their work. Gentlemen who employ labour generally contrive to have cottages on the ground. Farmers generally hire single men by the year, who live in the house. If married, have to take a cottage and do what they can. The job men are generally married men. A job man can earn most money. Unless a very good workman he is often out of work though. If a very good man, can often make 12*s.* to 18*s.* a week. In summer very hard to get a man, but now plenty of men to be had. Saw one the other day looking for work on the road.

A few years ago we were building many cottages. Squire Phillips at Abbey has built a good many new and good, with three bedrooms.

PARISH OF ST. HARMONS.

Population, 902 - Acreage, 15,522.

17. *Rev. J. B. Evans*, vicar.—Nearly every boy is taken to work as soon as he is fit for it, say at 10. We have no regular school, but are just beginning to build one. Even then do not think they will come regular. They will be off to the harvest and the potato setting and picking.

Our Radnorshire girls do not work now; they are too fine for it; but can recollect them doing a great deal. When I farmed myself employed two girls, whom I taught to hoe and pick turnips, and very much they liked it. Farmers like to get a Cardiganshire girl as a servant; she will do a lot of out-door work for them, such as all the milking and going out to spread manure; but they, when they come here, get above that soon. They will come at about 16, but in two years they will be as particular as the Radnorshire girls. Cardiganshire girls are very good working girls. Cannot say so much for them in other ways. Radnorshire itself has a bad reputation, and it is hard to get rid of, but no worse than its neighbours. Certainly a good proportion of the women married are in the family way, and there are a good many illegitimate children. In this it is worse than it used to be, a great deal of which is owing to the young men and women getting out together after being at the services. They come out in the dark and pair off, and the natural consequences result.

18. *Mr. Rice*, occupier.—All the parish is enclosed now; one common 17 years ago, and the other being enclosed now. Two lords of the manor. The lord of the manor has his fourteenth or sixteenth. I had 800 acres of sheepwalk. Landlord had to buy it under the Commissioners, and now we have to pay rent. Pay by taking so much for the lot. Farm about 150 acres besides, and half only useful. Little meadow. Grow wheat, barley, and oats, what we eat, and make by the sheep. 800 to 1000 sheep.

Only work my two sons, and two servants in the house, and sometimes hire a man or two. Have a cottage on the farm, but the man working part of time for another. Sent boys down to Rhayadr to school, five miles. Lodged in town. Servants, day men get 14*l.* a year. Gave 16*l.* to one, but he was as good as two. Extra man; sometimes 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, sometimes 2*s.* A broken-down man will often get only 1*s.* 6*d.* Plenty of tramps. Have one thrashing now. Get one sometimes for 9*d.*, and glad to do it. Have had one for a month.

Milk six or seven cows. House servants do that. Never employ a woman except sometimes the labourer's wife, setting potatoes and haymaking.

19. Cottages at St. Harmons.—Diary, Nov. 30, 1869.

With the Rev. Mr. Evans, to see cottages and farm-buildings. First one of the old sort, built chiefly of rubble and thatched with straw. The thatch very old

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and worn, the whole looking as if it would soon come down. One window on each side of the low door. We went in and found two small rooms; there was hardly room for us besides the old man who lives there, and a female visitor with her child. It is an old-fashioned high fire-place, but placed in the centre of the building, so that it warms both the kitchen and "the chamber," the only other room. The roof is so low that we can put up our hands and touch almost any part. The thatch all open except where roughly covered over with paper. The old man who lives in it said he paid some small rent; would not say what; but the woman present was his landlady, which, perhaps, accounted for it. There seemed three different kinds of cottage. These old ones which are getting scarcer now, and of which we did not see above half a dozen; then some more substantial looking buildings of stone with tile roofs; and lastly some as good as you would wish anywhere. These last have been built since the railway came, and it was easy to bring stone and lime. Before that stone was scarce, and a great many of the cottages built of wood. Hardly any built before the railway came are two storeys high. One of the second class, stone and slate roof, but very low, one storey high, belonged to the mole-killer, and comprised two rooms only. It is, however, more roomy, but outside the appearance of dirt is deplorable, a stack of dung right against the door. Next to a cluster of small cottages of the oldest and poorest kind, built on the edge of the old common. The whole parish is enclosed now, but when the Act was obtained such of these squatters as could prove their title for 20 years obtained the freehold for nothing, the others had to pay 5*l.* each. They all have a very good bit of ground attached, but the houses are wretched; old thatch, old walls, two rooms only, with the smallest of windows. A man and wife and two children live in the cottage, and the children seem to thrive in the dirt and squalor. There are many of these small holdings scattered about on the hill side. Each tills his own bit of land, and does work too for the farmers. Among the farmers are many freeholders, who till, perhaps, their 100 to 200 acres. Most of them are poor men. Mr. Evans pointed me out some farm buildings that anywhere else would only have been a fair-sized cottage, containing below a kitchen, and pantry, and a dairy at the back, with the upper storey only an open loft all opening into one room. The man it belongs to has a farm of 200 acres. Close by, however, was one of the opposite kind, a capital new building of stone and brick, with a slate roof, built since the railway came. They are a very primitive people here. Mr. Evans can recollect the system of *bidding weddings*, at which all the guests were asked to contribute to the young people's stock at beginning, some giving money, some a piece of furniture or a beast, the reason being that as a rule they were too poor to start in life without. This was done even among the best of the farmers, and often they would collect as much as 200*l.* The old custom of chasing the bride has not long gone out. Her father or brother would take her up on a horse, ride part of the way to church, and then try to make off down some bye road. The guys (grooms men) would give chase, and after a long hunt, surround the fugitives, and bring them in triumph to the church.

PARISH OF CWMDAUDDWR.

Population, 798 - Acreage, 32,000.

Cultivation chiefly pastoral.

20. *Rev. W. Williams* (vicar), Tynpistyll.—"There are comparatively few cottages in this parish. The usual type is very poor indeed; but long habit has accustomed the people to their discomfort; the effect on morals is no doubt bad. The morals of the young women in this district is, I fear, very much corrupted. It is with much regret that I state that it is quite the exception for young women of the rank of farmers' daughters and downwards to be married before they are far gone with child. This, in a great measure, arises from the free intercourse between males and females in the house and in the field, and also from the ordinary operations of the farm-yard, which are the subject of conversation in the presence of the females, tending as it seems to me to lessen their moral tone."

Cottages consist of, generally—"two rooms down-"stairs with a loft overhead to the roof—little venti-"lation, except by chimney and door-way, as the "windows are seldom made to open. Drainage, "little or none except what the natural fall of the site "supplies. Abundance of water; generally a small "garden for herbs. Potatoes grown on the farm "either at the rate of 10*s.* per bushel, or as large a "quantity of land as the cottager can supply with "manure."

Number of children, young persons, and women employed :—

Males.				
Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Total Males.
—	2	10	14	26

Females.				Over 18.		
Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Married.	Unmarried.	Total Females.
—	2	10	7	15	25	59

Cwmdauddwr (the valley of two rivers) is an enormous parish, counting all the county west of the River Wye, 32,000 acres, of which 25,000 is common. Of course it is very difficult to manage about schools; the school, like the church, is in a corner close to Rhayadr, and is in fact a town school. Out of the 25 cottages that constitute the principal village, only divided from Rhayadr by the bridge, only three are inhabited by labourers. There is a small endowment for the school, and it is under Government, but according to the present system, though he passes more than 50 children, he very often gets only 5*l.* from Government. It would be a great boon if this school could be converted into a middle-class school, which is much wanted. The tradesmen send their children up to a certain age, but then if they want to give them more education they must send them elsewhere. At present an arrangement has been made with Rhayadr by which this is a boys' school, and the Rhayadr school a girls'. Rhayadr is a very small parish; no part of it a quarter of a mile from the church.

Mr. Lewis Lloyd, at Nant-Gwyllt, five miles up the valley has another school, a mixed one, to which children will often come three and four miles, often to the number of 50. There are so few houses there that you would be astonished to know where they come from. Besides this, one of the farmers up the Wye valley who has a good deal of room, has given a room in his farm for the purpose, and the neighbours have combined to keep a schoolmaster for the six winter months; there are about 15 children educated thus. But of course the farmers complain of the distance children have to come; saying that they often have to go to the expense of boarding and lodging them in Rhayadr. To the Cwmdauddwr school children will come in four miles, bringing their dinner with them to eat in the school. The school is open to all denominations, and all learn the catechism; but on Sunday each chapel has its separate Sunday school.

Farmers' and labourers' children all come together to the school; in fact the distinction of farmers and labourers is very slight. Farms are worked almost

ntirely by hired servants living in the house, who live nd eat with their masters. When they marry they ave to leave. A labourer's child has indeed a better hance of education than a farmer's; a farmer's child s sent out to do light work as soon as ever he is able; farmer finds it an economy in paying for labour, and o will rather employ his own boy than a labourer's. abourers living in the house will get their 16*l.* or 17*l.* year, and many of them put it by, and in time marry nd take a farm of their own. There is one man n this farm (he was lodging in Mr. Pugh's farm) who s worth 200*l.* He lives here and is fed, so has no ex- enses but his clothes, which the interest of the oney is ample to pay for; in due time he will set p a farm. He is now 35 years of age. If a labourer arries he leaves the farm and takes a cottage; then e can earn 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and is fed on the rm. No women go out to work; there is no work r them, the farm servants will milk the few cows at are kept.

The attendance at Cwmdauddwr school is very good the winter; in the spring they go away very much, the potato-setting time, and stay away till after the otato-picking; the harvest coming in the meantime. n the hills on the contrary, the case is different; and e bad weather will often keep the children from oming long distances to school in the winter. Up ere too there is another employment that keeps em much away; a farmer will plant a little plot of round in wheat without fencing it, and keep his little oys and girls at home to keep the cattle off it. Has tarted a night school this year, and it is going on irly; but cannot get the boys he wants; it is chiefly oys about 12 to 15 who come, and very right they hould keep up what they have learnt, but he wants o get some about 20 to 25 who have had little or no chooling before; has one or two of that age or more; he man employed by Mr. Pugh, mentioned above, omes.

Mr. Pugh farms about 90 acres, just enough corn or the house, and the rest grazing; his labourers are hree men living in the house, besides whom he has a hepherd, 5 or 6 miles off on the hills, and a flock of heep; he depends entirely on his stock, and would e a fair sample of the farmers of this neighbourhood; here not two or three who farm 300 acres. Right p in the hills there are some who would grow no corn t all; have nothing but pasture. Those who have ights may run their sheep on the common, but there re certain conventional boundaries which they do ot trespass on. There are shepherds up there who ndertake the charge of sheep belonging to people in he valley; one man, Powell by name, and his three ons shepherd some 6,000 sheep. Another system is hat the sheep belong to the landlord, who lets out erhaps 1,000 sheep to his tenant, and receives 5 per ent. on each, besides the rent; if the tenant goes, e pays 15*s.* for each sheep short of the number. In he summer cattle are sent up "on tack," that is, let ut to be pastured; and in the winter a good many heep are also sent down from the hills "on tack," erbage being scarce.

The Cefn, a deep valley just short of Nant-Gwyllt, s the boundary of the Welsh and English languages; hinks that it is owing to so many marrying Cardigan- hire girls that the Welsh language is kept up there; hey come in as farm servants and marry in Radnor- hire. But there are many cases of parents hardly knowing anything but Welsh, and their children all knowing hardly anything but English. English is aught in the schools. The people have no clinging o their own old language, and seem to think English of more use to the children. At Nant-Gwyllt preaches nd reads the service alternately in English and Welsh; t Cwmdauddwr, found when he came that one lesson was always read in Welsh, but as it was so little, hought he might as well drop it. Has to preach ive sermons for which a small endowment has been eft; they were all preached in Welsh formerly, and hat he has kept up; but only 20 or 30 old people ome.

On the Register in Cwmdauddwr schools:—

Summer.

	Boys.			Girls.		
	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Total.	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Total.
Cwmdauddwr - -	30	13	43 } 68	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	15	10	25 }		12	32

Winter.

Cwmdauddwr - -	31	14	45 } 81	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	10	15	25 }	14	16	30 } 39
Wye Valley - -	3	8	11 }	3	6	9 }

In average attendance:—

Summer.

Cwmdauddwr - -	20	10	30 } 55	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	15	10	25 }	14	8	22

Winter.

Cwmdauddwr - -	20	11	31 }	Go to Rhayadr.		
Nant-Gwyllt - -	8	14	22 } 55	10	15	25 } 34
Wye Valley - -	3	7	10 }	3	6	9 }

Mr. Williams puts down about six boys and six girls as neither at school nor at work.

Night school open 16 weeks, from November to February, two hours a night, three nights per week; under 12, 2; above 12, 16; total 18. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and scripture taught. The difficulties in maintaining an efficient evening school are the "want of efficient teachers," in this case the whole instruction is given. Also the distance; this school being at one extremity of a large parish is practically valueless to three-fourths of the people.

21. *Edward Lewis*, occupier. — Farms generally small; hardly one 200 acres, all open, none enclosed. Have the right of running our sheep on the common; every rate-payer has undisturbed right of common. Should prefer it enclosed, as I have little of it. My farm does not adjoin. Live close to Rhayadr. Few sheep, and they graze six miles off; some have 2,000.

Farm chiefly pasture and meadow; river Elan runs through. Employ a couple of men, a servant maid, and my own family. My children go to school down near here; gave them what I had myself; read and write, and arithmetic. Give one man 14*l.* and the other 15*l.*; if get an extra man cost 2*s.* and food. Men very well off. Never work a woman except in harvest; gets 1*s.* a day.

Employ a shepherd on hills, who a good cottage; cottage belongs to my landlord; has a garden and two cows. Landlord has built some cotages up there, and there are few houses up there. I give him 5*l.* for shepherding mine; shepherds for other people; perhaps gets 30*l.* a year. There are two young men, brothers, both single, in fact small farmers themselves. There are no children up there hardly to come to school, such as there are the small farmers send down here to school.

22. Cottages in Cwmdauddwr.

1. Inhabited by a man and his sister; only pays 1*s.* a week; built of stone and thatched; roof open all the way along to the thatch and rafters; floor of hard earth; large open fire-place, old fashioned with a grate lately put in; only this one storey divided into two rooms by a partition of wood across; has been lately repaired, till then the water used to come in through the roof, now it comes in through the chimney only.

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2. Next door, an old woman with her son and a young child. Is built of stone with a new slate roof, the inside plastered, but going right up to the angle of the roof; it is divided in two by a partition about eight feet high, which makes a second room. Floor and fire-place like in the preceding.

3. Built of stone and thatch, had only one room, but there was only one man living in it. Most wretched hovel.

4. Half of this cottage was built of wood, but the half in which the family lived of stone; two storeys high, but the upper storey only ascended by a ladder, and consisting of a big low loft open to the thatched roof. There was a second room downstairs, which is built of wood, and seems to be only a turf store, out of it the staircase leads. In this hovel live seven people, a man and wife and five children, and pay a rent of 5*l*.

5. A row of cottages, of which two were built of wood, the other two of stone; slate roof; only contain one room above and one below. A manure heap at the corner of the row, and pigs running about the mud in front of the house, as in Ireland.

Kington Union.

23. Meeting of Gentlemen present at Board of Guardians, December 4, 1868. Present, William Holland Baylis, owner, Trewern; John Stevens, farmer, Walton; Evan Powell Wellson, Gladestry, owner and occupier.

Mr. Baylis says boys' labour is not carried to any extent that requires interference. Might begin at 9 or 10. Require them either to go to school or work on my estate, and in our parish of Gladestry, generally. Only a woman's school here. The boys go perhaps rather earlier than would be the general rule in the district. Education is very much neglected. Mr. Baylis has had many men who could not read or write. They don't like to pay the money, it is 2*d*. for a child in Gladestry, but the distance is a more important reason. In this district some labourers live in the house, some in cottages; the waggoners will generally live in the house. In a stock-farm Mr. Wellson thinks it is more necessary they should live in the farm, so as to be up at all hours to look after the stock.

Upon the hills work is done by the piece; down below pay wages regularly all the year round. Mr. Wellson calculates that his men cannot have less than 12*s*. or 13*s*. a week; he gives them in money 9*s*. and a cottage, which is 1*s*. 6*d*., besides other privileges; potato-ground, run of a pig, and food in harvest. Mr. Baylis calculates that as rather below the average.

Hardly any women will work out at all, they have got so lazy now, they think when they marry that their husbands are to support them. Many men have said how much better off they are when their wives work out. The girls are a very good set of working girls; will work very well at milking or any thing about the farm when in service, and often put by a little money. Mr. Baylis mentioned a case of a girl who put by 30*l*., then married a boy, and thought she was to live in idleness, and the money was soon spent and the boy out of work. Mr. Wellson said a girl in his service had put by 40*l*. It is when they marry that they get unthrifty and will do nothing at all. The men, on the other hand, are a good hard-working set. There was a woman the other day out in harvest who declined even to boil Mr. Wellson a cup of tea. Such few women as do go out are the older ones; none of the younger will; one or two will come out to work among the turnips. Mr. Wellson gives 8*d*. a day and tea. The turnip hoeing is let to a man, but he will take out a boy, of 10 or 11 sometimes, to single with him; knows no instance of his taking his wife out.

Mr. Stevens remarked that there is a good deal of bird-keeping about here; has to get a boy of about 11; very often wants a boy in every field, crows are much increasing in number. Sometimes two men with adjacent fields will combine to hire a boy; he gets 6*d*. a day. Mr. Baylis considers it succeeds just as well kill a crow or two and hang him up.

The tillage in the district is rather diminishin farmers find stock pay so much better. Mr. Myn and Mr. Edwards, in Old Radnor, have done a gre deal in the way of laying down grass; this caus great diminution in the demand for labour. T gentlemen did not seem to approve of the new syste of putting two or three farms into one. Mr. Wells believed that under the old system the farming w often better.

It is the general custom to let cottages with t farm. Mr. Baylis calculates it costs him, with his ow timber and stone, 200*l*. to put up a cottage; general gives two bed-rooms. Always builds the cottages sep rately; does not like putting them in pairs or in three the people are sure not to agree. Mr. Wellson disa proves of the system people have now of spending much on their cottages. A farmer cannot charge the to his men at more than 1*s*. 6*d*. a week, and very oft so much is added to the farm rent on account of goo cottages that it makes a difficulty in the letting of it

Mr. Stevens remarked that schools are very ple tiful about Old Radnor; there is a school there, a Mrs. Edwards, close to Walton, also keeps anothe at which there are often 60 children, and there another at Evenjob; but it is the only part of th Welsh district of the union that is well off.

Borough of Radnor.

Population of Old Radnor, 1,401; acreage, 10,069.
Population of New Radnor, 490; acreage, 2,02. excluding sheep-walks.

24. *Rev. H. F. Mogridge*, vicar of Old Radnor.—Have a very good school here, and few boys go o to work before 12 or 13; in fact the farmers complai they cannot get enough boys. The children of son of the smaller farmers come to the school, but as rule the farmers are richer men than on the oth side of the forest. This dip which comprises Radn forest is very good land. The women will not wo out here, as they do in Herefordshire; the wages a a little higher, and the men get certain privileges, an as a rule are well off.

25. *Rev. J. James*, minister, New Radnor.—"Ver few boys are employed in agriculture in this paris but the few who are thus employed are from 10 to 1 years of age, and in seed-time and harvest-times the year they are thus engaged. Few and very fe women; seven or eight perhaps are employed to pic stones, weed the grain, and make hay. To the be of my knowledge no girls." No restriction necessar They go to work a distance of one to two miles.

"One school is here under the government of th Church of England, and one private school, where few infants are taught to read by a female; on th whole the attendance is tolerably well, except in th harvest season. I know of no cause except earl labour or neglect for their non-attendance.

"The cottages are on the whole in good condition and sufficient for the labour required. They are con veniently situate, not over crowded, well supplie with water, and well ventilated. No evil results eve come under my notice from any defect in the cot tages. All have good gardens, and some allotment of land, also conveniently situated for their use."

26. *Mr. Turner*, bailiff to Sir Gilbert Lewis, Harp ton Court.—Generally farmers expect children to tur out about 12. Was overseer five years, and used t put pauper children out to farmers at about 12; the get at beginning 6*d*. to 8*d*. a day.

Women would hardly work out here; every woma works out in Herefordshire, but labourers here are little better off; down there a man would only get 9s but here we pay on the estate 1*s*. and a cottage; a farme would give 9*s*. to 10*s*. and a cottage. Give cyde here in summer, and they get firing and potato groun here, and cottage rent is cheaper; won't get one i Hereford under 4*l*.; here to be let at 1*s*. a week Some of the cottagers hold of Sir G. Lewis, some o

e farmers. Mr. Edwards has a farm of Sir G. Lewis, 0 or 600 acres, and keeps a cow for each labourer; ey stay with him years and years.

A great many farmers have servants living in the ouse and going out to work for them, even among e larger farmers. A farmer farming, say, 300 acres, ould have, perhaps, four men living in the house and ur out, the four living in the house would receive om 12*l.* to 16*l.* a year and their victuals. Poorer mers would have their men feeding with them. he farms vary much in size; those up on the hill, hich are very small, would be worked only by the an and his family.

The people live chiefly on bread; they get bread tty cheap; breakfast on bread and butter and tea. they go out to work and do not come back to din- r they take bread and cheese with them, and have eir bit of bacon at supper, but if they come home dinner they have their bacon then. They have to y the cheese, there is none made here. They all ep a pig, they buy him small in January for per- ps 1*l.*, then all through the summer he picks up hat he can get; they fat him on barley for killing, d kill him in the winter; sometimes he will weigh 0 to 25 stone. The pork is the only meat they get; ey generally eat the pig, unless there is illness, and en, perhaps, a little money being wanted they will ell the hams.

The women who go out to work have generally mething wrong at home; they are widows, or their usband is a lazy or drunken fellow; one case of a oman of bad character, who would not get other mployment. Men's wages vary much; a good work- ng man will, of course, get better wages: older men ot so much.

27. *Mr. Shewell*, grocer, New Radnor.—The hildren of the small farmers up on the hills go out to ork almost as soon as they are old enough to do any- ing; the consequence is that many of them get ttle or no schooling at all. The supply of schools is ery bad; at the little parish up here, Llanvihangel, here is only a school kept by an old man two days in week; at other times he is a clock-maker; he gets n attendance of about 18. At Old Radnor is a school ith an endowment from a farm between that place nd Gladestry; it formerly stood on the farm, and the ladestry people did not like having it moved. There another school at Gladestry.

Would say that Gladestry is almost the only parish here women work at all; a few work, perhaps, in adnor. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Gravenor would em- loy a woman stone picking and weeding, but they do ot go out in any number; it is not the custom here, nd yet wages are very low, varying from 8*s.* to 10*s.*, nd having to find a cottage. It is very difficult to nderstand how they get on. The women do, per- aps, a little knitting; that is very common about ere; at a stretch a woman will knit two pairs of tockings in a week; she gets 1*s.* 3*d.* a pair, the farmer inds the material; but there is little other work one by them. Farmers will generally let them have bit of ground for their potatoes; the greater part eep a pig, which is the only meat they have.

The farmers on the hills themselves live very hard. ery few of them ever see fresh meat at all; they at bacon and bread; bread is very cheap, and pota- oes; they all live with their labourers, and the abourers are better off than some of them. The cot- ages in the district are better than you will generally nd. There are many large landowners who keep heir cottages in repair.

28. *Mr. Hughes*, farmer, The Yatt, Old Radnor.—Farms 90 acres, of which nearly half would be arable, and has two servants living in the house, who do all the work. If he wants another hand in summer perhaps he gets one of the lime burners to come out. One of them will often borrow his team in the winter, saying, if he will lend it, they will do a day's work for him in the summer. Never hardly gets a woman out, they will not come. His own men do the work among the turnips.

29. *N.B.*, [name not given,] schoolmaster, Old Radnor.—Has some boys up to 17; generally contrives to keep them up to 13; would say the average age of boys in school is 12 or 13; has fewer in summer than winter; some few go away perhaps to take a job for a farmer.

No, not a very good attendance to-day, owing to the weather. Some of them have long distances to come. None of the big ones here to-day.

29. Notes on cottages near New Radnor.

In the first (Mrs. Evans's) were two rooms down- stairs, the second nearly as big as the kitchen. Mrs. Evans' husband is a waggoner. He gets 8*s.* a week wages, and his victuals in harvest. Besides this he has certain advantages, potato-ground and milk; not cottage; pays rent 4*l.* Does not go out to work herself; boy of 11 went out to live at a farmhouse Had a capital pig in the sty close by fatting. In a cottage semi-detached from the above lives Mrs. Price: husband is a cowman, and has to work on Sunday Gets 10*s.* a week; out of it has to pay 4*l.* for cottage annually; has two small children; never goes out to work. Gets milk when there is plenty, all the summer for instance.

Mrs. Evans' in a cottage upon the hill. Husband gets 9*s.* in the winter, in the summer 12*s.* to 15*s.*; he is a lime burner. Never goes out to work; very few women do; some do. Mrs. Rogers goes pulling turnips, and Mrs. Griffiths and her little girl go out too. Don't know of any one else. Mrs. Griffiths went breaking stones.

All these cottages are built of stone and slate. Came to one on the hill, poor looking and thatched, but apparently roomy; lot of little children playing round it; an Irish family named Curran. Asked why not at school; mother is not at home to-day, and taking care of little ones. Went to school yesterday; won't go to-morrow, it's Saturday; will go on Monday. Visited a wretched cottage up on the hill; old woman and her husband and two illegitimate grandchildren living in it. Thatch; consists of two rooms, but the roof of one is made into a loft, all with sloping roof, and bare thatch, and no window; entered by a ladder from the other and higher room to which it is open; for this pay 3*l.* a year.

30. *Mrs. Price* (Harpton).—Husband gets 8*s.* a week, and has to find his cottage; he gets no advan- tages, except potato-setting. Gets his victuals besides in harvest. Has to pay rent for the cottage 3*l.* a year. Used to go out to work a little herself, but does not now; went out haymaking. Is not strong enough for it now. Little boy went to service at 9, younger than most of them do it here. Went for his victuals, and got nothing else for 4 or 5 years. Lived with the farmer; went first to do a bit of stone-picking, but farmer found him so useful he kept him on. Husband works for Mr. Lloyd.

PARISH OF GLADESTRY.

Population, 350; Acreage, 3,190, excluding sheep- walks. Cultivation mixed, but pasture predomi- nates, especially if the hill or common lands are taken into consideration.

31. *Wm. Holland Baylis, Esq.*, M.R.C.S., Gwern- dwfnant.—"Boys are comparatively seldom employed, excepting as indoor farm servants; when employed from 10 or 12 years upwards indoors, all the year round at any farm work of which they are capable; out of doors or daily at such seasons as suitable work can be provided for them. Girls are employed only as indoor farm servants, commencing at from 12 to 14. In this district generally single women are domestic servants or needle women; when married they for the most part become too indolent to work, even in those cases where health and circumstances favor their so doing.

"In our own case all the workpeople reside on the property, suitable cottages having been erected for their accommodation, so that in no instance does the distance exceed a mile, one woman excepted, who

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walks from the village daily about one mile. Extra workmen when required might also have a mile or less to walk. Women and boys work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer; in winter from 8 a.m. to sunset.

"Generally speaking the cottages are tolerable in condition and situation. In some instances there is a want of decency and cleanliness caused by the absence of privies; others again are unfortunately situated for an accessible supply of water, especially during the summer months; but the latter objection is exceptional; this being a sparsely populated district, the cottages are not usually overcrowded. Most have gardens attached; in addition it is the universal custom to allow each labourer a certain quantity of land in the field for the planting of potatoes.

"With regard to education, I believe that were there a good free school so situated as to embrace districts, —parishes not unfrequently being altogether too large and straggling for any school to be available to all the parishioners,—and, in addition, the families of the labourers visited by the clergyman, and induced by admonition and encouragement to send the younger children to school, that the present ignorance would, in course of time, disappear, and as a consequence, there would be less immorality. In the rural districts unfortunately, with rare exceptions, the clergy trouble themselves very little about the moral or material welfare of the poor.

"The property which I occupy is situated in three parishes. In 'Llanfihangel Nantmellan' there is no school of any kind; in 'Old Radnor' the school is too far removed to be of any benefit to this part of the parish; in 'Gladestry' there is a school kept by a mistress. Many of the labourers in this neighbourhood can neither read nor write. Early labour is no hindrance to the attendance of children at school with us. A good free school is needed, and probably means for either compelling or inducing attendance in some cases."

32. *T. L. Wishlade*, relieving officer, Radnor district. —District consists chiefly of sheep farms. Not so much work as in Herefordshire for women; they would go out to sow turnips in the two Radnors, and do a little topping and tailing; also in Gladestry. Occasionally they go. But men would do most of the work. Perhaps a man would go out and take his boys to single while he hoes; very seldom takes his girls. Never knew of a case of a wife going with her husband. Women would get 8*d.* a day.

A farm labourer would get 9*s.* or 10*s.* in money. Cottage rent free, and potato ground in most cases. In some cases, not often, farmers allow run of a pig in the stubbles after the grain has been gathered. Some of the cottagers keep poultry. Women knit in Llandegley, Glascwm, chiefly some of the old women. Where a large family, often has not time. Sometimes a wife will add a good deal of money in harvest and hay-making. Sometimes go to master's house to work. A good many labourers live in the house. Most of the farms have cottages. Not many on the sheep farms. A great many of the farmers on the hills are better off than those below, but enclosure makes them not so well off as they used to be. They put by a lot of money and live very hard. But some very poor. Can hardly make two ends meet. They eat a good deal of bacon; sometimes one of their own sheep. Bake their own bread. Some live in wretched places. Ovens close to fire-place. Some bake the bread over the fire in an iron pot, and very nice bread. Burn a quantity of peat, but not so much as formerly. Railway brings coal.

Knighton Union.

33*a*. Meeting of the board of guardians, Nov. 25. Rev. A. Thomas, vicar of Beguildy, chairman, in the chair. Present also, Messrs. Tudge, V.C., Heyope; Thomas, Bleddfa; Kinsey, Llanbister, &c.

Children begin farm-work at 14. Begin by looking after cattle, assist waggoner, clean shoes, and sometimes assist in harvest. No leading horses with plough. In upper part all live in the house. No gang system. Would also live in the large farms. Many of the men would have a cottage and so much money. Boys hired by the year. If a small farm would live with the family. Small farms everywhere.

Chiefly a grazing country. Little corn grown except for export, only for use, and for cattle. A good deal of the land only produces oats.

Farmers depend on stock. Fair sprinkling of cattle everywhere. On a farm with 200 sheep would be 25 to 30 cattle. Could have 50 or 60 down the valley, and the same number of sheep. No dairy of any account. Most farmers buy cheese; may make a little butter. All large farmers buy cheese. Give milk all to stock. More butter from the higher parishes sold.

Mr. Tudge said it is a very small parish where you don't find a school or two, and where not a good many private. The chairman said that this board pays for the education of all destitute and pauper children, and all orphans, if no means of their own, and also of labourers' family if very large.

Beguildy has only private schools. Most of the children at one or other. Would say that most would be at one or other. It is their own fault if they don't go. Mr. Tudge said, some have long distances to send.

Have a National school in Heyope, and very good, and a private school kept by Miss Cook.

There is now school-room at Llanbister, another on the border in Llandewi, which gets a many from Llanbister. Guardians would expect some that do not go at all. Chairman says, that many who live close as bad as those who live far.

Chairman says, not women employed to any extent in Beguildy; very few in harvest; and at Llanbister very few. Mr. Tudge says, that you can't get women.

In Bleddfa Mr. Thomas says, labourers' wives will pull and cut turnips. Perhaps one or two women or girls will pick stones, or a girl who has been unfortunate. Women don't do it up in the higher parishes. In Bleddfa are very large farms, and it is more like a Herefordshire parish.

At Llanbister the cottages are much better than what they were. Chairman says, a good many squatters. Freeholds on the hills. Built on the hill and paid for to the Woods and Forests. After built a short time Woods and Forests come down on them. The Crown is lord of the manor. Some clod walls and thatch, and mostly only ground-floor. Most of rest belong to landlord.

In Bleddfa cottages are pretty fair. All belong to landowners. Two bedrooms, and some with three bedrooms. Some that have been farmhouses often divided into two. Nearly all new put up with three bedrooms.

Generally let to farmer with farms. Rent, where pay, 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*

Wages.—The chairman reckons his men get 12*s.* a week, 10*s.*, a cottage, three bushels potatoes, cyder.

At Bleddfa 9*s.*, cottage, cider, potato ground, run of a pig, house firing. Moths victuals in corn harvest.

Boy in farm at 13 would begin at 4*l.* A good boy would get 12*l.* at 18. From Bleddfa has a boy under 20; gets 14*l.*; teamster; good as any man.

Parish of Llanbadarn Fynydd.

Population, 609.

33*a*. *George Augustus Haig, Esq.*, Pen-Ithon.—"Owner of 2,700 acres and occupier of 1,050 acres.

"The cultivation is chiefly pastoral, perhaps 10 per cent. in crop; but my own farm is about 40 per cent. under crop, and next year will have 65 or 70 per cent. No children are employed under 10 years old, and very few so young, usually 11, or 12, or 13, or upwards. Occupied chiefly weeding turnips and carrots and mangold during the winter. Wages, according to age, from 8*d.* per day to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. A boy of 15 will get 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, a boy of 12 or 13 perhaps 1*s.*

"Girls are very seldom employed until they are 16 r 17. At that age they are employed in turnip-eeding and planting, and gathering potatoes, and inding corn in harvest; they get the wages of a oman, 1*s.* a day. Women, both married and single, re employed in the same occupations as those named ove; they get 1*s.* a day. I employ a great many, metimes 30 women and children; many of them ve on my own farm in the cottages, others walk 1 or ½ or 2 miles to their work, and return the same dis-nce at night. The employment is not constant, it intermittent and depends on weather. On a fine y a great many will turn out, on a wet day very w or none at all. They work from 6 to 6, with lf an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, aving 10½ hours for work.

"I think it would be a great hardship to restrict bour on land. It would not injure the farmer or e landowner, it would only injure the labouring asses. The occupation is healthy, and liked by ose engaged in it. I can get plenty of women for ld work at 1*s.* a day, but the *same women object to rk in my laundry at* 1*s.* 6*d. per day*, showing ainly that they consider the occupation a pleasant e, and I consider this indicates whether it is good not for their children.

"There is no school in the parish. *Occasional* nter schools are opened for a few months. I am ilding a school near to my house, which will be ened shortly, but will only be for young children m 5 to 10 years old. If the children are not taught tween those ages it is hopeless to attempt to teach em."

Have 10 cottages on the *home farm*, each three oms. A man and wife with three or four *young* ildren get these at 1*s.* a week. If a man has more ildren or older children he has to take *two cottages* ey both enter from one *porch*), and takes in a lger, who pays 1*s.* a week, and so in reality pays e rent of the second cottage. No cottages have rdens, and the people put no value on a *garden*. ere are plenty of "natural children," but I think e number is diminishing and morals are improving. same time a woman who has two or three natural ildren, *provided for at* 2*s.* 6*d. per week*, is looked on as a fortune, and very soon finds a husband, the sband very seldom being the father of *any* of the ldren.

Water.—In country places we never supply water cottages or even to farms in such a district as s; they carry water from the nearest brook or ring; there are plenty of them all about.

I know of no cottages which have gardens. There labourers' *farms*, of, say, 6 or 8, or 10 or 15 acres ese men work often for a farmer as a regular day-bourer, and the wife manages one or two cows and few sheep. Gardens are not valued. These small ms let quickly enough at 6*l.* to 8*l.* a year, but *they ll not pay the landlord.* The house and byre and ncing cost at least 100*l.*, and the repairs of the ilding and materials for repair of the fences will st on the average 3*l.* a year, being from 3*l.* to 5*l.* as return for an outlay of 100*l.* and 8 to 12 acres of d. On cottages we expect no adequate return; y are part of the farm buildings as it were, and st be provided. *The cottage farms would not ld a landlord* 1½ *per cent.*

Parish of Llanbister.

Population, 1,045.

34. *Evan Kinsey*, occupier.—Farms about 240 es; pretty large for the parish; would not plough ve 40 acres, all the rest pasture. No pasture very d, a good deal on the hill. Should have 30 cattle l 250 to 300 sheep, besides a team of horses. Milks cows.

Employ about five men, all live in the house, the stom in the parish, very rare to have a workman ing in a cottage; when marry go away. Most of the married men become job men. Three grown-up men and two strong boys; they feed with us; youngest about 14, 16, and 18, and two over 20; keep them in good order; a deal in the ruling of the house, but it is a great failing their getting with the servant girls. Have farmed 23 years and never had a case. In some instances the servant comes back; if she is a good servant she does. There's too many go to the workhouse here; but they would rather starve than go there; think it as bad as going to prison.

Cannot get women for swedes; servant boys have to do it, and sometimes let it out to job men; but their wives won't work, that is the worst of it with us; they are a deal better about Knighton.

35. *Abraham Hamer*, overseer, Llanbister.—Very few women go out, only in parish of Llanbadarn-fynydd; about eight or ten women employed on one estate; Squire Haigh keeps about three or four farms in hand.

Some children employed, perhaps a few of 13 or 14, doing same work as women, hoeing turnips, carrots, swedes; girls go with their mothers, and when a little older go out to service.

In summer months and spring women go out, and not in bad weather. Hardly any in other parishes, except perhaps a woman by chance.

Boys go to service at 12 or 13; any work farmer puts them at; out-door work chiefly; no earlier work. Nearly all labourers live in farmhouses; farmers all keep children to work. Very apt to begin earlier than labourers; begin minding sheep when very little. A farm labourer living in the house would live with farmer, get food, and perhaps 1*s.* a day. Small farmers in the hilly part; the largest perhaps 300 acres, but most sheep walks, perhaps only 20 acres under tillage. In Llananuo-Llanbister a good deal of common.

In Llangunllo and Bleddfa much larger farms; a small valley between the hills. One farm in Bleddfa up to 500 acres, some a little smaller; out of that about 100 would be ploughed, and a deal of meadow, and the rest sheep walk. Keep cattle all through the district, sheep and horses; breed cattle. Nearly every farm has some dairy.

Very poor cottages generally; some built with clod and covered with straw; would be some better; not above two rooms in some of them. Llananuo and Llanbister would be worst, and a part of Llanbadarn. Squire Haigh has built four or five new cottages, stone and slate; but not many more new, except three or four brick, in parish of Llangunllo. Chiefly belong to landowner. Bad ones would let for 2*l.*; a new one would be 4*l.* or 5*l.*

Very few outdoor men employed; chiefly job work, draining, &c. Pretty well off generally, but some poor families. Would have for dinner a little bread and potatoes, and perhaps a bit of bacon or a little milk. Labourers themselves would drink tea; only get cider and beer in Bleddfa and Llangunllo in summer months. In Bleddfa there are not so many in farms; live in cottages on farms, and get 9*s.* a week, cottage, potato ground, with manure from the farm enough to set three or four bushels of potatoes. It and Llangunllo more like Hereford parishes; so too going down to Presteign.

Up the farther parishes rarely get any beer or cider, except from a public-house; very little drunkenness. They prefer tea or coffee. They find it the cheapest meal they can get. Very apt to keep a pig; now and then one or two keep a cow; some of them get three or four acres; in upper parishes some small freeholders on the common. Get a little potatoes and oats, and are rather better off than the others; but are working nearly all their time by the day, except a day or two now and then on their own ground. A very poor barren country; women and children would do a little work on the farm.

Before Squire Haigh came up were often lots of people out of employment, but he gives lots of work now in the upper parishes. No crow-keeping; rather cold for birds, and they seem to keep away.

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q.

Parish of Bleddfa.

36. *Mr. Thomas*, occupier.—Tillage of farm 200 acres; all farm between 500 and 600 acres, and a good bit of hill land; break up some of it fresh, very poor land. A good deal gorse and too steep. Meadows and pasture would be about 300 acres; at the bottom very good about 50 or 60.

Employ about 10 men regular. Three waggoners and a shepherd, work 12 hours. Will average 20 in employ. Have four in the house; and have sons that work regular with the men. Certain number of job men; get fencing by measure, and let out swedes and turnips to job men, and cutting corn. Obliged to employ hand labour for cutting; too hilly; cut hay with machine. Employ one boy of 12, a workhouse boy, at 6*d.* a day; works about the farm, leads the horse between rows and cocks of hay when hauling. Now he is helping to cart turnips with my son. Not much bird-keeping; get a boy now and then; some do, some don't; workman's boy. Would not do it under 10. No good under. Give him 6*d.* a day.

Let out the swedes to women, who bring their children; they do it by measure, 1¼*d.* a row 100 yards long. Not at it regular; don't come early in morning. One workman's wife with two boys, lumps of boys who ought to be in service, got 5*l.* for pulling turnips, perhaps a month. All of the labourers' wives as have their hands free glad to come out. Would not bring a child out under 10. In our country the labourers indulge children too much. Don't send them to service early enough.

A good few about me let out their swedes the old way; pull a load and take it home, and then frost comes and lose the rest. Biggest farms in my parish of any.

Cottages let by landlord to me with the farms. I have seven. In pretty fair repair. Tenant finds thatch, if thatched, but landlord slate for the slated ones. Landlord pays for repair. Lord Bateman in Herefordshire lets them straight to the labourer, where my second son has a farm. Like that system best, because many of the lower class slovenly, knock a cottage about; when taken from the owner direct, he looks to them. Plenty on my farm for what I want.

Waggoner 10*s.* a week, house and garden, month's victuals in harvest, and dinner when out with team. 4*s.* extra in hay; potato and three bushels of cider barley for pig; firing, wood, and coal. Other men 9*s.* given too. Breed stock largely.

Parish of Heyhope.

Population, 283.

37. *Mr. Tudge*, occupier, Vice-chairman of Board of Guardians.—Find it better to have men on farms in cottages; cannot manage servants in house latterly, and by having them out get more labour in the day. Men would have to live at the villages Knudass, Llangunllo, &c., if no cottages on the farms. Most men farm their own land, and find it a saving to have men living on it instead of walking a distance. Have farmed 300 acres for 20 years, have three cottages on it; build them cheap as have stone and timber on land. Only hire a mason and carpenter, and buy slate. Consider thatching dearer than slate; wants so much repair, especially if a lot of rats about it.

Gives men 10*s.* a week (waggoner, 10*s.* 6*d.*) cottage, potato ground, run of a pig. Reckons as worth about 13*s.* a week.

Parish of Llangunllo.

38. *Mr. Weyman*, occupier.—Farms 340 acres, of which 80 or 90 acres in tillage; rest all pasture and woods. Have some meadow, and are enclosing all the hill land. Father has two farms, and I have one under Mr. Green Price, in Knighton parish; live in Llangunllo.

Have four workmen out, two in the house. Let mowing, reaping, &c. to job men, and in fact employ two more all the year round. Can generally get men. Pay them by the piece.

Four workmen live in cottages on the farm. Waggoner gets 10*s.*, other men 9*s.* and cottage, beer,—they like beer better than cider,—potato ground, &c. About the general thing in the parish and in Llangunllo. Cottages let with the farm; have four, which is all wanted. One man's wife perhaps would come out, but all last summer could not get one out; they don't like out-door work, get lots of other work.

Sometimes employ a boy of 11 to 13 to scare birds in wheat-sowing at 6*d.* a day; in general a workman's boy; if he has not one, must shoot or do as we can. When boy comes to that age generally gets a boy into the farm; down in Herefordshire would plough with a boy; not wanted here as plough double.

Presteign Union.

39. Extract from circular filled up by Henry Martin Jones, Esq., Clerk to the Union.

Boys "from 11 to 12 years of age are generally "put into the houses of farmers. The girls are only "employed as household servants; girls are never "put as out-door workers. Women as a rule in this "district work in the fields when there is work for "them to do."

Distance from work, "uncertain, from a quarter of "a mile to two miles."

Hours of work, "from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. as a rule "in winter months, from daylight to dusk."

"I think no limit need be adopted 'to women of children's work.' Children are never as a rule put to work until they have been schooled and are able.

"There are excellent ragged, British, and National schools in this place which are generally taken advantage of by the labouring classes."

"The cottages as a rule are good, and as conveniently situate as possible; as a rule they are not overcrowded, but this of course depends on the number of the families. Generally all have good gardens; no allotments."

Builth Union.

40. *Mr. Price*, Maesgwyn, Disserth (owner), Chairman of the Builth Board of Guardians.—Builth Union contains 10 parishes entirely Welsh. Mr. Price considers Radnor Forest, Clyro Hills, and the Begw the boundary of the English and Welsh farming; below those hills you will find the same farming as Herefordshire. On this side it is the Welsh system of farming; very little land is in corn, because we find raising stock pay better. Farms 600 acres, all his own, and of this would have perhaps 10 acres wheat, the same in barley, the same in oats, and perhaps a few acres in roots; grows only enough wheat and milks enough cows to supply the farm; some the small farmers about would make a little butter to sell in Howey or Llandrindod, but it is the exception; also there are hardly any freeholders about, and the present system is to amalgamate small farms into large. Mr. Price has three men in his employ, all living in the house; it is not for want of cottages for he has three on his farm; one of these is let to a carpenter, and he is quite willing to let them to men who work for other farmers. The wages of in-door servants has increased enormously. The man who gave 10*l.* to formerly now expects 20*l.* If he marries it is a bad thing for him. He either has to take one of my cottages or go elsewhere. In busy times he has to get extra hands, who expect 2*s.* a day and sometimes their victuals. Have had as many as 12 dining in here. They have just the food we have, and the in-door servants the same all the year round. Beef and bacon. There is no scarcity of male labour. The fact is in harvest there are not so many hands wanted here, and a carpenter or anybody will come out for a few days. We help one another too. One will lend a team; and in the case of small farmers they will often go out together and get in the harvest on one farm first, and then off to the next. It is a system very hard for English people to understand, but the labourers here are not many, and what they

are as well off as many of the farmers. We often stop and have a chat with them. Many of the people are half farmers half labourers. Men, for instance, who pay 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year rent will work a day or two on their farm and the rest of the week at 2*s.* a day for some larger farmer. None ever need be out of work. If there is not farm work to be done there is always work on the roads or a bit of fencing. It is the children of the small farmers who get the least education. They are about with their parents at 5 or 6. And what are you to do about that? A parent won't overwork his child, and they get some schooling when there is not work going on the farm. Ours is a mixed school. It has been built four years, and the children certainly come very well. Hardly know what they did before it was built. Boys and girls learn together, and children of all denominations come. Farmers' children go too and learn with the labourers' children, and if they want more schooling for them afterwards they have to send them to Hereford or somewhere. There is another school near Builth Road station. The parish is very large, about 6,000 acres.

We have no workhouse. The guardians have always voted against it on account of the expense of the establishment, and the requirements of Government in building one. But it is a great disadvantage in the way that we have no test of real poverty. In cases too of illegitimate births it is very difficult to manage. A sum has to be allowed to the mother or she has to be put out somewhere. It is one of the worst things in this county. Some women have three or four bastard children. Little orphans have to be put out, and, perhaps, 1*s.* paid to the person who takes them in. There are two in Llandrindod now. Widows receive relief. They cannot support themselves here unless they get a bit of washing. No work is done on the land by women; they are above it. The wages are so high they will not do it. Down on the Herefordshire side where a man gets, perhaps, only 9*s.* a week the case is different. If we have to pick stones or top and tail turnips we have to set our men to it. But we fortunately have little of the work to be done.

41. *Rev. Thomas Thomas*, Rector of Disserth, Glanhowey, near Llandrindod.—Population of parish, 521; acreage, 6,200. Cultivation mixed. "The cottages are not numerous in this parish, the occupants generally being small farmers. Those that exist are fairly good.

There are scarcely any children growing up insufficiently educated. One or two at most. Probably 20 neither at school nor at work."

Approximate Number of Children of the agricultural labouring class in attendance at elementary schools in the parish of Disserth.

In Summer.

	Boys.			Girls.		
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Total.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Total.
On the register of some school.	18	22	42	23	29	56
In average attendance -	8	6	14	12	7	24

In winter nearly the same.

42. *Mr. James*, landlord of the Rock House Inn.—Has two farms, one in Llandrindod, and one in Penybont, the former 115 acres, the latter about 150. Has most arable land in the latter, but the best land is along the river near Llandrindod. Rich meadow. At this latter farm he depends for support of the hotel, and kills 100 lambs for it every year. His men live in cottages, which they find themselves. He employs four on the Llandrindod farm. The bailiff gets 14*s.* a week. Two live in the farmhouse. The other men get the same, but have to find cottages.

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COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

FOURTH REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS,

WITH

APPENDIX PART I.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE.

FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

Terms of the Commission.

1. WE, the Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to inquire into the employment of Children, Young Persons, and Women in Agriculture, "for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent, and with what modifications, the principles of the Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of such employment, and especially with a view to the better education of such children," humbly submit to Your Majesty this Fourth Report of our proceedings in execution of Your Majesty's Commission.

2. This Report is confined to Scotland.

3. The terms of the Commission, as quoted above from page iii of our First Report, convey no limitation of the inquiry to England, Wales, and Scotland, which has been now completed; but we do not understand it to be the desire of Parliament that the inquiry should be extended to Ireland.

4. The Commission bears date the 10th of May 1867. Our First Report, on a portion of England, was presented on the 31st October 1868; our Second Report, on the rest of England, on the 22nd October 1869; our Third Report, on Wales, on the 8th March 1870. Our instructions to the Assistant Commissioners for Scotland were issued on the 28th January 1870.

Course of proceeding.

5. The course of proceeding of all the Assistant Commissioners was, in England and Wales, to select, under the best local advice, certain districts in each county that might be considered typical, to make their inquiries as minute as possible in those districts, and to invite opinions and information by the circular of inquiry with which they were furnished and by other means, from the portions of country exterior to those districts. We hoped that the inquiry might have been terminated and our report completed by the beginning of October last; but the range of country to be visited, the amount of evidence to be collected, and, in many instances, delays in obtaining it beyond the control of the Assistant Commissioners, have protracted the time somewhat beyond that period.

6. On the termination of the inquiry in Wales we lost the services of one of our Assistant Commissioners, the Honourable Edwin B. Portman. His place was supplied by Charles Walter Campion, Esq., late of Balliol College, Oxford, barrister-at-law.

7. The Assistant Commissioners have presented to us their reports on the districts assigned to them; namely, Mr. Norman on the counties of Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, and Nairn; Mr. Culley on the counties of Perth, Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, Fife, Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Peebles, Berwick, Selkirk, and Roxburgh; Mr. Henry Tremenheere on the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigton, and Ayr; Mr. Boyle on the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Argyll; and Mr. Campion on the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness.

8. The border counties were assigned to Mr. Culley and Mr. Henry Tremenheere on account of their residence in, and long familiarity with the northern counties of England, which would have prepared them to observe such similarities or contrasts as might be presented by the neighbouring districts in Scotland; and on Mr. Culley the further duty was imposed of pursuing the inquiry over all the principal agricultural counties in the east of Scotland, inasmuch as his practical acquaintance with the agriculture of Northumberland, both as a landowner and an occupier, and consequently with some of the best forms of agricultural life in England, eminently qualified him for such an inquiry. The extent of Mr. Culley's district has caused his report to have been only very recently completed.

Instructions to Assistant Commissioners.

9. The instructions to the Assistant Commissioners, and the tabular forms and circulars, are added in the Appendix (p. 27), and we beg leave to refer to them, as exhibiting the view we take of the nature and extent of the inquiry, and the spirit in which it should be conducted.

10. The tabular forms, which the persons to whom they were sent were requested to fill up, together with the instructions which were communicated where necessary, drew

Points of inquiry.

attention to the leading principles of the Factory Acts so far as they bore upon t inquiry. Those principles are,—

(*a.*) The protection of the young from excessive labour.

(*b.*) The requirement of a certain amount of school attendance for children betwe the ages of 8 and 13 earning wages, no one under the age of eight bei allowed to be employed.

The questions also as to whether certain matters of detail embodied in the Facto Acts, relating to the age of employment, hours of labour, meal times, employment females, &c., were of importance in relation to the employment of the young, and females, in agriculture in Scotland, were submitted for consideration; but attention w sought particularly to be fixed on the subject of the education of the young.

11. The contrasts afforded by the Scotch parochial system of education which h been established by law for so many generations, and its results, as compared with wh had come under the observation of the Assistant Commissioners in England, we likely to strike them forcibly, and they were enjoined to note any circumstances in t modes of teaching to which attention might be usefully drawn in this country. Th were instructed to be "careful to ascertain to what extent and with what results t "practices prevail in Scotch schools of causing the children to purchase their own book "of requiring certain lessons to be prepared at home; of testing such lessons accurate "and with little loss of time; of encouraging emulation in the classes; of accustomi "children to the use of a dictionary, or leading them by other means to a knowled "of the meaning of words; of requiring passages of prose or verse to be committed "memory; of fixing such passages in the memory by repetitions at certain periods also to "compare the amount of acquirement which they might find among boys of t "agricultural class of certain ages, with those of similar ages whose progress they h "noted in English elementary schools."

12. If the education of the young was found to be anywhere defective, the Assista Commissioners were instructed "to ascertain to what its defective state was attributabl whether—

(*a.*) To the want of schools readily accessible to the children?

(*b.*) To the inefficient mode of instruction in such schools as exist?

(*c.*) To the poverty of the parents?

(*d.*) To the indisposition of the parents to forego the weekly sum that may be add to the family earnings by the child's labour?

(*e.*) To the low moral tone of the parents, which leads them to be indifferent to t education of their children?

(*f.*) To the pressure put upon the parents by the employers to induce the parents allow their children to go to work at too early an age?

(*g.*) Or to any other cause that can be specified?

13. Further the Assistant Commissioners were directed to inquire into the amount earnings by agricultural employment in the different parts of Scotland, and the relati ability of the labouring poor to pay for their children's schooling; into the different mod of hiring and employment; the different modes of payment, in money and in kind; into t state of the cottage accommodation; into the mode of housing farm servants, denominat the bothy system; and other subjects illustrating the general condition of the agricu tural labourer in Scotland, and his means and opportunities of educating his children a improving his own or their position in life.

Results correspond with those of the Commission of 1866.

14. The general result to be gathered from the evidence and the reports of t Assistant Commissioners, in regard to the principal point before us, namely, the educati of the young, corresponds entirely with the results of the inquiry of the Educati Commission for Scotland in 1866.

15. In March 1866 the report on the state of education in the country districts Scotland, by A. C. Sellar, Esq., M.A., and Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Maxwell, Assista Commissioners appointed by the Royal Commission on Education in Scotland, w presented to Parliament. These gentlemen visited 133 selected parishes and registrati districts in 17 counties, excluding Orkney and Shetland, and the Western Highlan and Islands, which were reported upon by another Assistant Commissioner, Alexand Nicolson, Esq., M.A., Advocate. The main object of that Commission was "to inqui "into the schools in Scotland," and in particular as to whether the funds voted Parliament are applied in Scotland in a way most beneficial for the people, and to ma any suggestions in regard to the application thereof, or in regard to the state of the sa schools, and the management and emoluments thereof, which may appear calculated

mprove the education of the people in Scotland. But as incidental to the main inquiry s to how best to make the supply of schools adequate and effectual, the Commissioners mbraced in their investigations the questions of the ages of the children and their school ttendance, and the actual amount of education which they took away with them on aving school and retained afterwards for use in life. Mr. Sellar, Lieut.-Col. Maxwell, nd Mr. Nicolson found in the rural districts of Scotland, whether lowland or highland, hat the desire that their children should be educated, differed among different classes of arents; that where the parents were indifferent from ignorance, or indisposed from overty, to make any sacrifice for the education of their children, their education was mperfect, if not entirely neglected; that the children begin to go to school later in Scotland than in England, chiefly from the want of infant schools; and although they ontinue their school attendance a little longer than in England, the irregularity of ttendance during the school age prevents any better result to a large proportion of them; nd further, that leaving school so early, and many of them knowing but little when they o leave, great numbers retain very little after a few years.

The detailed statements by Mr. Sellar and Lieut.-Colonel Maxwell, of which the above s a brief abstract, are the following:—

"But these defects (want of school accommodation) only partially account for the fact that 55 per ent. of the children in the country are not at school. They may be called the external causes of the ndifferent school attendance. We must look for the other causes elsewhere, and we shall find them n the circumstances of the parents, on whom the attendance of their children at school primarily epends. If they are themselves educated, their children attend school regularly; if they are not ducated, they do not. In the latter case they are careless and apathetic, and this carelessness and pathy, as has already been indicated, are the main causes of the disproportion between the number f children living in the country districts, and the number in regular school attendance. But poverty s another powerful reason for the same state of things. It is not the actual want of money, so much s the necessity of turning the children's labour to account before they have had time to profit by their ducation. The working classes live better than they used to live, and they require every penny that he family can bring together to supply them with what have become daily necessaries, and hence it is hat the older children rarely attend school at all during summer. They are out in the fields working, nd making money for their daily bread.

"In agricultural districts the school is opened, and the children begin to 'drop in' shortly after the arvest is off the ground; but owing to this system of 'dropping in one or two at a time,' which some eachers consider their great grievance in the country districts, the school is not even in a tolerable tate of organisation before Martinmas, and the classes cannot be thoroughly arranged or the work of he school satisfactorily carried on until the beginning of December. From December till the end f March, when the spring work commences, the attendance is good; but immediately after the annual examination by the Presbytery at the end of March and beginning of April, the numbers diminish. n the agricultural districts there is potato planting, bark peeling, turnip hoeing, crow herding, and uch occupations, in which boys from ten years old and upwards can earn from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day in the outh, and from 20*s.* to 40*s.*, with their food, for the half-year, in the north, while the girls have to stay t home to take care of the house and of their younger brothers and sisters while their mothers are ngaged in field work. In pastoral districts there is peat cutting, and in the lambing season herding nd watching; and in the fishing villages there is constant occupation for children during the whole of he summer months. The parents cannot withstand these inducements. In most schools there was he same complaint. If the schools were good, the children were regular in winter but very uncertain n summer; if indifferent or bad, they were irregular in winter, and did not go near the school in summer."

* * * * * *

"The children, then, in the rural districts, enter school about 5 or 6 years old as a rule, rarely younger, and not often older, and they leave at all ages between 6 and 16. The estimated maximum period of attendance, calculated from ages, on the footing that each scholar may have attended from 5 years of age, is only about four and a half years. Hardly five full years are devoted to education, and after that time they go out into the world, and unless under most favourable circumstances, rarely give any more time to their education, till they lose all capacity for acquiring knowledge. And thus the irregular attendance in spring and summer must be attributed to poverty indirectly affecting the parents through their children's labour. The direct payment of fees does not appear to have much effect on the attendance of the children. The parochial board pays for all whose parents are on the roll, and in many cases there are small local endowments, similar to the Milne bequest in Aberdeenshire, by which the fees of the industrious poor, who cannot afford the money, are paid; in other instances there are funds in the hands of the kirk-sessions to meet such cases; and, generally speaking, the schoolmasters are not exacting in their demands."

16. On these facts Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell were led to consider whether it is desirable and practicable to apply the principle of compulsion. They were of opinion that in the then "uncertain state of education," it would have been "hazardous to "express any decided views upon the question of compulsion, direct or indirect." They add that "the difficulties lie in the public feeling against all restrictive measures, "and in the expense and organisation necessary to establish the machinery to carry "them out." And the conclusion they came to is that "if compulsory education is "ultimately to be established, the process must be gradual, and public opinion must be

Question of compulsion not determined by that Commission.

" prepared to see the necessity of it. At present the opposition to such a princip
" would be invincible" (P. 29); at the same time these gentlemen state that there is
large body of opinion in its favour. " The great majority of schoolmasters consider th
" direct compulsion is almost a necessity." * * * " Besides the teachers there a
" a good many ministers and some laymen with whom we conversed, who held t
" same views" (P. 24). Mr. Nicolson, speaking of the Highlands and Islands (the fa
of the latter being taken to include the former), says, on the subject of compulsion, th
" many of the most intelligent and experienced men see no other satisfactory reme
" for the present state of things, and are of opinion that such legislative compulsi
" would not only operate beneficially, but be when once established obediently su
" mitted to by the population." (Mr. Nicolson's Report, P. 99, May 1866.)

17. The conclusion of the Commissioners (His Grace the Duke of Argyll, the Lo
Belhaven, the Lord Polwarth, Charles Baillie, Esq., Sir James Fergusson, Baron
James Moncreiff, Esq., Lord Advocate for Scotland, James Crawford, Esq., Archiba
Davidson, Esq., David Mure, Esq., Alexander Murray Dunlop, Esq., Alexander Sha
Cook, Esq., James Michell, Esq., John Ramsay, Esq., and David Smith, Esq.) was th
" the effect of this evidence seems to be that it would be extremely desirable if
" parents could be compelled to have their children educated." (Report, P. cxxx
1867.)

18. Two obstacles prevented the Commissioners from making " any general recomme
" dation on that subject," " the difficulty of devising means for carrying this desire in
" practical effect," and the want of a sufficient number of efficient schools. " T
" existence of an adequate supply of efficient schools is a condition precedent to a
" compulsory system of education or even to the extension of the Factory Act
(p. cxxxviii.); and they added that if the proposals they had made for inaugurating
national system should be adopted " this condition will be fulfilled and the time will ha
" arrived for the extended application of the Factory Acts."

Public opinion much advanced upon the subject of compulsion since 1866.

19. The facts collected by our Assistant Commissioners over a much wider area th
that embraced by the inquiry of 1866, are to the same effect as those recorded by th
inquiry. While cordially acknowledging that there exists almost invariably among t
labouring classes in the rural districts of Scotland a remarkably high tone of feeling
the subject of education, and a very real appreciation generally among the parents of t
benefits of education for their children, they prove the existence of a large minori
even among the native Scotch children in the rural districts, growing up with ve
imperfect education, and for the practical purposes of life with none at all, and of a lar
proportion of the children of the fast increasing Irish population " who are in the sa
" mental condition." They show that this imperfect state of education arises in so
cases from the poverty, but in most cases either from the entire indifference of the par
or the want of sufficient thoughtfulness, arrangement, and management, quite within t
parent's means and opportunities.

20. It may be assumed that the first preliminary difficulty which met the Commission
of 1866 in regard to the question of compulsion, namely, the want of a sufficient numb
of efficient schools, will be removed by the general measure soon to be introduced in
Parliament to cause that want, wherever existing, to be supplied.

21. The next difficulty, that of the then " unprepared state of public opinion," is sho
by the evidence brought together by our Assistant Commissioners to exist no long
Although in many parishes and districts where the education of the children of the ru
labouring classes has been well attended to, and no marked deficiences have be
observed, a feeling prevails against legislative interference, and a fear that it may
attended with a weakening of the sense of parental responsibility, the greatly p
ponderating weight of the evidence shows that public opinion has been considera
matured upon that subject by the attention again called to it by the Reports of t
Commission on England and Wales, and by our inquiries throughout Scotland; and th
it is now prepared for some measure of compulsion that may be in harmony with t
habits of the population in the rural districts.

Facts and conclusions of the Assistant Commissioners.

22. Our Assistant Commissioners thus state the facts as to irregularity of attenda
arising from the poverty or from the carelessness and apathy of parents.

Their conclusions vary according to the varied conditions which they found in th
respective districts. Four out of the five report a strong feeling as existing in fav
of compulsion in some form adapted to the exigencies of agriculture and the habits
the population.

23. Mr. Norman found in the counties comprised in his district, Forfar, Kincardi
Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, and Nairn, a very high appreciation generally among t
parents of the benefit of education:—

"The better class of parents (and I think they form the majority) watch with great care the progress ade by their children, and a more efficient school, though placed at a distance from the children's me, is always preferred to one less efficient, though nearer." (R. 43.)

23. There is a great difference between the ages and school attendance of children in he Highland and in the Lowland parishes:—

"There are but few infant schools in Scotland, and children do not generally commence to go to hool in the country districts until the age of 6 or 7; but before this age they have probably learnt eir letters, and perhaps a few easy words at home. From the time they first come to school the tendance is continued with great regularity until the children are required for the summer work, in ich the children of farm labourers, servants, and crofters begin to be employed at the age of from to 11: occasionally in the moorland parishes they are employed as young as 8; but generally in the wland parishes not until 12 or 13. The summer work keeps them from school from about the month April until after the harvest holidays, or indeed sometimes until far into winter. The school teachers mplain bitterly that the summer work unsettles the children and indisposes them to resume regular hool attendance. Besides which their clothes are sometimes worn out by work and have to be placed, and the result of these causes of delay is that those who have been out to work in summer ten do not return to school until November or the beginning of December. They continue to attend ring the winter months up to the age of about 14, or in the highland parishes up to the age of 15 or , when they finally leave to go to service. It must be clearly understood that it is only the children the poorest class of parents who are employed in this way; but in the highland parishes the whole pulation belongs to this class. The larger tenants who occupy rather a better pecuniary position, d can afford to dispense with their children's earnings, generally keep their children at school ntinuously up to the age of 13 or 14." (R. 44.)

The effect of the summer work upon the progress of the children is thus described:—

"The effect of the summer work upon their progress in school depends very much upon the proiency attained when the scholars begin to go to work in summer. If they can pass the 3rd standard the Revised Code before they begin to go to work in summer, the attendance in winter alone would able them to progress steadily, but if they are not as far advanced as this the summer work throws em back very considerably, and, in fact, prevents them from ever attaining a satisfactory education r. Michie, the experienced teacher of the parochial school in the parish of Coldstone, in Aberdeenire, which is situated at the base of the moors, was kind enough to analyse his school returns for me, d the result of his analysis was, that two-fifths of those children who went to work in the summer ere withdrawn before they could pass the 3rd standard. (r. B. 6.) During the whole of the time when ey profess to be attending school, *i.e.* when they are not engaged in summer work, the attendance is ry regular. It requires a very severe storm of rain or snow to keep them at home. I myself visited veral schools on very snowy days, and never failed to find a good attendance; and I heard of two men ho carried their children a mile every day to and from school when snow was on the ground, as the ildren would otherwise have been prevented from attending. (r. D. 111.)" (R. 46.)

And the result of the school attendance above described, Mr. Norman thinks, "may be shortly stated to be this":—

"With the sole exception of those children who commence to go to work in the summer months fore they can pass the 3rd standard, who amount, according to Mr. Michie, to two-fifths of all ildren in the highland parishes, I think that all can read, write, and cipher fairly by the time they ave school. I think they could all pass the 4th standard, and many the 5th or 6th; but after leaving hool they deteriorate rapidly; they keep up their reading fairly, but lose their power of writing and eir knowledge of arithmetic." (r. B. 3, D. 175, C. 4.)

"It is not at all uncommon for young men who have been out to service for several years to go back d put themselves to school for a quarter when they have saved sufficient money to enable them to ve without going to work and to pay the school fees; or sometimes they do this when they are xious to improve themselves in order to get some special appointment, such as a clerk's place or a lace on a railroad; but the testimony of the school teachers goes to show that as a general rule the ducation of the young men who thus return to school has seriously deteriorated, and that only a very nall proportion keep up their education." (R. 49, 50.)

24. Mr. Norman is of opinion in reference to his district that "in the majority of cases the children of the agricultural labouring class in Scotland do at present obtain a satisfactory elementary education." (R. 55.)
He points out that he has also observed—

"That there are two classes of children to whom this observation cannot with truth be applied. hey are, first, those whose parents are either indifferent about education, and therefore do not send eir children to school at all, or not with sufficient regularity to secure the object in view; and, econdly, there are those whose parents, owing to their poverty, are unable to dispense with their hildren's assistance for a sufficiently long period of time to enable them to acquire a satisfactory ducation." (R. 55.)

On the subject of compulsion, Mr. Norman states as follows:—

"In obedience to my instructions, I invited opinions from those best able to judge as to whether any, nd if any what, change in the law was necessary for the purpose of remedying the defects I have lluded to. The great majority of those whom I consulted upon this point were of opinion that no hange at all in the law was necessary to secure the object in view. Some few were in favour of comulsory education either up to a certain age or until certain results had been attained. (r. A. 44, B. 1, 6, 1, 15, 29, 37, D. 105, 106, 119.) These recommendations assumed various forms, but in principle they

differed in no respect from the many and various recommendations which I received in answer to the same questions while prosecuting my inquiries in England. For instances of these suggestions, see r. B. 6, D. 99, 105, 106." (*ibid.*)

25. Mr. Norman's own opinion coincides with those who think that "no system of "compulsion at all should be resorted to," for which he assigns the following reasons (R. 56, 57):—

"The cases for which compulsion is necessary are very few in number. They are certainly exceptions, perhaps I may say *rare* exceptions, when a general view of the whole agricultural population in the counties I visited is taken. Any system of compulsion founded upon the principle of the Factory Acts would be useless unless it were applied up to a far later age than 13; because up to the age of 13, and often later, it is the custom, as things at present are arranged, for children to attend school either continuously or during a considerable portion of each year. In the highland parishes a voluntary half-time system is at present applied; and if the results are considered generally unsatisfactory, of course the compulsory system to be introduced must be far more exacting than the voluntary system which at present exists, and a more exacting system would not, in my view, be sanctioned by public opinion.

"But I think that a stronger argument against the introduction of any compulsory system in Scotland arises from the certain effect it would have of weakening the feeling of responsibility which in Scotland undoubtedly presses with great weight upon the parents. This feeling of responsibility has already effected much, and is, I think, likely to effect more. In some cases it does undoubtedly fail to produce satisfactory results. But under every system there must be some failures; and I fear that if the compulsory system were adopted, the parents might think that the State had assumed the responsibility which they themselves now feel, and it is very doubtful whether the State could do more for the education of the children generally than is now being done by the parents themselves.

"The general conclusions at which I have arrived are that in the counties examined by me in Scotland it is not the practice to employ women, young persons, or children in any unhealthy employments connected with agriculture.

"That as a general rule the children of the agricultural labouring class have sufficient opportunities of acquiring a satisfactory elementary education, and that they take advantage of those opportunities.

"I do not, therefore, think that it is desirable to apply the principle of the Factory Acts to this branch of the population."

26. Mr. Campion, reporting upon the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, remarks in regard to the latter county, that (V. 64):—

"There exists almost invariably among the labouring classes in this district a remarkably high tone of feeling on the subject of education, and little or none of that apathy and indifference which is so apt to be engendered by excessive poverty. I am far from wishing to say that there are no exceptions to this rule, and complaints of a less satisfactory state of things will be found amongst my evidence (Evid. 43, 44, 58, 121), but the statements of an overwhelming number of witnesses confirm me in the opinion that in the vast majority of cases, both farm servants and crofters are sincerely anxious in the matter of education, that they thoroughly appreciate the advantages conferred by superior knowledge, and that they will frequently make considerable personal sacrifices to obtain those advantages for their children. (v. 5, 9, 10, 17, 19, 23, 30A, 40, 41, 45, 66, 68, 69, 75, 77, 81, 87, 96, 101, 106, 107, 108, 110, 119, 129.)"

Where irregularity of attendance exists it is "generally confined to districts inhabited "by small crofters." On this point Mr. Campion states that:—

"Although it would be dangerous to lay down as an unvarying rule that the sentiments of parents upon this question are enlightened in proportion to their material prosperity, I have yet found that such is usually the case, and that complaints on the score of irregular attendance at school, or absence from it altogether, are generally confined to districts inhabited by small crofters, who represent the poorest class of agricultural labourers which I have encountered. The tenant who occupies a holding of, say, 12 acres, is fully on a level, as far as material circumstances go, with a married farm servant, and whether it be from a feeling of independence created by the occupation of land on his own account, or from some other cause, he is almost invariably above the farm servant in the moral and intellectual qualities; but in the case of crofters who hold from four to seven acres only, or thereabouts, as for example on the coast near Helmsdale, and in the parish of Canisbey, poverty will occasionally beget some measure of indifference to the advantages of education. (v. 58, 121.)" (V. 66.)

The poverty of this class of agricultural labourers operates in Caithness in two ways "to prevent the children from receiving an adequate education":—

"Firstly, in the difficulty of clothing the children, and secondly, in the necessity of employing them. The severity of the winter in the north of Scotland renders the first point a more serious difficulty than it can ever be in England, and considerable stress is laid upon it by many of the witnesses whom I examined. (v. 23, 30, 41, 45, 55, 75, 121.)" (V. 70.)

With reference to the Highlands generally, and especially the north-western portions of them, Mr. Campion remarks that:—

"There appears to be considerable variation in the tone of feeling with respect to education in the different parts of the Highlands, and this variation I have found to follow the same rule which distinguishes it upon the eastern coast, so that it is in those districts where the general conditions of life are most unfavourable that parents exhibit the greatest degree of apathy and indifference on the subject." (V. 91.)

And in that district of the Highlands the following is stated to be the general opinion on the subject of compulsory attendance at school (V. 96):—

"In those districts where the school attendance of the children is unsatisfactory, I have usually found among landowners, ministers, and teachers, a strong feeling in favour of some system of compulsory education, although it is frequently admitted that any universal application of the principle of compulsion would be attended with considerable difficulties. (v. 148, 169, 181, 183, 185, 186, 191, 192)."

27. Accordingly, as any restriction "would often fall very hard upon the poverty-stricken crofter of the west coast," Mr. Campion would think it necessary "to intrust some local body with discretionary power of compulsion instead of laying down a general and arbitrary rule which might be necessarily harsh in its application." (V. 97.) It at the same time seen that it would be "very difficult to find officials fitted to fill those positions," (*ibid.*) Upon the whole, Mr. Campion concludes that "in the Highlands generally" as poverty is "the great obstacle, if not the only one, to education;" emigration "affords the only hope of permanent relief" to that poverty; and as education has already had the effect of encouraging this emigration" * "any legislative measure, which, partly by coercion and partly by the multiplication of schools, could bring sound instruction within the reach of every child, would confer an inestimable boon upon the district." (V. 107.)

28. Mr. Boyle, in his report upon the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Argyll, notices the fact that in the Lowlands although "for the most part the labourers take great interest in education, and like their children to know how to read and write," they nevertheless withdraw them very early from school.

29. Few fail to send them, but they are generally "glad to get them away to work as soon as they can write, and read the Bible, and do a little counting." The youngest child is often kept at school later than the elder ones; "for the parents are better off than during the first years of marriage." (U. 39.)

30. In the Highlands "irregularity of school attendance comes to being almost a system" (U. 43):—

"Barely any child above 9 or 10 years of age thinks of coming to school between April and November; during all that time all the tuition they receive is from Sunday classes, and in some few cases evening classes; but the latter are very rare, both in Highlands and Lowlands, principally owing to the distance to which pupils have to come, and the very small amount of amateur assistance given by the schoolmaster. The highland parents all wish their children to learn; but seem to have a strange idea that learning is far easier than it really is, and that four or five months' schooling a year is amply sufficient; consequently, although the child is really only at work at intervals, from April to November, the parents never insist on his going to school during that time. Even when November comes there is great delay; all the clothes are worn out, and the child has to get new, or he has no shoes, and so matters drag on till the school is really not full again till after Christmas. There are instances, too, in most parishes of children growing up utterly without education; such as in the Island of Mull, boys and girls of 16 and 17 at work now who have never been to school; a few children about the port in the Island of Coll, a few crofter families in Islay, and a few families in Knapdale. It is the case with girls rather than boys; education is not thought so necessary for a girl (u. Arg. 29, 77, 85). These are all instances in which schools are within reach; there are few houses now out of reach of a school; some few foresters and shepherds in Lorn, where the extent of farms and forests is enormous, and a scattered district here and there, such as a remote corner of the Island of Islay. (u. Arg. 26.) Thanks to the energy of various societies and individual enterprise, there are now such regions now."

31. The result of the irregularity of attendance was, in reference to the question of compulsion, that "almost without exception the intelligent schoolmasters in the Highlands," expressed a hope that there might be a compulsory clause in the Education Bill; "they consider it hopeless to attempt teaching under the present system of four months schooling and eight months holiday." (U. 47.) This feeling is participated in by many persons of intelligence and position in the Highlands, and also, although in a less degree, in the Lowland portion of Mr. Boyle's district. (*ibid.*)

32. Mr. Henry Tremenheere gives the following account of the state of education in the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigton, and Ayr. (T. 116 to 119.)

"The desire to give to their children the advantages of a fair education is a marked characteristic of the Scotch peasantry, but there are several causes which prevent the parochial schools from bearing the fruits which might be expected from them. The chief of these is the extreme irregularity in the attendance, of which schoolmasters uniformly complain. A certain amount of absence during the busy seasons of the year is perhaps inevitable, but for six months there ought to be no absentees under 10, except from illness or some other unavoidable cause; but after 10 years of age the attendance of most children becomes very uncertain even in the winter months, and the imperfect education of many who have quitted the parochial schools arises not so much from their leaving them too young, as from those

long breaks in school attendance which are so injurious to progress, and as a necessary consequence of this irregularity large numbers of children annually leave without being able to read intelligently or to write correctly.

"I found the education of the children of the agricultural labouring population most neglected in those portions of my district which are chiefly peopled by the descendants of Irish settlers, or by more recent immigrants, who have within the last 30 years been attracted to the south-western counties of Scotland by the high wages of the coal and iron mines. These people, wholly uneducated themselves, care nothing for the education of their children. I was assured by the minister of one of the parishes that although abundant means of education and of excellent quality exist in that parish, and although the fees are trifling, and the children whose parents are too poor to pay them would be gratuitously taught, very few take advantage of them, and I invariably found that regularity of attendance is in an inverse ratio to the assistance afforded; thus in the parochial school of Castle Douglas, 40 children who were receiving their education gratuitously were, I was assured by the master, of all his scholars the most irregular.

"I found a general wish expressed not only by schoolmasters but by ministers of all denominations and even by farmers, that compulsion in some form should be applied to bring neglected children into the schools which have been so liberally provided for them. There, however, appears to be a general desire that the attendance of children at the parochial schools should be enforced only for a portion of the year, as from November till the beginning of May. There would probably be no practical difficulty in enforcing this attendance, as there are no Christmas holidays in Scotland, and it would include the period during which children are but little employed, but the great cause of absenteeism and of that total neglect of education which prevails in some places is not so much the need of the children's earnings as the absolute insensibility of parents to its value.

"The plan which has been suggested of requiring a certificate of a certain amount of education before a child can be permanently employed in agriculture appeared, with a few exceptions, to meet with concurrence. In many of the schools which I visited, the 3rd Standard was the highest proficiency attained by the majority of the children. Apprehensions have been expressed that by fixing Standard IV. as an educational test previous to employment, the general standard of education might be lowered; but the adoption of that standard as a test would in many schools be to raise it."

33. And on the subject of compulsion, Mr. Henry Tremenheere adds (T. 120):—

"The opinions which I heard expressed by all classes in favour of compulsion, either direct or indirect, in the matter of elementary education, was remarkable, and certainly public opinion is ripe for a change in this direction in all the counties which I visited. Among farmers generally, I found the most enlightened sentiments on this subject. Compulsion would not, they thought, materially affect their interests, children seldom being employed, except for short periods, earlier than 12 years of age, and many have given practical proofs of their interest in education by not only insisting upon their labourers sending their children regularly to school, but by paying the school fees. 'Let the children,' said one of the most practical and intelligent of farmers, 'be sent to school early, and kept in constant attendance until they can read, write, and work accounts well, and then send them forth to labour. Let there be periodical tests of their progress, and by the time their bodies are strong enough their minds will be sufficiently developed for their station in life.' Mr. George Cowen, of Glenluce, one of the most extensive farmers in Wigtownshire, was in favour of enforcing regular attendance at school for eight months, from the age of 6 until 12 or 13, the remaining portion of the year being, in his opinion, quite sufficient for the work which can rightly be expected from them, and this compulsory attendance would, he was convinced, not only better their condition in life, but make them more valuable servants to their employers.

"Any opposition on the part, even of the most indifferent parents, would, I am persuaded, be only short-lived, for I heard of several cases in which a mere intimation of the probability of compulsion being resorted to had produced the requisite effect."

His summary of conclusions on this subject are the following (T. 124):—

"That there is a considerable number of children, chiefly Irish, employed in agriculture, whose education is wholly neglected, and that the parents of such children, while deriving considerable pecuniary advantages from their labour for several months in the year, suffer them to pass the remaining months in total idleness.

"That compulsion, either direct or indirect, is required to induce such parents to send their children to school and for enforcing regularity of attendance; and that public opinion is favourable to the adoption of compulsion in some form adapted to the exigencies of agriculture.

"That an educational test as a condition of juvenile labour would be willingly accepted by the employers of such labour as a satisfactory solution of the problem how best to reconcile the interests of agriculture with the promotion of education."

34. Mr. Culley's conclusions, drawn from his very extended field of inquiry, embracing the whole of the south-eastern district of Scotland, consisting of twelve counties, from Roxburghshire and Berwick to Fife and Perth, are as follows:—

"The irregularity in attendance I have spoken of, causes a considerable amount of annoyance to schoolmasters, and is greatly to be regretted; at the same time there is no denying the fact testified to by so many independent witnesses, that the native Scotch throughout my district show a great anxiety to educate their children, and frequently make very considerable sacrifices on that account. (S. 75.)

* * * * * *

"It must not, however, be imagined that though the bulk of Scotch parents are anxious to educate their children, there is not room for improvement. Besides a very general complaint from schoolmasters against the irregularity of attendance, you will find scattered through the evidence sufficient

of that there exist, even among the native Scotch, instances of carelessness as to the education of ir children.

'Amongst the fast increasing Irish population carelessness is the rule." (S. 76.)

35. On the subject of compulsion Mr. Culley thus states his opinion (S. 77, 8) :—

"Without some qualification as to the anxiety on the part of Scotch parents to educate their children would be difficult to understand the frequent recommendations, which you will find in the evidence, a compulsory system of attendance extending far beyond the limit the Commission has ventured to pose for England.

"In several instances these recommendations come from farmers, which you may take as a proof that agricultural interest would not suffer from some interference in this direction.

'As soon, then, as I found that the general practice amongst the native agricultural labouring class my district, with regard to the education of their children, leaves very little to be desired, and that ir mode of obtaining school attendance is in fact a modification of the plan enforced under the ntworks Act, I wrote, under that question of the 'Commissioners' Circulars of Inquiry' which lains the provisions for school attendance under the Factory Act and Printworks Act, a suggestion, the consideration of intended witnesses, that the following modification of the Printworks Act's n might meet the difficulty, *by adopting the practice of the careful parents and putting the necessary ssure on the careless*, viz., a school attendance for eight or nine months of the year for children der 10, and for three or four months for those between 10 and 12 or 13.

'The following is a fair summary of the answers to this suggestion :—

'That it is rather less than the amount of school attendance insisted upon by most parents (whose n is to keep their children regularly at school up to 11 or 12 years of age and to send them back for winter quarter till they are 13 or 14), and is, as to them, therefore unnecessary.

'That it could not do any harm, either by interfering with the cultivation of the land or by robbing parents of any legitimate profit from their children's earnings, and might do good.

'That it is decidedly the most suitable form (granted that the education obtained under it would be ficient) in which to enforce school attendance for children engaged in agriculture."

* * * * * *

"Taking, then, into consideration all the evidence I have received on the subject of education, as ll as the practice of the careful parents, and the requirements of agriculture, the modification of the ctory Acts' principle, which I am prepared to recommend for the agricultural labouring population of south-east of Scotland, *is a compulsory school attendance of eight months in the year for children between nd* 10 *years of age, and of four months for those between* 10 *and* 13.

"Such a regulation would be within the practice of those parents who are anxious to educate their ildren (parents who happily form the bulk of the population in my district), and would rob no family any increase to its income which can be fairly expected from the earnings of its younger members. the same time it would provide against cases of neglect, which are chiefly to be met with amongst now important section of Irish immigrants.

"To include children under six years of age in any compulsory scheme would be, under the circumnces of my district, practically impossible : the farm village system is a decided bar to infant schools. or are infant schools necessary under such a provision as I have suggested.

"I have had some doubt as to whether I should suggest compulsory attendance, beginning at 7 years age and ending at 12, instead of beginning at 6 and ending at 13. As, however, the attendance I ntemplate after 10 years of age only amounts to four months in the year, I am inclined to think that less tbe age is extended to 13, there will be no security for a sufficient education, meaning by a ficient education the power of reading, writing, and ciphering with ordinary facility.

"In order, however, to lighten the pressure of such a compulsory scheme as I have suggested, and at e same time to encourage parents to attend closely to the education of their children in their earlier ars, *I would propose to release any child of* 12 *years of age who could pass in the* 5*th Standard of the vised Code from all further obligations of school attendance, and let any child of* 9 *who could pass in the* 4*th andard rank as a child of* 10 *years old.* If this last proposal was adopted I think it would be safe ough to make the age at which compulsory attendance should commence, 7 instead of 6." (S. 79.)

36. In weighing Mr. Culley's suggestions, it is of importance to refer to the opinions Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell in their report above referred to, upon the subject of e amount of school attendance that can be expected from children "in the agricultural and highland districts of Scotland." These gentlemen state that "two hundred attendances, or one hundred days, implies a regular attendance at school for *five* months in the year. As has been already said, there is no organised school attendance before Martinmas and the older children begin to leave school at the end of April for field and other labour. If, then, a child *over* 12 years of age is to make out his *two* hundred attendances, he must hardly miss a day from Martinmas till May. In severe winters this in the *Highlands* is impossible, and in ordinary winters sickness may very often keep a child at home for three or four days, or a sufficient length of time to prevent him from fulfilling the stated number of attendances. The *younger children*, again, do *not attend with much regularity in winter*, and even in their case it is often no easy matter to make up their full number of 100 days." (p. 135.)

37. They proceed to say that "if the number of requisite attendances was reduced one-fourth, it would be acceptable to all teachers and overcome a real objection to the (Revised) Code, against which there are already so many unreal objections." (*ibid.*)

A reduction of one-fourth, as these gentlemen propose, would bring down the number f school attendances to 75 days.

The four months attendance, which in Mr. Culley's opinion could reasonably be enforced in the case of all children from the age of 10 to 13, would give a school attendance of 80 days, and therefore correspond substantially with the suggestion of Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell in relation to the requirements of the Revised Code.

38. The number of school attendances submitted by Mr. Tremenheere in his separate report (October 1869) in reference to England, was the same as the above, namely 160, requiring for their completion 80 days or four months, at the usual rate of five school days per week.

39. Mr. Tremenheere proposed that the age in England at which compulsory attendance should cease should be 12 years. Mr. Culley sees reason for continuing the liability to school attendance in Scotland to the age of 13.

40. For children below 10 years of age, Mr. Culley thinks that in Scotland a much larger amount of compulsory school attendance would be practicable than was proposed by Mr. Tremenheere for England, namely "a compulsory school attendance of eight months "in the year for children between the age of 6 and 10 years of age," but in accordance with Mr. Tremenheere, he would "let any child of 9 who could pass in the 4th Standard "rank as a child of 10 years old." He would also "propose to release any child of 12 "years of age who could pass in the 5th Standard of the Revised Code from all further "school attendance." Mr. Tremenheere suggested for England the age of 11 as the one at which compulsory school attendance should cease for any child who could pass in the 5th Standard.

41. Clause 74 of the Act of last year "to provide for public elementary education "in England and Wales" (33 & 34 Vict. c. 75., August 1870), enacts, in regard to attendance at school, that every school board may from time to time, with the approval of the Education Department, make byelaws for all or any of the following purposes :—

> Requiring the parents of children of such age, not less than 5 years nore more than 13 years, as may be fixed by the byelaws, to cause such children (unless there is some reasonable excuse) to attend school; determining the time during which children are so to attend school.
>
> * * * * *
>
> Provided that any byelaw under this section, requiring a child between 10 and 13 years of age to attend school, should provide for the total or partial exemption of such child from the obligation to attend school, if one of Her Majesty's inspectors certifies that such child has reached a standard of education specified in such byelaw.

Materials thus afforded for judgment as to what is most suitable for Scotland.

42. We have thus brought into one view the opinions recorded in the Reports of the Commissioners on Education in Scotland (1866) on the subject of irregularity of school attendance, and the neglect of elementary education, so far as it prevails among the rural classes in Scotland, together with the facts and opinions of our Assistant Commissioners on those subjects, and their opinions regarding the necessity and advisableness, or otherwise, of applying the principle of compulsion in Scotland; and we have given an abstract of so much of the recent Act for providing for elementary education in England as refers to the subject of compulsory attendance at school. We have, therefore, fully presented the materials for forming a judgment on those questions. These materials will be earnestly examined throughout the whole of Scotland by a vast body of persons of the highest intelligence, to whom the whole question of elementary education has been long familiar, and who approach the consideration of what further measures may be required, with a just sense of patriotic pride in the benefits which their parochial system of education has for so many generations conferred upon their country, and with an enlightened determination to give it every extension that it may be capable of, until sound elementary education has pervaded their whole people. To the facts and opinions, therefore, of our Assistant Commissioners, gathered and formed upon the spot, in the course of a very extensive and careful inquiry, we do not think it necessary or desirable that we should add any detailed conclusions of our own. The details which we have submitted for consideration will be best judged of in the respective districts to which they refer.

Special arrangements necessary for some parts of the Highlands.

43. In regard to the Highlands, Mr. Campion calls attention, as we have shown above (§ 27), to the fact that in the event of the principle of compulsory attendance at school being adopted in Scotland, it would be necessary in some parts of the Highlands to provide some special machinery for carrying the Act into effect, inasmuch as in remote districts it would be "very difficult to find officials fitted to fill the position" of officers of a local board. (V. 97.) Extraneous assistance also to a considerable extent, in paying

school fees, or otherwise meeting the ordinary school expenses, would appear to be indispensable. (V. 92, 98.) Physical difficulties also would have to be taken into account in arrangements for the periods and the amount of attendance. (V. 92–94.)

44. On the subject of the contrasts afforded by the Scotch parochial system of education, which has been for so many generations established by law, as compared with what has come under the observation of the Assistant Commissioners in England, their reports supply a considerable amount of information calculated to be of much benefit in England when examined and weighed by persons interested in the improvement of the elementary schools in England, and in producing better results than have hitherto been obtained. Points of practice in Scotch schools worthy of consideration in England.

45. The leading points in which the practice in Scotland (irrespective of the supply of schools) differs from that of England are the following:—The payments are usually quarterly. The books, slates, &c. are paid for by the parents. The habit of requiring lessons to be prepared at home is very general. Great pains are taken to make the children understand the derivations and meanings of words, and exercise their thinking faculties. Pains are very commonly taken to store their memories with passages of prose or verse, which may be sources of pleasure, or of moral and religious guidance as the children grow up.

46. We beg to invite attention to the following passages in the reports of the Assistant Commissioners as illustrative of these points:—

The school fees "for ordinary subjects, such as reading, writing, and ciphering, are from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a quarter, paid quarterly, the amount paid being increased as additional subjects are taught." (R. 47.) Quarterly payments.

The practice is so well known as regards Scotland, that it needs no further exemplification.

47. The valuable habit of home lessons is thus spoken of:

Mr. Norman states:— Home lessons and other details of teaching.

Home lessons are always set, consisting, perhaps, of a passage of English, the meaning of all the words in which must be correctly learned, a small piece of writing, and some sums. Dictionaries are used to enable the children to learn the meanings of the words and parsing. These lessons are tested when each class comes in turn before the teacher, and the hearing of them involves no loss of time, but in fact works in with and forms part of the daily school work. The home lessons are of great value. The parents generally approve of them, and many assist their children in preparing them; when the children are advanced in the higher classes the parents can seldom give them any assistance, but even in that case they usually take care that they are prepared. I have heard complaints among parents that the children are occupied too long in the preparation of home lessons; but these complaints are very rare (B. 4)." (R. 48.)

Mr. Culley inserts the following description of them, together with an example of "the difference of the English and Scotch methods of conducting education in elementary schools." He states that he can do no better in illustration of the Scotch system, than quote Mr. Duncan of Inchture, who says:—

There are 10 English reading classes from monosyllables upwards, all of which read daily. The daily lesson is read first simultaneously by each class, then portions of it are read by each scholar selected up and down the class. Whilst the lesson is being read, the meaning of words is asked and explained; then questions are put to the class as to the scope of the lesson, and finally words have to be spelt from it. The classes from the sixth to the tenth inclusive are then deprived of the lesson books and sent to their seats to write out an abstract of their lessons on *slate* or *paper*. The slates or paper are then exchanged and corrected by the scholars, the results examined by the master, who assigns places in the class according to the merits of the performances. The classes below the sixth, inclusive, and those above, have dictation almost daily. All the classes above that have to parse daily four lines from the lesson and show the parsing written on paper. Besides the above classes there is a class of 60 in English literature, of nine in British history, of nine in French, of three in Latin, of 46 in descriptive and physical geography, of 40 in a class book of chemistry of common things, and of 40 in English grammar. The geography and grammar classes are divided into two sections, a junior and a senior. Half an hour each morning is devoted to religious knowledge (not dogmatic), Scripture history, particularly the life of Christ and the Apostles; the juniors being exercised in Brown's catechism and simple Scripture history. When the pupils are engaged in no special exercise, as dictation, drawing fine maps, &c., they are all engaged in arithmetic. An hour each day is devoted to systematic arithmetic on the black board and special exercises on slates. Every arithmetical class receives questions for home solution, which are examined next morning. They also are required to write at home a story, and bring it for examination and correction next morning. Instead of a story they sometimes write about a beast, a bird, a ship, or something found in a newspaper. The youngest classes instead of this exercise have daily to write on their slates the names of trees, beasts, birds, of articles about a farm, in their own houses, or in a shop, and names of places. There are periodical examinations and competitions in all the subjects in the school, and children passed into higher subjects, as the case may be. Once a week maps to be sketched from memory are given out.

"In all school work care is taken in questioning a class to make a child think, and not to cram its head with disjointed information.

"As to school books, the variety in use at different schools entails great expense on poor paren Something ought to be done to assist poor parents in this respect, and to secure greater uniformity the class of books used. I don't think it would be advisable to have one set, as all men's minds wou then be cast in one mould, but the present system as to books might be much improved."

Mr. Robert Stewart, parochial schoolmaster, of Kinfauns (s. Appendix A. 46), al gives valuable evidence on the same subject.

"Under the Scotch system, as Mr. Duncan says, 'care is taken to make a child think, and not 'cram its mind with disjointed facts.' The practice too of giving lessons to be prepared at home h a very happy effect on the parents." (S. 90.)

The evidence of two wives of labouring men is also quoted by Mr. Culley.

A ploughman's wife in the Carse of Gowrie says :—

"When they are at school my husband *hearkens them their lessons* every night to see that they ha them. I think they would be long in learning if we did'nt examine them at home." (s. Appendix A. 47

And the wife of a hind at Cumledge, Berwickshire, states :—

"They always get their lessons ready overnight; if they don't get them overnight there is not muc time in the morning, and they must have them before they go to school. I help them a litt when they need it, and I should think all the mothers here help their children with their lessons (s. Appendix C. 29.)

Mr. Henry Tremenheere, after describing (in paragraphs 109 to 120) the gener education of the native Scotch rural population, remarks as follows on the subject school books and home lessons :—

"It is the invariable practice for the school books to be provided at the expense of the parents, a the effect of this arrangement is said to induce habits of carefulness on the part of the children. Th purchase of books may occasionally bear hard upon the parents, but they are always sold at the whol sale price, and if the parents are believed to be too poor to be able to pay for them they are general given gratuitously, and are paid for out of a fund provided for the purpose.

"The practice of requiring the pupils to prepare their lessons at home is universal, and is considere a very important part of the school arrangements; it saves time, affords the parents an opportunity taking an interest in their children's education, and is the means of forming in the children themselv habits of industry and self-reliance. The lessons required to be prepared generally consist of sums arithmetic, preparations for writing from dictation, grammar, geography, the meaning and derivation words, learning pieces of poetry and prose by heart, general repetitions at certain intervals, and th shorter catechism. The school books in general use are those published by the Scottish School Boo Association. The practice of getting selected pieces of prose and poetry by heart is especially worth of approval, giving, as it does, with proper explanations by the teachers, an enlarged range of thoug and possibly some refinement of feeling. I found the master of one school reading Gray's Elegy to h pupils, preparatory to their learning it by heart, accompanying the reading of each stanza with appropriate commentary on its beauties and allusions.

"There is one description of lesson given in some of the parochial schools which I consider of gre value, namely, the practice of requiring terms of similar signification to be substituted for those of th text, in other words the practice of synonyms. Nothing can be better adapted to inculcate th meaning of words and to promote the acquirement of fluency in speech. The art of composition al receives attention by requiring a short essay on same didactic or descriptive subject. These exercis are much liked by the more advanced scholars, and are of considerable use in training the young mi to think for itself, and in accustoming it to habits of observation. It was a subject of frequent regr by the masters of the Government-inspected schools that the labour exacted of them by the Revise Code did not permit them to give that amount of attention to examinations and repetitions which the formerly had it in their power to do." (T. 121, 2, 3.)

On the same subject Mr. Boyle states :—

"The purchase of books by the parents seems to be almost invariably the custom, and as the return I have appended from Kilmalcolm school (Renfrewshire) show, the value of books needed comes little less than the fees paid. In Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire the schoolmaster seldom has a difficulty with the trading or agricultural classes; except works on history, the books are cheap, a the only result of that expense is that little history is taught in the schools. It is very often the custo for the schoolmaster to provide the books himself, charging for them in the quarterly bill, but h generally prefers to say what book is wanted, and the child buys it in the village. Even the poore labourer often makes a struggle to get books. The teacher at Liberton (Lanarkshire) has never h a book refused, except when it has been in the family before, and it was unnecessary to buy it ane Of course the books in the higher classes are more expensive, but if a child stays on long enough learn Latin and higher mathematics, his parents are sure to take an interest in his work, and give th books readily. The case in Argyllshire, where the people are poorer, is very different, and there often great difficulty in getting the books. Some even think Bibles unnecessary; they will give reading book, but grudge geography or arithmetic, and geography has to be taught a good deal fro the map, and arithmetic from the slate. Some schoolmasters are driven occasionally to give the book themselves. Pauper children are of course provided with books by the parochial board, and at gener assembly schools a book is given by the committee on the minister's certificate that parents cannot afford to pay. (u. Lk., Appendix III., 39; Rw., 10, 12; Arg. 12, 85.)

"With regard to young children who require help from the master, all their work is done in schoo as they grow older more is given them to do at home. At Bishopton (Renfrewshire), all the arithmet is done at home, and the children are expected to write out two or three lines of each lesson, and brin it in the morning as a writing lesson. At Dalserf the schoolmaster gives out two or three chapters history or of the Bible, and expects the children to come next morning ready to be questioned on the

neral the work is well done, especially by the farmers' children. It is not so much the case with poorer people, says Mr. Montgomery, the teacher at Southend (Argyllshire); there is no proper . and the babies are squalling, besides which the parents do not take proper interest in the work; Lanarkshire schoolmaster assured me that it is better not to take such excuses. They can s prepare their lessons on the way, or come to school a little earlier and prepare them there; or get help from a companion, which is better than not doing it at all." (u. Lk. Appendix III., 3, 9.; 12.; Arg. 12.) (U. 49, 50.)

Home lessons neglected in English elementary schools. Much time thus wasted.

3. It cannot be said that there are any greater obstacles in a Scotch cottage, to the tice of the children learning a portion of their school-work for the next day at home, there are in an English cottage. On the contrary, the advantages in regard to and light are probably for the most part on the side of the English cottage. The lish labourer's child leaves school at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and does not return until 9 the next morning. The number of hours wasted, for all purposes of edun, is thus very great. It has been seen above that in Scotland even the school- is, if needed, made accessible to the children before the school hours, to enable n to prepare their lessons in quiet. The good effects of this practice of home ns, both upon the children and the parents, are manifest. The children of the uring classes in England are probably the only children in this community who are ved habitually to throw away, as regards the purposes of education, the whole of time between school hours. If schools are henceforward to be largely supported by s, it may reasonably be anticipated that school boards will look to this point in order better results may be obtained in a shorter time than has hitherto been the case, the public funds thereby economised.

Strong feeling among the native Scotch generally in favour of education.

). The very strong feeling in favour of education commonly prevailing among the re Scotch rural classes is thus exhibited by the Assistant Commissioners.

Ir. Norman states on this subject:—

. may here mention at the outset that on no subject is the contrast between the Scotch and the ish more clearly marked than on this. In the rural districts of England, as I have explained in ormer reports, the farmers are too often opposed to education, the labourers, and sometimes the owners themselves, are indifferent about it; and it happens not unfrequently that the clergyman e only person in the parish who takes any interest in it, and struggles in vain with scanty means ist an unyielding mass of opposition or indifference. In Scotland the feelings of the people on subject are totally different. There all classes, farmers and servants, ministers and laymen, manimous in their conviction of the importance of education, and are willing to co-operate for the ose of securing it." (R. 41.)

This high tone of feeling exists, as Mr. Campion states, even among the small crofters he Highlands, of which he gives the following illustration:—

It would be unjust, however, to omit to notice that I have met amongst this very class with rkable instances of enlightened feeling; and it would be still more unjust to forget that the very ulties which in their case oppose obstacles to the spread of education render more conspicuously seworthy the conduct of not a few whose self-sacrifice and energy enable them to break through e obstacles. I will cite a single instance to show that this is not the language of extravagant gy. It is the case of a crofter (Evid. 79), who, occupying five acres of poor land rented upon the a-rent" principle, cannot expect to reap the profit of a single sixpence from his land, more espey since his means being inadequate to replace the accidental loss of his stock, he cannot even lop all its resources. During the winter he lives in enforced idleness; during the spring, summer, autumn, partly as a "hirer" at the fisheries, and partly as a labourer in the neighbourhood, he ages to pick up about 15*l.* in wages in addition to his board. He is the father of seven children, two of whom are in regular employment away from home, so that upon this sum he has to support persons at least for the whole year round. It appears, nevertheless, that every child in this family ives an education at the rate of from 6*s.* to 10*s.* per annum apiece to the father, who cannot, se rent and allowance of all kinds included, be considered as receiving equivalent to more than 4*d.* a day." (V. 68.)

Scotch shepherds.

0. This feeling is found in a very high degree among the remarkable class of Scotch pherds, of whom the Assistant Commissioners give very highly interesting accounts all their districts; Mr. Culley, of the shepherds of the Cheviots, Mr. Henry Treheere of those of the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigton, and Ayr, and . Boyle, Mr. Campion, and Mr. Norman in the Highlands. Of this class of shepherds . Culley states, that "they are the finest set of men he ever came in contact with." e manner in which they are paid is "chiefly in stock, that is, he says, they have a lock of sheep (called the shepherd's pack) numbering from 45 to 50, a cow's keep, 5 stones of oatmeal, 1,000 yards of potatoes, and a free cottage. The value of this vage depends greatly on the price of wool and mutton, but cannot be taken at less n an average than 50*l.* a year." (S. 63.) They are thus placed in a situation of at trust, and have a high repute for honesty, "holding their positions of trust from ne generation to another." It is to be regretted that this system of payment "by means of a pack," in other words, of "admitting them into a quasi partnership with heir employers," should in some localities be falling into disuse (T. 18, U. 26), and

therefore tending to bring about the disappearance of a class of men of whom Scotl may be justly proud.

Information illustrating the general condition of Scotch agricultural labourer.

51. As illustrating the general condition of the Scotch agricultural labourer and consequent means, opportunities, and inducements to educate his children, the Assist Commissioners have supplied a large amount of most interesting and useful informa on the modes of lodging farm servants, the terms of hiring, the modes of payment money and in kind, the food of the labourer, his habits and means of saving, and ot topics.

Scotch labourers are generally housed on the farm.

52. In contrast with the practice in England, where so large a proportion of the labour in agriculture are lodged in villages away from the farms on which they work, in Sc land "the whole ordinary staff of labourers" are as a rule housed on the farm. Th are lodged either in cottages, which for the most part are occupied by the marr labourers, or in detached houses on the farm called "bothies," for the single men women; or in the farm-house or some adjoining building, receiving their food in the fa kitchen, in which case the arrangement is commonly known as the "kitchen system."

Yearly or half-yearly hirings arise from this system;

53. On these systems Mr. Culley says:—

"Where cottages or bothies are supplied, as is the case generally in my district, they belong to are provided by the landowner and are held by the farmer on the same terms as his own dwelli house and other farm buildings. From this follows naturally a system of yearly or half-yearly hiri the occupants of cottages being engaged by the year, bothy men or bothy women either by the yea half-year. On the one hand the farmer uses his cottages to secure a sufficient staff for the ordin work of his farm throughout the year; on the other hand the labourer secures, for the duration of service, a house within easy reach of his work.

"At one time, when farms were smaller than they now are and villages were few and far between, is still the case in Scotland, the 'kitchen system,' which still lingers in some parts of my district, the prevailing one; but as farms have increased in size and a more active cultivation has led to a lar requirement of labour (especially female labour) the farm kitchen has given way to the cottage a the bothy." (S. 5.)

Also part payment in kind.

54. Closely connected with the system of yearly or half-yearly hiring to which t housing of the labourer on the farm tends, is the practice of part payment in kind. this important branch of the subject Mr. Culley has the following remarks:—

"Not as a necessary, but as a very natural accompaniment of the farm cottage and yearly hir comes the payment in kind, a custom which prevails generally throughout my district, with howe some exceptions which I am afraid indicate its extinction or at least curtailment at no very dist date. Payment in kind reaches its widest development in the Border Counties, where a 'hind' ploughman receives only 5*l.* in money, the rest of his wage consisting of a cottage and garden, r free, the keep of a cow, carriage of fuel, potato ground, and certain allowances of oats (or oatmea barley, and peas; in Perthshire the grain payments are reduced to an allowance of oatmeal, and inste of the cow's keep a Scotch pint of new milk is given daily, the money wage being increased to £ The change from what may be called the meal and milk system of Perthshire and Fife, to the cow k grain payments of the Border Counties takes place gradually from about the line of the Forth. So of the Forth the daily allowance of milk ceases, but it is not till you enter Haddingtonshire that y find the cow's keep established as part (a very important part) of the hind's wage. Formerly hin cows were common enough in both West and Mid Lothian, but there is now no such useful institut on any of the farms I visited in the former county, nor in the northern and more populous part of latter. Elsewhere, too, where cows are still the rule, there are signs that the hind may soon lose th to his family, the most important item in his list of payments in kind." (S. 6.)

Good economical effects of having all the labour on the farm, both to landowner, farmer, and labourer.

55. The effect of having all the labour on the farm, or as Mr. Culley denominates "the farm cottage system," is that where all horse work is concerned, the Scotch farm obtains 10 hours' work per day for a large part of the year, instead of the eight hou common in England. This is obtained by means of a long mid-day rest, or shorter a more frequent rests. "The two horses with which the hind works are considered t "peculiar charge of the hind, and his hours of work, arranged as much for his horse "comfort as his own, rule the work hours of the remainder of the farm staff. Exclusi "of the time spent before and after work by the hind in feeding and cleaning h "horses, he works with them 10 hours a day, and all ordinary farm workers are employ "for the same time."

"By means of the long mid-day rest (a matter of great importance in summer) and mid-day me the Scotch farmer is able to get 10 hours' work out of his horses as against eight hours obtained the English farmer, whose stableman hands over his team to the ploughman at 7 a.m. to be work continuously till 3 p.m. As the field-workers (that is to say, labourers not in charge of horses, Scotland usually women) are frequently engaged in the same operation as the horses, it becom convenient, or, as a Scotch farmer would say, necessary, that they should keep the same hours, a accordingly we find that the hours of work of women, and in fact of all hands employed in ordina farm work, are the same as the hours of horses. To rest and feed the horses in the middle of t day would not be practicable unless the hinds lived close to their work and to the stables, nor wou such an arrangement be convenient to the other labourers unless they too lived near; I have, therefo classed the arrangement of the hours of labour as one of the effects of having the labourers housed the farms." (S. 7.)

6. Mr. Culley makes some further remarks well worthy of attention upon the effects he "farm cottage system," on the interests of the landowners and the farmer, and on community at large (S. 8, 9, 10). As regards the latter, he points out that it,—

"hecks the over-growth of an agricultural population, and that accumulation of catch labourers ding greatly on the poor law for support which is such a distressing feature in many southern lish villages.

he farm village system with its yearly hiring provides a certain income for regular farm labourers, it were dictates how many families a purely agricultural district can decently support. Out- are warned off, and the hint is not thrown away upon men of such independent character and ory habits as the Scotch. The absence of catch labourers, no doubt, puts a certain amount of are on the farmer at certain seasons; but on many well-conducted farms in the south of Scotland -mallness of whose labour staff would astonish an English farmer) the work of the year, with the ion of harvest, is got through with only the occasional assistance of some members of the hinds' es who are not usually employed in field work." (S. 11.)

7. Mr. Culley discusses at length the question of the effect of the farm cottage system he interests of the labourer, and his conclusion is strongly in its favour, including the mpaniment of that system in Scotland, the part payment of wages in kind:—

Such certainly has been my experience in Scotland; the most comfortable homes and the most nted labourers are to be found in that part of my district in which the 'kind payment' is most loped. No small part of these 'advantages' I would assign to the cow. There is an absolute between the cost of the cow's keep to the farmer and its value to the labourer, arising from the stry and attention of his wife. To attend to her household duties and her cow is sufficient oyment for the farm labourer's wife in the cow counties (Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and East dian), and both are well attended to." (S. 12.)

8. As regards the cottages themselves, all the Assistant Commissioners record the fact he great effort that has been made by the landowners of Scotland generally, especially ng the last 20 years, for increasing the number of cottages and improving the mmodation afforded in them.

Great progress in improving cottage accommodation within the last 20 years.

Mr. Culley states, as regards his district:—

During the last 20 years a great change for the better has taken place; pressed on, I have no t, by the publication of the Rev. Harry Stuart's very interesting pamphlet on the social condition ne agricultural labouring class, as well as by the formation in the same year, 1853, of the sociation for promoting Improvements in the Dwellings of Agricultural Labourers.'

There is probably no district in Scotland where the improvement in cottage accommodation has e so much progress as in the south-eastern counties, an improvement becoming everywhere more ked as you travel from the north to the south of my district. As a whole, farm labourers are now r housed in the lowland part of my district than in any of the south-midland counties of England; I know no county in England where the average cottage accommodation is so good as in Berwick- e; a remark which would also apply to part of Roxburghshire and East Lothian." (S. 91, 92.)

9. Mr. Culley desires "to persuade English landowners that cottages attached to arms" are a profitable investment, irrespective of the rent the labourer is disposed to in money; such cottages to be held directly from the landlord by labourers nominated the farmer. (S. 14.)

Cottages a profitable investment irrespective of rent.

10. There is indeed, Mr. Culley adds, still great room for improvement in Scotland both as to quality and quantity of cottage accommodation." (S. 93.)

Much room for further improvement.

This is substantially the case in the other parts of Scotland, described by the Assistant mmissioners. Mr. Norman remarks upon the improvement which has been going on his district. "But few of the old turf houses are to be seen now." "The cottages re substantially built of stone, with either slated or thatched roofs." (R. 25, 27.) t drainage and ventilation are still but little attended to, and "as a general rule" the tages are "totally insufficient in number," (R. 31.); the consequences of which, upon comfort and the morality of the people are described as very serious. (R. 31–36.)

Mr. Campion, although the circumstances of his district in regard to cottage accommo- ion are peculiar, and although he is compelled to notice "the general complaints of he scarcity of cottage accommodation" in a great part of his district, (V. 25.) shows vertheless that a great improvement has been of late years in progress in the High- ds. Still he remarks that "many cottages of a late date possess very insufficient ccommodation." (V. 27.) It is satisfactory to learn that where cottages of a perior kind have been built "the pains which have been bestowed by the occupants upon the order and even decoration of their rooms, show the excellent effect which may be produced by improved dwellings upon the habits of the people." (V. 28.)

The description given by Mr. Campion of the condition of the crofters of the High- ds and rural labouring population generally, and of the circumstances which affect em is very full and particular, and will be read with much interest and profit. As gards their habitations, Mr. Campion's conclusion is that the cottages "are fully on a

" level with the circumstances of the people, and any improvement to be lasting, mu
" commence, either with some fresh development of the resources of the country or th
" exodus of a considerable part of its population." (V. 83.)

Mr. Boyle mentions, that in the lowland portion of his district the number of cottage although still "very scanty," is "much on the increase"; but those which some lan owners have provided on a liberal scale of accommodation are not yet appreciated they may by degrees be expected to be (U. 55, 56). In Argyllshire "cottage buildi " is making considerable progress both in numbers and quality" (U. 59). But th cottages of the crofter all along the seaboard are still described as "most wretched (U. 60.)

61. In Mr. Henry Tremenheere's district strong contrasts are found between the estate where cottage improvement has been well attended to and those on which it has bee neglected. In Dumfriesshire vast sums of money have been laid out in adding to an improving the cottage accommodation both by the large landowners (50,000*l.* by on landowner, his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh), "and by the proprietors of Dumfrie " shire as a class (T. 28). They have had nevertheless considerable difficulties t encounter "in the habits of the people" (T. 29). The system adopted by Mr. Hop Johnstone, which has been in operation for the last 50 years with great success, of grantin building leases of cottages to cottagers, is worthy of especial notice (T. 40). The tenar and the landlord share the expense of building together. The cottages built on th principle now amount to 200. A small portion of land, varying in size according t quality, is usually leased with the cottage, not so large as to "encroach upon the tim " of the tenant for earning regular wages." The whole system has been found "mo " conducive to the comfort, independence, and good conduct of the labouring classes (T. 42). In Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtonshire the same "gradual improvement i " taking place" (T. 56–71). In both those counties there are conspicuous examples c landowners who have expended large sums in adding to the number of cottages o improved plans. In Ayrshire, on the other hand, except on the estate of a few larg proprietors, but little appears to have been done.

"The inadequate supply of cottages for the agricultural labouring class and their deplorable cond tion present a marked contrast to the high cultivation and general prosperity which are everywhe conspicuous in Ayrshire ; and in no county in Scotland can the wants and comfort of the rural popul tion in that respect be more disregarded. Not only are cottages not built, but the old ones a permitted to fall into decay and ruin, and no disposition is shown to replace them. In some extensiv parishes the cottages are not sufficient for a tenth of the labouring population, and in many there are n cottages at all." (T. 98.)

62. " The characteristics of this rich district (Ayrshire) are fine farms, commodious farm " houses, and hovels" lamentably deficient in all the elements of comfort. (T. 104) The " inconveniences to the farmers" of this state of things are described as being great in limiting the supply of labour ; and its effects upon morals are noticed, here a elsewhere, to be injurious. (T. 99, 100.)

63. The strong contrasts above alluded to between estates on which cottage improve ment has been well attended to and those on which it has been neglected, are presente by Mr. Henry Tremenheere in the following paragraphs.

In Dumfriesshire—

"Some of the worst cottages I have met with in the course of this inquiry, either in England Wales, or Scotland, are those on the estates of the Marquis of Queensberry. I counted more than dozen in the parish of Tynwald, a few miles from the town of Dumfries, with only one room, and tha room crammed with box beds in which families of eight or nine persons live and sleep. The thatche roofs were in a state of mouldering decay, the mud floors worn into holes, and the walls, even in th month of June, were saturated with moisture. The cottage occupied by the grieve of one of th principal farmers in the parish, paying a rent of 1,200*l.* a year, was little better than a hovel; th kitchen floor was not even flagged; the roof was of thatch, and the paper of the only bedroom wa hanging in strips from the damp wall. On another large estate belonging to the same nobleman, I wa informed by the tenant that on entering upon the farm he had found it necessary to expend 300*l.* to pu the few cottages on it in a condition fit for human habitation." (T. 33.)

In Ayrshire—

"Between Ayr and Girvan is the extensive property of the Marquis of Ailsa, which is laid out in larg farms generally within a short distance of or contiguous to the sea. The ploughmen's cottages on thi noble domain are lamentably defective. Stables, byres, cart-sheds, dilapidated farmhouses, and disuse dog kennels have been converted into abodes for the people who live on the estates. In some of thes wretched places, consisting only of one room, as many as 10 or 11 persons are living. The damp broke clay floors are covered with beds, the decaying thatch roof is pervious to rain, which in some cottages i kept out by guano bags stretched across the rafters. A considerable farmer, who rents one of th largest estates on this property, assured me that it was always with a feeling of shame and humiliatio that he introduced a newly hired ploughman to one of these hovels as his future home." (T. 103.)

64. But it is justly added, that "landed proprietors are not always to be blamed for the condition of the cottages on their estates. Their means of effecting even the most necessary improvements are often crippled by heavy incumbrances" (T. 34), and by the laws of entail in Scotland, which compels landlords to continue the nominal owners of entailed estates after the substance has departed from them." (R. 36.) Mr. Campion remarks (V. 84) that "even where improvements on a larger scale is practicable, as far as natural circumstances go, it is artificially hampered by the present state of the law of entail, which prevents proprietors from laying out any considerable sum upon their estate, except at enormous personal sacrifice to themselves." That some alteration of this law "is urgently needed" is the opinion of many witnesses whose testimony was given to this Commission, first during our inquiries in England and again in Scotland. On this subject, Mr. Culley thus expresses his opinion in regard to Scotland:— Obstacle presented by heavy incumbrances on estates. Alteration in the law of entail much needed.

"Admitted, then, that the social condition of the labourer, as well as the advancement of agriculture, demand an improvement both in the quality and quantity of cottages, what remedy have we to propose where the pecuniary condition of landed estates prevents the owners from carrying out such improvement?

"The remedy which I see in the prospective is an Act of Parliament to prevent the entail of burdened estates, and for the present a more rational use of the powers given to the Inclosure Commissioners for sanctioning loans contracted by life tenants for building cottages.

"In the last session of Parliament the Lord Advocate for Scotland introduced a Bill entitled 'A Bill to amend the Law of Entail in Scotland,' the 10th clause of which says, '*It shall not hereafter be lawful to entail any estate in Scotland.*' If that clause had stood alone it might have become law; but as the Bill included many intricate arrangements for dealing with interests already created under the present law it failed. I confess I see no prospect of the present life tenants of burdened estates being put in a position to meet any sudden outlay for cottage building or for any other purpose; and the only remedy I can suggest, say for the next 50 years, is an extension of the time over which rentcharges can be granted for loans on cottage building." (S. 99, 100.)

65. With regard to loans for cottage building by the Inclosure Commissioners, to which allusion is made in the above paragraph, Mr. Culley reports that he received from many witnesses complaints "of the stringency of the Commissioners' rules," and at the same time suggestions "advocating an extension of the duration of the rentcharge and thereby a 'reduction of the annual payments." (S. 101.) Mr. Campion directs attention to the complaint that, as regards the Highlands, the requirements of the Inclosure Commission are above what is "suitable to the habits of the people and to the districts" (V. 25), and the terms of repayment are too high. (V. 82.) Mr. Boyle states, that in Argyllshire he "did not come across any case of public money being applied for to build "cottages; the universal answer was that the conditions made it impossible for land-"lords to borrow such money at any advantage to themselves." (U. 56.) Mr. Henry Tremenheere also states with respect to his district, that "it is alleged that if the Com-"missioners were satisfied with less expensive plans for labourers' cottages, many more "would probably be built under the provisions of the Act than have hitherto been." (T. 34.) Mr. Culley gives his opinion with regard to the "extension of the duration of "the rentcharge" that it should be "to 40 years, which is quite within the natural life of a well-built cottage." (S. 101.) Loans for cottage building by Inclosure Commissioners.

66. These opinions, which are thus shown to prevail widely throughout Scotland, will doubtless receive from the Inclosure Commissioners renewed attention. A return with which the Commissioners have favoured us (Appendix, p. 141), shows how small a proportion of the loans sanctioned by them for agricultural improvement has been expended in building cottages in Scotland, although cottage improvement in Scotland has made great advances, as above noticed. (§ 58.)

67. Of the other two modes of lodging farm servants in Scotland, "the farm kitchen "system" and "the bothy system," the former has given way, except in a few counties, (S. 23, R. 39) to the cottage and the bothy. The "Bothy system."

The advantages of the "kitchen plan," which is disappearing with the rise of the farmer in the social scale, are thus stated by Mr. Norman:—

"The advantages of the kitchen plan are that the men have more variety of food, that their food is better prepared and more wholesome, and that they pass their evenings in the farmer's house and often under his eye, and that they are therefore under a better supervision than the bothy men, who live out of the house in a place which their master rarely enters; and further, it is said that the 'kitchen' system gives better opportunities for study and self-improvement than the bothy, a clean, well-lighted, and warm kitchen being more comfortable than a cold, dim, untidy, and ill-lighted bothy." (R. 39.)

68. The bothy system has been a subject of much controversy in Scotland. The "bothy" is a separate building on a farm for the unmarried labourers. There are both male and female bothies, but the latter are comparatively rare. The bothy system is found principally in the counties of Perth, Fife, Forfar, and Kincardine.

69. The manner in which the bothy system has arisen out of the demand for farm labour on certain soils and in the absence of a source of occasional supply of labour, either from cottages or neighbouring villages, is thus fully described by Mr. Culley:—

"On arable farms in Perthshire, especially in the Carse of Gowrie and neighbourhood, a large proportion of the ploughmen are unmarried and live in bothies, cooking their own food, and (with a few exceptions, where the wife of a neighbouring foreman or cattleman gives the bothy an occasional 'redd up') performing all necessary domestic duties for themselves.

"As this plan of employing unmarried ploughmen, leading naturally after the downfall of the 'kitchen system' to what is generally known as the 'bothy system,' is the chief feature which distinguishes the management of labour in the north and south of my district, it may be well to explain its apparent origin.

"In the Carse of Gowrie and lower part of Strathearn, the chief seat of the bothy as far as my district is concerned, there is a great deal of stiff clay land (what is commonly known as carse land) requiring a very large proportion of horses, and therefore of ploughmen, for its cultivation. At the same time, this carse land is not very well adapted for the growth of root crops, especially turnips, which of all crops is the one causing most demand for female labour. In point of fact, up till a comparatively recent date very few turnips were grown in the Carse of Gowrie, and even on the 'black land' of the Inches, potatoes, which demand female labour for a much shorter period, were much more popular.

"Having, then, the necessity of providing a ploughman for about every 40 acres of arable land, and requiring very little help except in harvesting corn and potatoes (for the absence of turnips and growth of potatoes for sale implies the keeping of very little live stock), and having, too, in former times a sufficient supply of female labour from the families of handloom weavers for his occasional jobs, the carse farmer naturally fell into a system of employing unmarried ploughmen as the cheaper article. On the break down of the 'kitchen system' consequent on the increase of the size of farms and rise in the social scale of the farmer class, the bothy became the home of the ploughman.

"I don't mean to say that the bothy system only exists where land is heavy and the demand for female labour is intermittent; but that it is a very natural way of supplying labour under these circumstances, especially where the hands required for short periods of pressure can be obtained from a population not altogether depending on farm labour. As soon as the population not strictly agricultural fails to provide outworkers for casual labour, or improved cultivation finds constant employment for outworkers, the male bothy system, unless supplemented by a female bothy system, breaks down." (S. 16, 17.)

70. In Haddingtonshire and Edinburghshire there are no ploughman's bothies, but as there is a large demand for female out-door labour, and the hinds' daughters have a great inclination for domestic service, female bothies are more common. (S. 26, 27, 28.)

In the counties of Perth and Fife, and elsewhere in Mr. Culley's district, "whatever "may have been the condition of female bothies in times past," he saw very little to complain of. Mr. Campion gives a very unfavourable picture of the bothies in a large portion of his district, and of their results upon the morals of the people. The system was strongly condemned by many persons whose opinions are entitled to great weight. (V. 46–56.) The general character of the bothies in Fifeshire and Kincardineshire is also thus described by Mr. Norman.

"As a general rule, the bothy consists of a portion of the farm buildings or steading formed into a single room of moderate size. It is supplied with no separate sleeping apartments, and nobody is employed to clean it or to make the beds (and the bothy men, if left to themselves, never attempt to keep it clean and tidy); a heap of coals will be seen in one corner and firewood in another; it is furnished with no tables or seats, so that on returning from work the only place which the servants have to sit down upon is their chests; and the flags with which it is paved are generally broken into small pieces by having the firewood chopped upon them. The bothies are but rarely well ventilated. In a few cases I have met with bothies attached to the stables where the ventilation (if indeed it can be so called) was of the worst description. I recollect two which consisted of portions of the stables in which cart horses were kept, and were only separated from the stables themselves by thin wooden partitions, which were broken and defective in many places. These bothies had no means of obtaining air except what came through the stables; and the stables themselves were badly ventilated and contained several horses each. The air, therefore, which the men breathed must have been most impure." (R. 37.)

71. But there were a few others of a far better kind "on the farms of landowners and "large farmers."

"The best contain a large sitting room with a separate sleeping closet for each servant, and a supply of fresh water for washing purposes. These bothies, if they are kept clean by a woman employed for that purpose, appear to me to be as good a mode of lodging unmarried men as any that can be adopted." (R. 37.)

72. Again, on Lord Kinnaird's estate in Perthshire and "on several other estates" in that county and in Fife, the comfort and convenience of the men was well provided for. In the best instances "a respectable woman attends to the beds and the general comfort "of the men." (S. 115.) Of the management of the female bothies there appears to be no complaint. (S. 116.)

73. In the south of Mr. Culley's district the bondage system prevails, by which the hind is bound to provide the farmer with a female labourer when required.

74. Of the bothy system Mr. Culley thinks that it is "a mistake economically," (S. 115, 1, 43), in that it "discourages the growth of a population of whom the female portion as well as the male look to farm labour as their means of livelihood." This result Mr. Culley describes as "an unmitigated evil."

The bothy system and the bondage system should be superseded by an adequate supply of cottages.

"Instead of the fine healthy race of young women you find employed in farm work in the south of district, in the bothy counties all the lighter farm work is passing into the hands of Irish immigrants, if this process goes on at the rate it has been doing of late, a great change will come over the haracter of the rural population in the centre of Scotland." (S. 22, 42.)

75. And Mr. Culley is consequently of opinion that both the bothy and the "bondage system" should, in the interest of the owners and occupiers of land as well as of the abourers, be superseded by a sufficient supply of cottages. On this point Mr. Culley's marks are very copious and full of well considered detail. (S. 32–44.) The following aragraphs embody his conclusions on the subject. (S. 29–31.):—

"As if, however, to prove that with a sufficient number of cottages neither 'bondage system' nor othy is necessary, as well as to indicate what proportion of cottar houses (*i.e.*, cottages not occupied y hired men) is required to provide a sufficient staff for a highly cultivated farm in East Lothian nder a strictly family system, I may point to the description given in s. Appendix B. 69 and 70, of the abourers employed by Mr. Jas. Murray, occupier of East Barns farm in the parish of Dunbar.

"Mr. Murray's farm, which is about 33 miles east of Edinburgh and four miles from the small town Dunbar, includes 500 acres of rich red loam, all under the plough, and cultivated in seven course tation; for this he pays a rent of 2,400*l.* a year.

"There are attached to this farm (including groom's and gardener's cottages) 24 cottages, and from ese Mr. Murray obtains a staff of 23 men and lads and 22 women. Nine of these cottages are ccupied by cottars supplying 14 female workers (of whom 13 are single women and one a widow), the maining 15 cottages, as it were under a voluntary system, contribute eight female workers.

"Mr. Murray's system is a family one in every sense of the word, not only do his female house rvants all belong to the families of his farm servants, but there were at the time I visited the farm x cottar houses occupied by the widows and daughters of men who had died in his service.

"It may be that Mr. Murray conducts his labour arrangements on what to most farmers would ppear too benevolent a scale, but the enormous rent he pays from ordinary agricultural produce serves contradict this, as well as to justify his boast, that during the quarter of a century he has occupied ast Barns farm, no labourers of his or any members of their families have received parochial relief.

"Taking Mr. Murray's farm as an example, it would appear, as was stated I believe some years ago y Mr. George Hope (than whom no man is more deservedly well-known in the agricultural world of cotland) that to do away with the necessity of the bothy or bondage system, the number of cottages ttached to a farm in high cultivation should exceed by one half the number of hired men (*i.e.*, grieves, epherds, cattlemen, and hinds).

"Where cultivation is less active and root crops occupy a smaller proportion of the land under culti- ation (say, under a five course rotation, where two-fifths of the arable land is in first or second years rtificial grasses) a smaller proportion of cottar houses would be required to do away with the bondage r bothy systems, always, of course, granted that a supply of native women can be obtained.

"Take for example, Mr. Hunter of Thurston's farms in Innerwick parish, where the bondage system ill remains to a limited extent.

"This gentleman, to whom I am indebted for a great deal of information interesting to the Commis- on (s. Appendix B, 89, 90, 108, and 109), farms 2,300 acres (of which 1,455 are arable in five course otation) of his own estate, and employs an ordinary staff of 49 men and lads, and 26 women. Of these 6 young women only four are hired by the cottagers, and are therefore 'bondagers' proper, but four thers belong to the families of men employed on the estate, and would therefore probably not be vailable for a tenant farmer. We have then under ordinary circumstances a proportion of eight out f 26 female workers, for whom under a cottar system probably five additional cottages would be equired, and as the remainder of the staff is supplied by 27 families, the addition would not amount to ne-fifth of the cottages now occupied.

"On Mr. Hunter's farms, however, there is a large proportion of pasture land, and the number of ale labourers as compared with female is much greater than on an ordinary farm under the same course f cropping. As the number of women employed approaches that of men (on some farms they are qual), so the proportion of cottages necessary to supply 'cottar women' in place of 'bondagers' or othy women increases. It may be that an addition of one-fourth to the present number of cottages epresents about the average increase required, as I have endeavoured to show, it will vary from one- ifth to one-half, depending on the inclination of the hinds to keep their daughters at home for farm vork, as well as on the proportion of arable and pasture land."

76. Mr. Culley adds that unfortunately the cost of supplying even the limited proportional addition to the number of existing cottages would "press hard on those estates which can least afford to meet the pressure, as on them less has been done in preparation for such a change" (S. 40), and he expresses a hope that the Inclosure Commissioners may regard the position in a favourable light, and permit the erection of cottages under loans sanctioned by them, at a smaller cost than at present.

Earnings of Scotch agricultural labourers.

77. The earnings of Scotch agricultural labourers have increased very much during the last 20 to 25 years. (R. 19.) Mr. Culley states that "they have been steadily rising for the last 25 years, and in that time have increased nearly one third." (S. 65.) Mr. Henry Tremenheere states that "a very considerable rise in wages has taken place in Dumfriesshire within the last 30 years." (T. 22.) In Kirkcudbrightshire the rise has

been still greater, "from 1*s.* 6*d.* a day to 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.*" (T. 54.) In Wigtonshire wages are slightly lower, "from the comparative density of its population, and the effect "which the Irish immigration has had upon its character." (T. 66.) In Ayrshire the wages "are higher than in either of the above three counties, chiefly owing to the mines, "collieries, and smelting works." (T. 74.) The general rate appears to vary from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and in certain localities it reaches 18*s.* a week. (T. 54, U. 24.) Mr. Norman states that in his district men who work by the week receive about 15*s.* a week when they work ten hours a day, with a deduction of 3*d.* an hour when they work less. (R. 17.) Mr. Culley places "the average value of the weekly wages at the command "of any ordinary able-bodied farm labourer" in his district at from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week. (S. 44.)

78. In any statement of earnings it is necessary to bear in mind the difference in Scotland between farm servants and labourers; the former being hired by the year or half year and receiving their board and lodging as part of their wages; the latter by the day or week, and being paid wholly in money.

With regard to the earnings of these two classes of labourers Mr. Culley states generally that—

"Under the Scotch system the earnings of ploughmen (who form much the largest class of agricultural labourers) may be taken to measure the standard wages of the district. Foremen and shepherds usually receive considerably higher wages than ploughmen; on the other hand, spademen, when not working by the piece, receive rather less, the ploughman in Scotland being to a certain extent a skilled workman and having to work (adding his stable work) rather longer hours than day-tale men." (S. 44.)

79. And after elaborate calculations and comparisons (S. 45–59) Mr. Culley comes to the conclusion that the married ploughman throughout his extensive district (hired by the year or half year), "receives a wage," in money and in kind "equal to about 15*s.* a week, and the unmarried ploughman (similarly hired and paid) a wage equal to 14*s.* a week. Ordinary labourers hired by the week, receive 1*s.* a week less. (S. 60.)

80. The yearly hiring is attended, as Mr. Culley remarks, with this additional advantage, that "it saves the amount of insurance paid by the English ploughman to his "sickness fund."

81. The total result in the case of the Scotch labourer in regard to his means for educating his children, for commencing married life in comfort by aid of previous savings, and continuing it in a condition of ease and family union by means of "the family purse," is thus described by Mr. Culley, and is much worthy of attention in England:—

"You have then about 15*s.* a week as the available means of a Scotch hind to educate his children up to the time when the elder children begin to work. He may or may not have some assistance from the earnings of his wife, but in this respect his position differs very little from the English ploughman.

"There is, however, one very important difference. The English couple usually begin with no provision to set up a house, and therefore begin the battle of life in debt. A Scotch couple (save where the marriage is hastened by a "misfortune" on the part of the woman) seldom marry without a providing of something like 40*l.* equally divided between the man and woman.

"As soon as the elder children have received, what the hind considers, a sufficient education, the position of the family is one of comparative ease. Under the family system of the Lothians and Border district, with its accompanying family purse, incomes of from 75*l.* to 100*l.* a year coming into a hind's cottage are by no means uncommon." (S. 61.)

Savings by agricultural labourers.

82. Mr. Norman remarks that in his district out of such earnings as have been "described, unmarried servants could save 10*l.* every year without denying them-"selves any reasonable gratification." (R. 20.) And on the amount of savings by agricultural labourers, many striking examples are brought together by Mr. Norman (R. 21, 22), Mr. Culley (S. 122), Mr. Henry Tremenheere (T. 20), and Mr. Boyle (U. 6). Mr. Culley mentions that in the Fifeshire savings bank there are 400 deposits held by "ploughmen and labourers," and in the Perth savings bank 2,153 deposits "belonging to ploughmen, gardeners, foresters, and common labourers chiefly engaged "in agriculture." (S. 122.) And as regards the amounts, all the Assistant Commissioners notice them as often very considerable. Mr. Culley states that in all the three banks which he had named "there are examples of deposits held by farm labourers which have "reached the limit (200*l.*) beyond which the savings banks cease to pay interest." (*ibid.*)

The diet of the Scotch agricultural labourer.

83. Of the diet of the Scotch labourer a general description has been given in a former paragraph (S. 54.) The principal points in which it differs from the ordinary diet of the agricultural labourer in England is in the much more general use of milk, and in the use of oatmeal, and in some localities the meal of peas, barley, or beans (s. pages 52, 53, 64, t. Ayr. 1). The valuable acquisition of milk is obtained by the labourer in many counties by his being allowed the keep of a cow, in others by a daily allowance

commonly a Scotch pint) from the farmer; sometimes its value is given in money. The sale of a portion of the allowance of meal may enable the labourer to purchase what he chooses, tea, bread, cheese, butter, or bacon. Butchers' meat appears to be rarely at their command, except in the cases where the hinds are boarded with the farmer on the old "kitchen system." (R. 20, U. 6.) In some parts of Scotland the old Scotch dietaries appear to have given place to some extent to tea and wheaten bread; and tobacco and whiskey are said "to run away with a good deal of the labourer's money." (T. 88.) Mr. Culley also draws attention to "certain indications of a change in the character and habits of Scotch labourers, arising from the demand for increased luxuries of life common to all classes of society" (S. 125); and he adds that it is remarked with regret that "the increased wage has not improved the manners and customs or comfort of the agricultural labouring class." (S. 65.) It is said by farmers that "the simple and nutritious diet of former days produced better and stronger men." (T. 93.) The substitution of wheaten bread, cheese, butter, and tea for porridge "is believed to have acted unfavourably upon the physique of the agricultural labourer. They are said not to weigh so heavily as when milk and oatmeal porridge and potatoes were their chief support, and to have lost in working power." (T. 55.) It is probable that the smaller quantities of the more expensive articles of diet consumed produce less nourishment than the former abundant meals of milk, oat and barley meal, and potatoes, and that the change of diet where it has occurred, as was shown to have been the case in South Northumberland, and to have produced the same results, is to be lamented. It is also to be regretted that there are indications in some parts of Scotland of a disinclination to encourage the labourers to keep a pig, with its double benefit of improving the produce of the garden or potato ground (S. p. 17, note), and furnishing the labourer with a supply of home-raised animal food (T. 13). In some localities "straw for a pig" makes a part of the yearly bargain. (S. 51, 59.) We have ventured to insert in the Appendix (p. 139) some notices on the subject of the diet of the agricultural labourer in this and other countries which are well deserving of serious attention.

84. The want of proper cottage accommodation both in amount and quality, which has been shown to affect greatly the comfort of the rural labouring class, is also pointed to by the Assistant Commissioners as "very detrimental to the morality of the people," and therefore operating injuriously upon the education and moral training of the young. The "excessive amount of illegitimacy" that exists in some counties is alleged to arise to a great extent from the discouragement to marriage given by the want of cottages. (R. 33, 34, t. Ayr. 26). To "the difficulty of obtaining cottages," Mr. Culley thinks that other causes for the "high rate of illegitimacy prevailing among the Lowland Scotch" (S. 117, 118) are to be added, which he enumerates (S. 118–120, and note), and which appear well worthy of attention among those whose position and influence may be effectually exerted in leading to altered habits. The very fruitful source of illegitimacy noticed by Mr. Campion in a portion of his district, that of bothies in which single men and single women are lodged under one roof (in nine cases out of 15 visited by him in one county with scarcely any separation at all between them) (V. 48.), as has been already adverted to, calls for speedy correction by those on whose properties they are found.

Want of proper supply of cottages detrimental to morality.

85. The system of "hiring fairs" has also often been pointed out as one of the causes of immorality and illegitimacy. Mr. Norman says of them that "these feeing markets were "more frequently complained of to me as the cause of demoralisation to the servants "who attended than any other institutions which were brought to my attention in Scot-"land." (R. 23.) The other Assistant Commissioners also report a similar opinion of them as prevailing in the rest of Scotland. Mr. Boyle says of them "that he cannot "recollect hearing from any employer a word in their favour." (U. 12.) In many parts of Scotland they are of comparatively recent introduction. Mr. Norman states that the one at Inverurie in Aberdeenshire was established "about 40 or 50 years ago;" that at Forres "about 30," and that at Nairn "about 16." Mr. Boyle states that in his district "they are quite a new thing." In Lanarkshire 20 years ago "there were "hardly any." (U. 12.) They are falling into disfavour among the farmers in many districts. (U. 12, T. 22, 77, S. 121.) On the other hand they are popular with the farm servants, and on this both Mr. Norman and Mr. Culley state that "certain circum-"stances may be urged in extenuation of the conduct of the Scotch farm servants "as compared with English":—

"Hiring fairs."

"There are but few villages in Scotland, and for six months in the year the servants hardly ever leave the farm on which they work, and see and speak to nobody but their fellow servants. In England the labourers have an opportunity of meeting their friends in the village every evening. Is it surprising then that the Scotch servants, whose opportunities of associating with their friends are so

few, should seize every opportunity which offers itself of amusement and society? Efforts have bee made in Scotland as in England to substitute registries for these feeing markets, but according to m experience with a similar want of success. The servants themselves look upon the day of the feein market as a holiday, and set themselves against any proposal which has for its object the abolition o this holiday." (R. 23.)

To the same effect are Mr. Culley's observations on this subject:—

"The promotion of social gatherings and rational amusements amongst the labouring class seem to me, too, the first step towards putting an end to the much complained of nuisance of feeing o hiring markets.

"The holidays of a ploughman are few, and his amusements, apart from the abuse of drink or th society of women, still fewer. How then can you expect him to second any praiseworthy efforts t put an end to his annual spree at the hiring fair. Let him be given more frequent opportunities o diverting himself in a decent manner, and then I feel sure he will be content to change his servic through the medium of a register, or if he still attends the market he will conduct himself in such manner as not to give offence to his more polished neighbours." (S. 121.)

No legislative restrictions on labour required.

86. The question as to whether any legislative restrictions on the employment of women and children were necessary, was carefully examined by all the Assistant Commissioners and it clearly appears that whether in regard to the hours of work or the kinds or mode of work, no abuse exists in Scotland calling for the intervention of the Legislature (S. 66–90, R. 10, 11, T. 5, 8–10, 49–52, 80, U. 7–11.)

87. The Assistant Commissioners however, invite attention to some subjects, in addition to those upon which we have remarked in detail, especially that of the condition of the small crofters in the Highlands, with respect to which the liberal and enlightened exertions of individual landowners, already very conspicuous in many cases, is capable of effecting changes which will add greatly to the comfort and well-being of the rural population.

New modes of constructing cottages at less cost.

88. The subject of the possibility of erecting, by any new mode of building, cottages of a substantial and durable construction at a cost which will permit of a proper interest upon the outlay being paid by the ordinary cottage rents, is of such general importance that we venture to direct attention to the evidence which we have inserted in the Appendix (p.137) in continuation of that in our First Report, upon Mr. Nicoll's mode of building with composite slabs of Portland cement concrete and other materials, and upon that of Messrs. Hooper and Corpe with Portland cement concrete alone for the walls, and with the ordinary timber and slate roof.

The inquiries of this Commission may be productive of benefit to agricultural labouring class in both countries.

89. In bringing to a close the duties of this Commission we presume to express a hope that this inquiry with which we have had the honour of being intrusted, will, in connexion with the previous inquiries of this Commission in England and Wales (Reports of 1869 and 1870), be found to afford several subjects of contrast and comparison, the consideration of which will be productive of benefit to the agricultural labouring class in both countries.

All this we humbly certify to Your Majesty.

Given under our hands and seals this thirteenth day of February 1871.

HUGH SEYMOUR TREMENHEERE.
EDWARD CARLETON TUFNELL.

2, Victoria Street, Westminster.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS, AND CIRCULAR.

COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (1867).—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN SCOTLAND.

Instructions to the Assistant Commissioners.

2, Victoria Street, Westminster,
Gentlemen, January 20th, 1870.

The experience gained in the course of the inquiries under this Commission in England and Wales during the last two years makes it unnecessary for us to do more, on the occasion of your commencing your duties in Scotland, than record in these Instructions, for the information of any persons not conversant with the nature of the inquiry, the terms of the Commission which it pleased Her Majesty to issue to us in 1867, and advert to a few points which, in different parts of Scotland, you will find to demand especial attention.

The terms of this Commission are that we should "inquire into and report on the employment of children, young persons, and women in Agriculture, for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent and with what modifications the principles of the Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of such employment, and especially with a view to the better Education of such children."

It may be of service to persons to whom you may think it desirable to communicate these Instructions, to be informed, that the leading principles of the Factory Acts in their bearing upon this inquiry are,—

The protection of the young and of females from excessive labour;

The requirement of a certain amount of school attendance for children between the ages of 8 and 13, earning wages; no one under 8 years of age being allowed to be employed;

and that the principal questions of detail which you have so fully investigated in England and Wales, and which will now occupy you in Scotland, are as follows:—

1. Is legislation required for the purpose of fixing the age below which boys should not be allowed to be employed in farm labour?
2. If it is, what is the age below which it would be desirable to enact that no boy should be employed in farm labour?
3. Is legislation required for the purpose of fixing the age below which girls should not be allowed to be employed in farm labour?
4. If it is, what is the age below which it is desirable to enact that no girl should be employed in farm labour?
5. Is there good ground for limiting the hours of work of boys?
6. If there is, what are the limitations proposed?
7. Is there good ground for limiting the hours of work for girls?
8. If there is, what are the limitations proposed?
9. Is there any need that the proper meal times should be secured by legislation to the young and to females engaged in farm labour?
10. Is it necessary to secure by legislation that there should be limitations, in proportion to age, of the distance to which it should be lawful to take children, or young persons, or women to work?
11. Is it necessary to provide by legislation that females should be protected from unhealthy or unsuitable employment in agriculture?
12. The education of the young.

The last point,—namely, the education of the young,—is one which is of especial interest with reference to the contrasts it will afford to what has come under your observation in England. You will inquire particularly into the effect upon the education of the labouring classes in agriculture, of the existence for so many generations of the Scotch system of parochial schools. In the schools themselves you will note any circumstances in the modes of teaching to which attention may be usefully drawn in this country. You will be careful to ascertain to what extent and with what results the practices prevail of causing the children to purchase their own books; of requiring certain lessons to be prepared at home; of testing such lessons accurately and with little loss of time; of encouraging emulation in the classes; of accustoming children to the use of a dictionary, or leading them by other means to a knowledge of the meaning of words; of requiring passages of prose or verse to be committed to memory; of fixing such passages in the memory by repetitions at certain periods: and you will compare the amount of acquirement which you find among boys of the agricultural class, of certain ages, with those of similar ages whose progress you may have noticed in English elementary schools.

If cases come under your observation in which the education of the young found at work is discovered to be defective, you will ascertain to what its defective state is attributable, whether—

(*a.*) To the want of schools readily accessible to the children?

(*b.*) To the inefficient mode of instruction in such schools as exist?

(*c.*) To the poverty of the parents?

(*d.*) To the indisposition of the parents to forego the weekly sum that may be added to the family earnings by the child's labour?

(*e.*) To the low moral tone of the parents, which leads them to be indifferent to the education of their children?

(*f.*) To the pressure put upon the parents by the employers to induce the parents to allow their children to go to work at too early an age?

(*g.*) Or to any other cause that can be specified?

The actual amount of earnings by agricultural employment in various parts of Scotland, and the relative ability of the labouring poor to pay for their children's schooling, will engage your attention.

It will be necessary to inquire into the different modes of hiring and employment; especially whether the gang system exists in any form, and if so, with what results; and you will describe the modes of payment, whether in money or in kind, of ordinary agricultural labourers, male and female.

You will seek for opportunities of inquiring and judging for yourselves whether deficient cottage accommodation has or has not a prejudicial influence on education or morals.

The Census of 1861 for Scotland having brought to light the fact that a large proportion of the families in Scotland live in one room, and a second large proportion in houses having only two rooms, if the evidence tends to show that deficient cottage accommodation has an injurious effect on education or morals, you will endeavour to ascertain whether any and what progress is being made towards providing better cottage accommodation for the labouring poor; whether there are any and what obstacles in the state of the law to a quicker progress towards supplying such a want; and whether means might be suggested for diminishing such obstacles.

Public attention has been frequently called to the modes in practice in Scotland of housing farm servants, and more particularly to that denominated the "Bothy system." Much evil to the education and morals of the young has been attributed to this system. The subject will necessarily engage your earnest attention.

The condition of the agricultural labourer in Scotland, in the respective portions of the country where large and where small farms exist, either exclusively or together, will be a prominent object of your inquiry in its bearing on the pecuniary resources of the agricultural labourer, and his opportunities and inducements to thrift and forethought, and consequently on his means of educating his children and improving his own and their position in life. The fullest illustration that the facts which you may obtain may enable you to give of the effects of education in promoting the welfare both of parents and children of the agricultural labouring class will be of much value.

We are, &c.
Hugh Seymour Tremenheere.
Edward Carleton Tufnell.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

CIRCULAR.

TO MAGISTRATES, CLERGYMEN, AND OTHERS.

2, Victoria Street, Westminster,
S.W.,

SIR,

ON the 10th of May 1867 Her Majesty was pleased to issue a commission to Mr. Hugh Seymour Tremenheere and Mr. Edward Carleton Tufnell, "to inquire into and "report upon the employment of children, young persons, "and women in agriculture, for the purpose of ascertaining "to what extent and with what modifications the principles "of the Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of "such employments, and especially with a view to the "better education of such children."

The Commissioners direct me to express to you their hope that you will be disposed to grant to them your aid towards the full elucidation of the subjects of great public interest embraced in the inquiry.

The Assistant Commissioners appointed with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department are, Frederick Henry Norman, Esq., George Culley, Esq., Henry Tremenheere, Esq., Robert F. Boyle, Esq., and Charles Walter Campion, Esq.

One of these Gentlemen will address himself to you. He will point out to you the manner in which your co-operation might be most effectual, and will thankfully avail himself of any assistance which it may be in your power to render him.

The subjects on which the Assistant Commissioner will especially desire to be favoured with such information as it may be in your power to give him, are the following:—

1. The nature and extent of the employment of women and children in agriculture.
2. The state of education among the young employed in agriculture.
3. The quality and sufficiency of cottage accommodation.
4. The different modes of hiring and boarding farm servants, and their respective advantages and disadvantages.
5. The general social condition of the agricultural labourer in its bearing upon the education of his children.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
EDWARD L. DANIELL,
Secretary.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

SIR,

IN accordance with the instructions of the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty "to inquire into and "report upon the employment of children, young persons, "and women in agriculture, for the purpose of ascertaining "to what extent, and with what modifications the "principles of the Factory Acts can be adopted for the "regulation of such employment, and especially with a "view to the better education of such children," I beg leave to invite your attention to the enclosed papers.

I purpose doing myself the honour of waiting upon you on next should that day not be inconvenient to you; and I shall be obliged by any aid you may be good enough to afford towards the objects of the commission.

It would greatly facilitate the inquiry with which I am charged if you would kindly supply the information asked for in the circular herewith enclosed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Commissioner.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

2, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,
January 20th, 1870.

HER Majesty's Commissioners beg the favour of answers to the questions contained in the following circular.

It may be returned, without payment of postage, to the address printed on the last page.

CIRCULAR of INQUIRIES as to the EMPLOYMENT of CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, and WOMEN in AGRICULTURE.

1. Parish of in the county of post town,

2. Name of the person filling up this Return,
(State whether occupier or owner.)
Date, Address,

3. Population of parish according to census of 1861.
Acreage,

4. Cultivation; whether chiefly arable, chiefly pastoral, or mixed,

The cultivation is

I. *As to Employment in Agriculture.*

1. At what ages, and at what times of the year, are boys employed in agriculture on your property or farm, or in your parish generally?*

2. Are girls so employed, and if so, at what ages and what occupations?

3. To what extent are women so employed?

4. To what distances do the children, young persons, and women employed on your farm or in your parish generally go to work?

5. What are the hours of work?
Of men.
Of women.
Of children.

6. Are the young or females, whether young or grown up, subject to any ill-treatment, or exposed to any physical injury arising from the nature of their work?

7. Have you any observations to make as to the effect of the employment of females in agriculture on morals and on their proper training for domestic duties?

8. Taking into consideration the demand for labour in your parish and neighbourhood, and the pecuniary resources of the agricultural labourers, are you prepared to recommend that any restriction should be placed on the employment of females or children in agriculture?

II. *As to requiring some amount of School Attendance in the case of Children earning Wages by Employment in Farm Labour.*

9. The Commissioners being instructed to inquire to what extent, and with what modifications, the principles of the Factory Acts can be adopted in reference to children employed in agriculture, "especially with a view to the "better education of such children," your opinion is invited on the following points:—

10. The three modes by which the prescribed amount of school attendance of children employed in trades and manufactures is obtained are—
By the Factory Act (7 Vict. c. 15. ss. 31–9).
1. By half day at school and half day at work.
2. By alternate whole days at school and whole days at work.
By the Printworks Act (10 & 11 Vict. c. 70. ss. 2, 3, 26).
3. By school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months.

11. You are requested to state which of such modes of enforcing some amount of school attendance would seem most applicable to the circumstances of your parish and neighbourhood; or whether a combination of one or more of them would better meet those circumstances; or whether any other mode that you might wish to suggest appears to you preferable.

12. What means of education are provided in your parish for the children of the agricultural labouring class? Do they take advantage of them? If not, are there any other causes besides early labour to which you attribute their non-attendance?

* Her Majesty's Commissioners will be much obliged to occupiers of land who will do them the favour of filling in the Labour Return on the last page of this circular.

III. *Condition of Cottages, &c.*

13. What is the condition of the cottages in your parish and neighbourhood? Are they sufficient for the supply of the labour required? Are they conveniently situated with respect to the farms? Are they overcrowded, and have any evil results to morality come under your notice in consequence?

14. Does the mode of lodging farm servants denominated the "Bothy system" exist in your parish, and, if so, have you any remarks to make upon it in regard to its influence on education or morals?

15. Is there any other mode of lodging farm servants in your parish which acts injuriously on education or morals?

16. Have all the cottages in your parish gardens, or, in default of gardens, have all the cottages allotments of land conveniently situated for the use of the labourers and their families?

17. If it is the custom in your parish to allow farm servants such privileges as the keep of a cow or potato ground in addition to or in lieu of garden ground, be good enough to state the extent of such privileges.

18. If there is deficient cottage accommodation, is any progress being made towards increasing it?

19. By the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. (July 1864) the Enclosure Commissioners are authorized to advance public money for the improvement of land, including, by s. 9., "The erection of labourers' cottages, * * and the "improvement of and addition to labourers' cottages."

Have you any remarks to make upon this Act in regard to any additional facilities, or any reduction of cost, that might cause greater progress to be made in supplying the want of good cottages?

IV.—*As to the Numbers of Children at School.*

20. It would be of great assistance towards forming a correct judgment upon the question of requiring some amount of school attendance in the case of children earning wages by employment in farm labour if you could furnish the Commissioners with precise information, or with an approximate estimate, relating to the points embodied in the following tables.

21. Approximate number of children of the agricultural labouring class in attendance at elementary schools in the parish of .

In Summer.

On the Register of some School.

Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	
Total Boys - -		Total Girls - -	

In average Attendance.

Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
Total Boys - -		Total Girls - -	

In Winter.

On the Register of some School.

Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
Total Boys - -		Total Girls - -	

In average Attendance.

Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
Total Boys - -		Total Girls - -	

22. Approximate number of children of the agricultural labouring class neither at school nor at work.

23. Is there an evening school in your parish, and, if so, is it taken advantage of?

V.—*Labour Returns to be filled in by Occupiers of Land.*

24. Give, as nearly as you can, the following particulars:—

Extent of farm to which the returns apply. { acres arable. acres pasture.

Nature of soil. Course of husbandry.

Labourers employed.

——	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -						
„ Summer -						
„ Autumn -						
„ Winter -						

continued.

——	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring -							
„ Summer -							
„ Autumn -							
„ Winter -							

25. Please to state the mode of hiring and manner of paying, whether in money or kind, of ordinary agricultural labourers, male and female?

26. What is the average value of the earnings for months of an ordinary able-bodied farm labourer

APPENDIX.

PART I. TO FOURTH REPORT.

REPORTS

FROM

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

AND

MISCELLANEOUS EVIDENCE.

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REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

REPORT.—By Mr. F. H. NORMAN.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

R.

Time devoted to inquiry.

1. In the month of December last I received instructions from you to inquire into and repor the employment of children, young persons, and women, in agriculture in the six Scotch counti Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, and Nairn. In obedience to those instructions I c menced the examination of the counties assigned to me in the month of February. I devoted whole of that month to the examination of the counties of Forfar and Kincardine. (I may here rem in passing, that the weather during the past winter has been most unfavourable for the prosecuti these inquiries. The cold has been unusually intense and protracted. The difficulties of travel in the country districts were greatly increased, while most of the roads which penetrated into mountains were for many months completely blocked up by snow drifts.) I discontinued the pr cution of my inquiries from the beginning of March until the middle of April, but was eng in the examination of the remainder of the district assigned to me from the 14th of April until 22nd of May.

I have now the honour of submitting to you the results of the examination in which I have l thus engaged.

Geological features of district.

2. A slight knowledge of the geology of these counties will be found of great assistance for the pr comprehension of the various agricultural features which they present. A glance at a geological will show that with two or three small exceptions the whole of the southern parts of Forfarshire Kincardineshire, and the northern parts of Nairnshire and Morayshire, are composed of the old sandstone, while the remainder of these counties, together with the counties of Aberdeen and B which comprise all the mountainous portions of the district assigned to me, are composed of prin rocks, such as gneiss and granite. Of these two main districts the old red sandstone far exceeds granite district in fertility. Land in Forfarshire appeared to me to fetch a higher rent than in

Rents paid.

other agricultural county with which I am acquainted. In the neighbourhood of Dundee there farms which fetch 5*l.* an acre; but here of course a better market can be obtained than in pu agricultural districts; the demand for some particular articles, such as milk and potatoes, being v great. These rents must therefore be taken as abnormally high, but rents of 3*l.* or 4*l.* an acre often paid in the southern parts of Forfarshire and Kincardineshire. From these high sums r varying in amounts may be met with until the small patches of cultivated land situated upon at the base of, the moors are reached, for which only a nominal rent is paid. In Aberdeenshire Banffshire it is commonly said that 1*l.* per acre may be taken as the amount generally paid, but of course varies with the situation and circumstances of the farm. As we go farther north we that on the old red sandstone of Morayshire and Nairnshire rents again rise until they approach

Size of farms.

although they did not appear to me to equal, those paid in Forfarshire. The farms vary greatly extent; but with the exception of the crofters, I think I may say that on the old red sandst generally the farms contain from 150 to 300 acres; some may be found containing 400, 500, 600 acres; but farms of this size are few in number. This is of course exclusive of sheep far Throughout the granite district the farms are considerably smaller than on the old red sandstor The actual measurements are often unknown even to the tenants themselves; the size always be described by the number of horses required to carry on the cultivation, *e.g.* one, two or three horse farms are ordinarily spoken of; a pair of horses being able to work from 50 to 80 ac

* The size of every farm may now be ascertained from the new ordnance maps.

mated upon this basis, I found the largest farms in the granite district in the north-eastern part R.
Aberdeenshire, known as the Buchan district, where they appear to vary from about 50 to 200
s, i.e. from one to three pair-horse farms. In other parts of the granite district the tendency is to
smaller rather than to the larger of these amounts.

The main object to which the attention of the farmers in these counties is directed is the fattening Crops.
large numbers of which are sent to the London market every year. Very little wheat is
but more on the old red sandstone than on the granite: both the nature of the soil and the
of the climate are generally unfavourable to the growth of this crop. Oats, however, are
ly cultivated: and this crop is particularly useful, because the grain forms the staple food
population, and the straw possesses very valuable qualities for the fattening of cattle. The
antity of barley grown is not inconsiderable.

In addition to the farms, properly speaking, to which I have hitherto referred, crofts or pendicles Crofts.
to be met with throughout the whole district to which this report relates, but they are far more
creas upon the granite (more particularly at the base of the hills and up the small glens) than on
sandstone. These terms are applied to all small holdings generally without any restriction as to
ir size or value. Formerly crofts were frequently sublet by a farmer to his servants, in return
their labour. I only found one farm on which this was done at present. The farmers are generally
cluded from subletting by the terms of their leases. But crofters are often made use of for the
pose of bringing mountain land into cultivation. The practice adopted where this is the object in
w varies greatly, and no description of it can be given which would be found to be capable of
eral application; but usually a few acres of land, say from 5 to 30, are let on a 19 years' lease at a
ainal rent to some tried farm servant or labourer whose industry and good judgment can be relied
n, and who has saved a little money to enable him to make a start. He begins by building himself
ttage which costs him but little. This he sometimes does entirely at his own expense; sometimes
landlord assists him by an advance of a few pounds, or more frequently by supplying him with
lding materials. At the end of the first term the lease is probably renewed at a very moderate rent,
l at the end of the second term, the land (if the occupier has been a good manager) will be worth
full rent which is paid for agricultural land in the neighbourhood. A great deal of moor land has
en and is now being brought into cultivation in this manner without any outlay whatever on the part
the freeholder except the sums necessary for the construction of the houses as above described or for
ds. The only other mode in which moorland can be brought into cultivation is by the freeholder
self bearing the whole expense of clearing the land. A few improving landlords in different parts
my district have adopted this plan, but the expense thus caused amounts to from 15*l.* to 20*l.* an acre,
outlay which but few landlords can afford to incur to any considerable extent.

5. Many farm servants and labourers are themselves occupiers of crofts. A man who has a small croft
six acres can devote almost the whole of his time to working as a servant for hire. Employers of
n of this class generally do the horse work necessary for the cultivation of the croft for the servants
om they employ (A. 17), but I met with some complaints that farmers were less disposed to assist
eir servants in this manner than they formerly were. The farmer is generally repaid for this horse
our by receiving gratuitous labour for a certain number of days from his servant. If the farmer is
willing to assist the crofter in this manner the latter must hire horses to do the necessary work at
expense of about 10*s.* an acre. I found the opinion generally entertained by persons of all classes
at farm servants should not hold much above six acres, the precise amount depending upon the
ality of the land, a larger area being considered to detract too much from the time and strength
ich the servant owes his employer. A man who occupies 20 or 30 acres will probably keep one
rse, and will join with a neighbour who may also have a horse for the purpose of cultivating their
spective holdings; or perhaps he may keep a pony and an ox and yoke them to the plough together;
t a man with this amount of land has great difficulty in making the two ends meet, it being too little
keep him in comfort and too much to allow him to go to work for hire regularly. While crofts
cupied by farm servants should not contain more than about six acres, there are a great many crofts
larger area occupied by tradesmen and artizans who do not require to be continuously employed upon
eir respective trades and occupations, and to whom land, differing in amount according to the circum-
nces of each particular case, is advantageously let. I found the strongest desire generally entertained Strong desire to become occupiers of land.
the agricultural population of Scotland to become the occupiers of land (A. 11, 12, 53). The means
livelihood possessed by the crofter are doubtless often precarious, and the work he must perform
ost severe; but the feeling of independence which he enjoys from being able to work for himself
stead of for a farmer seems to afford an ample compensation for the difficulties he has thus to encounter.
met with an instance (probably an exceptional case) of a man paying 20*l.* to an outgoing occupier of a
croft of 4½ acres for his interest in it, although the croft in question was not let on lease and the holder
ight have been turned out at any moment; and the man who had advanced the money, and who was a
reve (Anglicè—foreman) to a large farmer and earned high wages, told me that he would willingly
ive up his employment if he could obtain an occupation of 20 acres (C. 10). As a matter of fact the
rofters are generally prosperous; "it is the highflying farmers who break" (C. 4). They themselves,
ith the assistance of their families, do the whole work necessary for the cultivation of their land.
They seem to take every opportunity of giving their children the best education in their power, allowing
thing to interfere with the regularity of their attendance at school, except such interruptions as may
e absolutely indispensable for the due cultivation of the land. They bring up large families in habits
f industry, and some of them no doubt save considerable sums of money (A. 67, see the evidence of
rofters C. 17 21). By landlords crofts are generally favourably looked upon, and although on Opinion of landlords as to crofts,
articular estates efforts are being made to consolidate them, the tendency to consolidation does not
ppear to be very general. It is said that the crofters form a very valuable link between the farmer
nd the labourer, that the prospect of becoming an occupier leads to industry and economy among the
arm servants and labourers, and that the best farm servants are to be sought for among the children
f crofters. To the larger farmers too the crofters are often useful by forming as they do a reserve and of farmers.
orce of labourers to whom the farmers can have recourse at busy times of the year (A. 23). Whatever
ay be the advantages or disadvantages of crofts there is no doubt that they cannot be maintained Crofts expensive to landlords.
after the land has once been brought into cultivation without some sacrifice on the part of the landlord.

R. This does not arise from loss of rent, for the rents paid by crofters are as high if not higher than tho paid by larger farmers, but it arises principally from the number of buildings that have to be kept repair. Crofters are no doubt generally bound by their leases to keep their houses in repair, but the means are small, the obligation is, I am told, often imperfectly discharged, and a croft seldom falls in the hands of the landlord at the termination of the lease without some outlay on the buildings bein required.

Labour; farm servants. Two fairs. 6. All the ordinary labour necessary for the cultivation of the land is performed by servants who a hired either by the year or half-year and are lodged and boarded by the farmer. Generally speaking tw fairs or feeing markets are held in all the principal villages and towns every year, one in May and the oth in November. The unmarried men are generally hired for six months, and but seldom remain on th same farm longer than that time. The farmers constantly complained to me of the unsettled conditi of their servants, who, they say, are always desirous of "flitting," and they seem to evince n attachment to either master or place; in this respect they differ greatly from English labourers. Th married men, on the other hand, are hired by the year and are less disposed to change their places tha the unmarried. The married men are often hired some time before the day on which they are to go their new place; for example, at Dundee they are hired in July and go to their new masters in th following November. This is done because they have furniture and families to move, arrangements f which have to be made; and also because they are interested in the produce of their gardens and cann afford to leave them at a moment's notice. Where an unmarried man changes his place the practice for him to fetch a horse and cart from his new master for the purpose of conveying the chest whi contains the whole of his property to his new place; and where a married man with a family chang his place he has to be sent for by the new master.

Women. 7. Women are employed to a considerable extent in spring and summer, and less in winte those who work by the day or week are generally either the wives or daughters of the marri ploughmen or widows; it is not common for women with families of young children to go out work. On this point the practice of Scotland is essentially different from that of England. England it is only when they marry and feel the stress of poverty that women think of going out work. In Scotland, on the other hand, they do not generally work much after their marriage, b attend to their household duties, except at the busy times of the year, such as harvest, potato gatherin hoeing, and perhaps cleaning turnips. The last-named operation is popular among married women they can do it by contract; because they are not tied down to any particular hours, but can go and d a little work whenever they have time to spare, and can so arrange their time as not to interfere wi their home duties (C. 15). Besides the women who go out to work by the day or week, women are n unfrequently hired as field workers by the half-year, and are lodged and boarded by the farmers. Th is not done except on farms of considerable extent; a farm of less than 100 acres would not affo constant employment for a woman (A. 5).

How hired. 8. The female farm servants, both indoor and out-of-door, are hired at the same feeing markets as th men. Sometimes women are hired expressly for field work, and where two are engaged by the sam farmer they sometimes go to work in the fields alternately, for a week each (A. 9, 34). Many more a engaged for field work during the summer six months than during the winter. It was formerly th custom for a good many Highlanders to come down to the lowlands to work during the summ months. Traces of this practice are still to be found, but there do not appear to be many farmers wh adopt it, and in the great majority of cases the only women who work in the fields are the wives an daughters of the ploughmen who reside on or near the farm.

Bondager system. 9. The bondager system does not prevail generally in the counties to which this report refers. I di however, find a few traces of it. When a farmer engages a man who has a wife and daughter capab of work it appears to be generally understood that they shall come out to work when wanted, but it do not appear to be one of the ordinary stipulations of the agreement that they should do so (A. 3 34, 47, 49, 54). In one or two instances, however, which I met with, this was expressly provide for when the bargain was made between the master and servant. Thus, I saw one farmer who provide four of his men with a cow each, in return for which they provided a woman apiece to work for the master regularly throughout the year for 1*s.* a day (A. 32). I heard of another farmer who sublet seve or eight crofts on condition of a female worker being furnished from each.

Children. 10. Children under 13 or 14 years of age are only employed to a very trifling extent. The are employed a little, more particularly in the highland parishes, at potato planting, and gatherin weeding, hoeing turnips, and herding (as it is called in Scotland) cattle. The necessity of havi children to watch the cattle when turned out has diminished very much of late years, partly becau fences have been increased, and also because the number of crofts has been diminished. It is t the land held by the crofters that herds are particularly wanted; several crops are often grown one field, and care must be taken that the cattle do not wander from that on which they we turned out. It is very common for a boy of from 10 to 13 to hire himself out to a crofter or sma farmer during the summer months at a wage of from 1*l.* to 3*l.*, and his food, and to return to scho in the winter months. Sometimes boys as young as 8 or 9 go to service in this way (A. 8, 26, 3 C. 2 b, 18, 31). The feeling of the larger farmers is certainly all against employing young childre They think that young labour is dear labour, and told me not unfrequently that they would n employ children under 13 to the small extent they do if they could get a sufficient number adults to do the work. At the age of 14 or 15 a lad can generally get a place on a farm all th year round. I have met with a boy who was employed continuously from 10 upwards (A. 4), but th is very rare.

Gangs. 11. The gang system is hardly known in these counties. At Inverkeilor, in the neighbourhood Arbroath, in Forfarshire, I ascertained that there were three men who were in the habit of contracti with farmers to raise potatoes, and engaged from 25 to 40 women and children to do that wor (A. 40, 41; C. 12, 13). They do not appear to go long distances to work, nor does th work they do appear to be excessive, either in point of time or quality. These gangs usually g out in September, during the school holidays, so that the children employed in them are not pre vented from attending school. It is also occasionally the practice for gangs of women to go ou from Aberdeen and other large towns to hoe turnips in the neighbourhood, but these gangs are onl

ployed where a sufficient number of hands cannot be obtained in the immediate locality, and on the R.
he appear to be employed to but a trifling extent (A. 6, 57; D. 198). I observe that the Gangs
31 & 32 Vict. c. 130) does not extend to Scotland, but I heard of the existence of no hardships
nnexion with the mode in which the gangs referred to were employed which would lead to the
lusion that it was desirable that the provisions of that Act should be extended to Scotland.

. I will now proceed to explain the result of my inquiries as to the earnings of the farm servants Earnings.
agricultural labourers in the different districts I have visited, and I fear that it will be impossible
ver this portion of my report being somewhat complicated, owing to the different systems which
ail of remunerating farm servants and labourers. In the first place it is necessary to bear distinctly
and the difference between servants and labourers, the former are hired by the six months or by
year, and receive their bed and board as part of their wages; the latter are hired by the day or
k and receive the whole of their wages in money.

. First. With respect to the remuneration of farm servants. The amount they receive in money of farm servants.
s not vary much in the different counties to which this report refers. A grieve or bailiff receives
t from 25*l.* to 30*l.* a year; an ordinary able-bodied ploughman from 18*l.* to 24*l.*; and an odd man, or
he Scotch say, an "orra" man, from 14*l.* to 18*l.* As to what they receive in kind a distinction must
nade between the different systems which prevail in different districts. On the red sandstone of For-
hire and Kincardineshire, and to a less extent in Morayshire and Nairnshire, the unmarried servants
lodged and boarded in bothies, which I shall describe more particularly hereafter, and they receive 6½
s of oatmeal a year (a boll contains 140 lbs.), and generally an allowance of milk; but with respect
he amount of milk given no uniform plan appears to be adopted. In Forfarshire and Kincardineshire
milk given amounts generally to a Scotch pint a day for the winter six months, and a Scotch pint
l a half for the summer six months. Sometimes 1½ Scotch pints are allowed all the year round.
e Scotch pint contains as nearly as possible 1⅔ imperial quarts. In these counties new milk is always
en. On the other hand, in Morayshire and Nairnshire, it appears that milk sometimes is, and some-
es is not, allowed (A. 71; C. 22, 35), or if it is allowed it is often only skim milk, or perhaps milk
y be sold by the farmer to his servants at a reduced price. Where milk is not allowed an allowance
1*s.* to 2*s.* a week, called sap money, is given instead of it (C. 35). In the other districts which I
ated the bothy system does not prevail, except occasionally on the largest farms. Instead of the
thy system the servants sleep in a loft over the stables or in some other portion of the steading, and
fed by the farmers, in a mode which shall hereafter be described.

The respective advantages and disadvantages of the bothy and kitchen systems I will discuss here-
er. The value in money of the remuneration thus received by the ploughmen who live in the bothies
l be as follows:—

		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	from	18	0	0	to	24	0	0
Meal - - - -	„	5	15	4	„	5	15	4
Milk (or sap money - -	„	2	12	0	„	9	2	0
Bothy, fire, and light - -	„	2	0	0	„	4	0	0
		28	7	4	„	42	17	4

11. I have here given what I consider the two extremes of payment. The meal is generally said to be Value of meal
rth 1*l.* a boll, or 6*l.* 10*l.* for the whole year, but it is not worth that amount now, nor has it been for
me time past. I have examined the Fiars prices * of oatmeal for the seven years ending with 1868, and
d that the average price during that time has been, in Aberdeenshire 17*s.* 1⅛*d.* per boll; in
nffshire, 17*s.* 2*d.*; in Forfarshire, 17*s.* 10⅘*d.*; in Kincardinshire, 17*s.* 4⅗*d.*; in Morayshire, 18*s.* 9¾*d.*;
Nairnshire, 18*s.* 2⅓*d.* These figures give a general average price of 17*s.* 9*d.* per boll throughout the
x counties, and I have therefore calculated the value of the oatmeal at this price.

15. Again, the value of the milk varies greatly, Mr. Goodlit, at Kinnell in Forfarshire, values the new and of milk.
ilk which he allows his men at 4*d.* per Scotch pint (D. 185). Near Elgin new milk may be bought
r 2*d.* a pint (C. 30); sometimes only 1*s.* a week is allowed for sap money (C. 35). I have therefore
entioned these two sums as the extremes of the value of the milk allowed, or of the allowance given
lieu of milk. But it appeared to me that a more liberal allowance of milk was always given in
orfarshire and Kincardineshire than in the counties to the north of these.

16. Married men who are fortunate enough to obtain a cottage on the farms on which they work, receive Married farm servants.
bout the same in money, milk, and meal as the unmarried; but instead of the bothy they have their
ttage, and in addition, as a general rule, they have some potatoes allowed them (the farmer cultivat-
g the land and the servant planting and getting up the potatoes), and also a certain amount of coals
d firewood given, or else peat, which they cut for themselves, is carted home for them by the farmer
e of charge. These allowances and privileges vary so much in different districts, and depend so
en on the peculiarities and tastes of the farmers, that it seems to me to be impossible to estimate their
alue accurately.

17. Men who work as farm labourers by the week receive from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per week and no allowances; Labourers.
r to speak more accurately, they receive about 15*s.* a week when they work 10 hours a day, and a
eduction of 3*d.* an hour when they work less.

18. The yearly and half-yearly servants get nothing additional for harvest except perhaps some Harvest wages of men.
dditional food, but the labourers make a special bargain for harvest, and receive about 4*l.*, however
ng it may last. Women who go out to service receive from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year in Forfarshire Of women.
A. 45), and about 7*l.* or 8*l.* a year in the more northern counties, receiving rather more for the summer
han for the winter half-year. They always live in the farmers' houses. If they work by the day

* For the convenience of English readers I may here mention that the Fiars prices are the prices at which the various crops are
ssessed every year by a sheriffs' jury, in each county, for the purpose of calculating the amount to be paid to the ministers in tithes.

R. or week they receive from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day for ordinary work, and about 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for pot lifting; they, too, generally make special bargains with their employers for harvest work, and can e about 3*l.* for the whole period of harvest, during which time they receive their food (A. 8, 20, Boys. Boys who are engaged for herding at the age of 10 or 11, receive about 25*s.* or 2*l.* besides their food lodging, for six months' work.

Increase of wages. 19. Wages have increased very much during the last 20 or 25 years, the precise amount of that incre it is difficult to estimate, but from the best information I could get, it appears that while the allowan have remained unchanged the amount received in money has about doubled (A. 2, 37, C. 1).

Opportunities of saving. 20. It must be evident to everybody who has examined into the subject that the earnings I h described as being received by the agricultural class are sufficient to give them ample opportunitie saving money.

In the first place the milk and meal received by the bothy men is more than sufficient to maint them, and they are generally in the habit of selling a portion of their meal to the value of 2*l.* or 3*l.*, and either saving the money thus received or else purchasing tea, bread, &c., with it, and thus varying th diet. They appear scarcely ever to eat meat; nor do they as a general rule spend much in drink. man engaged for six months often goes to the farm to which he is hired and remains there dur the whole of his term without leaving it. I was told, however, that a habit is growing up amo many of the bothy men who live within reach of the towns and villages, of going there on Saturd evenings and wasting a good deal of their money in drink and dissipation, while labourers w live in villages and towns do the same thing to a greater extent. The only expenditure wh a bothy man must necessarily incur, is for his clothes. From inquiries which I have made I thi that 6*l.* may be considered an ample allowance for this purpose (see the statement of the wives two farm servants, where the cost of clothing a family is put at 3*l.* or 4*l.* respectively, A. 19). T money received by bothy men amounts to from 18*l.* to 24*l.*, say on an average 21*l.*, deduct 6*l.* clothes, and a further sum of say 5*l.* for pocket money and luxuries, and 10*l.* will remain, whic believe all unmarried servants could save every year without denying themselves any reasonable grat cation. This being the financial position of the farm servants, I was anxious to ascertain whet many of them took advantage of the opportunities of saving money which they undoubtedly possess For the purpose of obtaining evidence upon this subject, I communicated with several bank agents different parts of the country, and although I learnt from them that it was a common thing for men the position of farm servants to save money I was unable to get any information from which to calc late what proportion of farm servants in the country save, or to compare this class with persons engag in other occupations. (Evidence bearing upon this point will be found at A. 2, 15, 27, 60, 66 and 6

21. The most interesting information I obtained upon this point was from Dr. Garden, agent for t Aberdeen Town and County Bank at Alford (D. 174). The list of deposits made by persons of t agricultural labouring class at that bank is certainly remarkable. Dr. Garden has himself resided and occupied a farm in this neighbourhood for about 30 years, and has consequently had gr opportunities of observing the habits of the agricultural population. He has kindly furnished me w the results of his experience upon this point; he says, "I can only guess what proportion (of fa "servants) do save, but I don't think that more than one in 50 do, many are very extravagant a "anticipate their wages, and of course those who have parents, &c., dependent upon them are unal "to save. I don't think any of them save anything unless they begin young. I don't recollect a "of them saving who began to save later than 18 or 20. They never begin to save after marriage; b "many who have saved money before marriage continue to do so afterwards, and I have known instanc "of men who have had money left them after they were married who have then begun to add to "and I have known others do the very reverse, *i.e.* spend whatever has been left them at once. I ha "known men with three or four children continue to save if they have begun to do so before; they "not readily draw out anything from their deposits, but occasionally draw out a small sum if they wa "to apprentice a son, or provide for a daughter (A. 2)."

Habit of saving on the decrease. 22. Whatever may be the actual proportion of persons of this class who save at the present time, the can be no doubt that the desire to save has been diminishing since 1844, when the new Poor Law w introduced. Up to that year it was a matter of pride for a man to support himself and his family sickness and old age. It was considered a disgrace to be obliged to depend upon alms for suppo This feeling of independence has been most seriously impaired, and men no longer hesitate to ha recourse to those funds to which the law gives them a claim for support. Although this change mu be deplored it cannot be wondered at, as it must be the necessary result wherever a poor law exi which is not administered with the utmost strictness, if not with an amount of severity which huma and benevolent people are indisposed to enforce.

Feeing markets. 23. I have stated that all the regular farm servants, both male and female, are hired at hiring fa called in Scotland feeing markets. These feeing markets were more frequently complained of to me being the cause of demoralization to the servants who attended them than any other institutions whi were brought to my attention while in Scotland. In many places they appear to have been introduc comparatively recently; that at Inverurie in Aberdeenshire was established about 40 or 50 years a (A. 9); that at Nairn about 16; and that at Forres about 30. They are precisely similar in the character to the "mops" or "statute fairs," which are so common in parts of England; and t grounds of complaint in both countries are the same, viz., extravagance, loss of wages, drunkenne vice, immorality, and general demoralization. All farm servants, whether hired before the market d (as is occasionally done) or not, attend the market for the purpose of having a holiday and meeti their friends, and this amusement they are naturally most unwilling to forego. It appears to me th in this respect certain circumstances may be urged in extenuation of the conduct of the Scotch fa servants as compared with the English. There are but few villages in Scotland, and for six months the year the servants hardly ever leave the farm on which they work, and see and speak to nobody b their fellow-servants. In England the labourers have an opportunity of meeting their friends in t village every evening. Is it surprising then that the Scotch servants, whose opportunities of associati with their friends are so few, should seize every opportunity which offers itself of amusement a society? Efforts have been made in Scotland as in England to substitute registries for these feei

s, but according to my experience with a similar want of success. The servants themselves R.
on the day of the feeing market as a holiday, and set themselves against any proposal which
its object the abolition of this holiday. The bad effects of these markets have of late years
siderably mitigated by the introduction of railways which take people away from the market at
y hour (A. 9), and thus do away with the most objectionable feature connected with the markets,
e nocturnal dissipation. I do not know whether this improvement is general or merely local.
r that may be, I certainly met gentlemen who have had ample opportunities of judging of the
those feeing markets, who stated to me in the strongest terms their opinion that they should at
abolished by Act of Parliament (D. 173, 199). I myself am rather at a loss to understand how
d be done without exceeding the fair limits of legislation. The only mode that I am aware of
h it could be done would be by making the contract of hiring entered into at a feeing market
at even this would not prevent people from assembling in a particular town on a particular day
use themselves, and it certainly seems to me that it would be a very arbitrary proceeding to
t to prohibit such assemblies by law. I doubt whether the evils arising from feeing markets are
ntly serious to warrant such a step. This subject is thoroughly understood, and has for many
past been constantly agitated in different parts of the country, and my experience in Scotland
t enable me to throw any new light upon it.

The cottages in Scotland are all very similar in form. The ordinary type of cottage is that which Cottages; form of.
d the "but-and-ben" cottage. This consists of one oblong room about twice the length of its
h, and having the door in the centre; opposite the door two box beds are placed across the
, thus dividing it into two separate apartments. In cottages of rather better construction a
ent partition is put up to divide the cottage into two rooms, the "but" and the "ben;" and in
s of cottage next above this a third room is provided, looking out to the back immediately
te the door, and entered from one of the other rooms. This third room is a most valuable
n as a sleeping apartment, and is almost universally provided in all new cottages. The cottages
ry seldom provided with an upper floor, and where they are it is but rarely used if the family can
ly be accommodated downstairs. The kitchen is always preferred as a sleeping room, and the
ooms are only used when the kitchen is full. Women like to have their "bairns" close to them
at work, and don't like the trouble of going upstairs and fuel is thus saved.

The cottages are substantially built of stone, with either slate or thatched roofs. Formerly clay Construction.
great deal used instead of mortar, on account of the scarcity of lime, and clay is objectionable
e it was almost always damp. Some of the crofters still use clay for building, but the landowners
always use lime.

In ventilation, properly so called, the cottages are very defective. The windows in scarcely any Ventilation.
old cottages are made to open, and when they are the means of ventilation thus offered are but
taken advantage of. At the same time the inmates did not appear to suffer from want of air,
y, more particularly the children, presented almost invariably a robust and healthy appearance.
bly the large chimneys, which communicate directly with the open air, and below which, in the
room at any rate, a fire is almost always kept burning, added to the fact that the door is
ntly being opened and shut, obviates the necessity of a more elaborate system of ventilation.
ver this may be, I feel sure that I never found the small rooms in which the Scotch families lived
y night and day nearly as offensive as I have often found the bedrooms of magnificent model
es in England, the windows of which are never opened and which are so well built as to exclude
aughts.

Formerly a large proportion of the population was lodged in rude turf huts, which they built Old turf houses.
selves and which were thatched with heather. These were studded all over the country and the
e were greatly attached to them; but few of them are to be seen now, and those which do exist
be met with almost exclusively in the mountain districts. Mr. Cumming Bruce of Dunphail.
yshire, referring to them says,—

When I succeeded to the property there was not a single stone and lime house upon it (with the
tion of the factor's, built of stone and clay). All were housed in turf huts. I have now got them
to substantial dwelling houses. Several amongst them are not satisfied with the change, preferring
armth and peat reek of the auld house" (A. 62).

To say that the drainage of the cottages in Scotland is defective would be a gross exaggeration, Drainage.
se as a general rule no attempt is made at drainage at all. They very seldom have privies. The
es on Lord Airlie's property at Cortachy in Forfarshire would probably compare favourably with
ottages belonging to most proprietors in this respect, and I found that on Lord Airlie's property
are only 79 privies to 401 cottages (A. 35). Where this accommodation is supplied it is often not
by the occupiers. I recollect finding the privy attached to the entrance lodge of a gentleman's park
up as a hen house. This struck me as being a remarkable instance of the habits of the people,
se the tenant of the lodge occupied a position rather above that of the ordinary farm servants.

All the cottages which are situated in the country are provided with good-sized gardens; those Gardens.
e villages or towns are either without gardens, or if they have them the gardens are generally too
l to be of any practical use. I found no trace of the allotment system, which is so extensively
e use of in England; but it is very common for farmers to provide their men with potato ground,
scribed above (see paragraph 16). The farmer not unfrequently stipulates that the men should
re the potato ground assigned to them. The gardens which I saw appeared to be employed solely
e growth of vegetables, and chiefly potatoes. I saw no signs of the pretty cottage flower gardens
h are so common in England, and more particularly in the southern counties; but the severity of
limate renders this almost impossible.

. The furniture in the cottages struck me as being rather too good for the cottages. One room is Furniture.
rally provided with substantial chairs, a table, and a chest of drawers of polished deal or mahogany;
e in the other room, which is more constantly used, the furniture is of rather a ruder description.
beds are almost universally used. When a marriage takes place it is customary for the man to
hase all the tables, chairs, &c. (*i.e.* the substantial furniture of the house), while the wife buys
kery and linen. The furniture thus purchased by the wife is termed "her providing," and costs
t 10*l.* The articles purchased by the husband cost from 12*l.* to 15*l.* (A. 45).

R. Insufficient in number.

31. Although I had no reason to think that there was a serious deficiency in the quality of t cottages, they appear to me to be as a general rule totally insufficient in number. I must exc from this observation the red sandstone district of Forfarshire and Kincardineshire, where, with exception of a few particular spots, the cottages did appear to be sufficiently numerous to provide for married farm servants. In the other parts of my district there can be no question but that the sup was quite insufficient (A. 2, 24, 26, 30, 69). The causes of this deficiency are, first, an inability disinclination on the part of the landlords to supply cottages, caused either by their poverty or a desire not to increase the burden cast upon the land by rates. The result is that a farm ser after he marries has to live in the farmer's house away from his wife and family just as if he w not married; he must take a room for his wife and children in some neighbouring town or villa perhaps six or eight miles from the place in which he himself is in service, and there they live, a the children grow up, supported by such portion of his earnings as the father can spare, without being able to see them or enjoy their society except on Sundays, or perhaps only once every fo night or three weeks. In Aberdeenshire and the northern counties which I visited I also recognise disinclination on the part of some of the farmers to have cottages upon their farms for their marri farm servants. They think, in the first place, that a servant should live quite close to the hor of which he has charge, in order to be ready to give assistance in case of necessity. They thi also that the wives and children if living on the farm are in the habit of pilfering (A. 30, C. 1 Some few of them also are aware of the unquestionable fact that a servant who lives upon the fa and is fed by the farmer consumes a larger portion of his earnings himself in food than if he w living with his family and divided the whole of his earnings with them, and that consequently s servants are more efficient workmen than they would otherwise be. I say that this idea is w founded, because, as I before remarked, the meal and milk which is given to men who live in both is more than sufficient to provide for them, and they can if married save some for the maintenance their wives and children, whereas if a man receives his food at the farmer's table he of course consu the whole, and nothing remains for his family. The consequence is that the man has nothing but money earnings with which to provide not only for his own clothes and those of his family, but also the school fees for the children and house rent and food for the whole family. This being the case was not surprised to find most of the families of farm servants living on very slender means. T statements kindly supplied to me by Dr. Gavin of Strichen, in Aberdeenshire, as to the income a expenditure of the wives and children of farm servants, show that in one case a woman with one ch had 4*s.* 7½*d.* to spend per week on food, and that in another a woman with three children had or 2*s.* 7*d.* a week to spend in food for herself and her children (A. 19). This evidence is fully corrob rated by a general consideration of the money at the command of men in this position. I have stat that the wages of farm servants varied between 18*l.* and 24*l.* a year. Let us assume that a 'marri man with a wife and four children is living in service at a farm and receives 21*l.* per year and his fo and lodging, his wife and children living in a neighbouring town or village. He would have to pay o of this sum of 21*l.* house rent for his wife and children, which would amount to about 2*l.* per year, purchase clothes for himself and children, which would cost at least 7*l.*, leaving only 12*l.* a year to p for food, school fees, and fuel; possibly the whole of this might be spent in food. This would give l than 5*s.* per week, which would be less than 1*s.* per week for his wife and each of his four children. believe that this may be taken as a fair specimen of the financial condition of the families of serva who are in full health and vigour and earning full wages, but who are obliged to live with their employe away from their families. I was very much surprised to find that they were able to bring up th families in health and respectability on such slender means. (Evidence bearing upon this point will found in the statements by the wives of the farm servants, C. 27 to 38.)

Cottages in towns.

32. The cottages which the families of farm servants in the towns and villages occupy are ve insufficient in accommodation. Most of them have been built by tradesmen, artizans, or labour upon land which has been "feued" in perpetuity from the freeholder, they have generally be built in the first instance by labourers or artizans as residences for themselves, have been subsequent bought up by cottage speculators, and are now let at a rack rent. It is not the custom for t family of a farm servant to occupy more than one room in a house, or at the most a small closet garret in addition to the room, and the rent that they pay for this scanty accommodation witho any, or with only a very small, garden amounts to from 30*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* per year, I think it may fairly stated at about 2*l.* a room. As long as milk can be purchased the children appear to be we but in the winter it often happens that none can be obtained, and then they have recourse to sor insufficient substitute, such as treacle, on which they cannot thrive (see the Evidence of Dr. Gavin A. 1

Effect of want of cottages.

33. It seems to me that the effect of this want of accommodation must be to discourage marria The married man who cannot live with his family and enjoy their society has not a more comfortal home than the unmarried man, and on the contrary he has to support a heavy pecuniary burden fr which the unmarried man is free; his children grow up without the superintendence of and with b a slight acquaintance with their father, and from being compelled to live in villages and towns whe they never see farming operations carried on they are less disposed to take to farm work, and a

It discourages marriages.

less efficient workmen if they do take to it than they otherwise would be. This state of things cann fail to discourage marriage, and to be one of the main causes of the excessive amount of illegitima which unfortunately prevails in these counties. I have found one authority which undoubted appears to militate against the opinion here expressed, viz. that illegitimacy is due to want of cotta accommodation, and to this authority I must now refer. In the "Supplement to the monthly a quarterly returns of the births, deaths, and marriages registered in Scotland during the year 186 at pages 11 and 12 the following passage occurs:—

"Many are disposed not unnaturally to attach great weight to the insufficiency of house accom modation as one mode of accounting for the prevalence of illegitimacy. It is argued that where the is insufficient accommodation for a family, and a necessary impossibility of observing the comm decencies of social life no other result, in regard to the females especially, could be looked for th a loss of that modesty and innate delicacy which are the best safeguards in after life;—that ove crowding may have a pernicious effect is what no one probably will be prepared to deny; but comparison of the returns as to house accommodation with those of illegitimacy in the differe

ns and counties of Scotland, seems to show that other causes as yet unknown are at work in R.
ing effects so greatly to be deplored.

f the proportion of illegitimate births depended on the amount of house accommodation, it would
nd that in every county or division in Scotland, the proportion of illegitimate births would
me proportion to that of the number of families living in houses of one room. As we have a
t return of the house accommodation of all classes in Scotland, we have the data whereby we
timate the effect which such a state of matters exercises on the points now under consideration;
return invaluable in many respects is in none more remarkable than in proving that the
efficient house accommodation in increasing the proportion of illegitimate births is less than
ally supposed.

Thus a ten years' summary of the proportion of illegitimate births in the divisions and counties
otland shows that by far the highest proportion of illegitimate births occurs in the north-eastern
southern divisions; while the smallest proportion occurs in the northern and north-western
ns, the other four divisions occupying an intermediate place. In the north-eastern division which
s the counties of Nairn, Elgin, Banff, Aberdeen and Kincardine only 25·2 per cent of the
s lived in houses of one room, yet 14·7 per cent. of the births were illegitimate, that is to say,
he division which had the very smallest proportion of its inhabitants living in houses in one room
lso the division which year after year yielded the very highest proportion of illegitimate births.
ontrast with this the northern division, which includes the counties of Shetland, Orkney, Suther-
and Caithness; there 36·7 per cent. (being a full third more than the north-eastern division) of
milies lived in houses of one room, yet only 5·4 per cent. of the births were illegitimate.
Contrast it even with that division which is the far worst as to house accommodation in all Scotland.
e south-western division, which includes the counties of Renfrew, Ayr, and Lanark, no fewer than
per cent. of the families live in houses of one room, yet instead of this increasing the proportion
gitimate births above what they are in the north-eastern division they were not half so numerous,
g that only 7·5 per cent. of the births were illegitimate in the south-western division.
Contrast with each other even the adjoining south-western and southern divisions. The former
·7·1 per cent. of its families living in houses of one room, yet only 8·4 per cent. of its births were
timate, the latter had only 34·2 per cent. of its families living in houses of one room, yet 13·4 per
of its births were illegitimate."

e whole of the above argument depends upon the proportion of families living in "houses of one
" in different counties; and I find in the Census Report for Scotland for 1861, vol. 1, page xxvii.,
llowing passage:—"The definition of a house adopted for the census of England, was 'a distinct
ing separated from others by party walls.' This definition was quite unintelligible in Scotland."
uses of one room to which the above definition would apply hardly exist in the counties examined
e. Almost all the houses have two and many three or four rooms; but it is not generally the
m for one family in a town or village to occupy more than one room in a house, or perhaps one room
a closet. The arguments therefore which are drawn from the number of families living in houses
e room do not apply to these counties; nor can I find any tables in the census report which will
le me to test the theory I have put forward above. Statistics are wanted of the proportion of
ies occupying one room (whether forming a part or the whole of a house) in different counties,
if this could be obtained I believe it would be found that the proportion of illegitimate births
d bear some proportion to the number of families occupying no more than one room; the reason
g not so much that overcrowding destroys all delicacy of feeling, and leads to immorality, as that
difficulty of obtaining a cottage to live in destroys one of the chief attractions of marriage and thus
s men to remain unmarried.

. I am, however, confirmed to some extent in the theory I have here put forward by finding that in
he counties to which this report refers, except Forfarshire, the per-centage of husbands to the total
s above 15 years of age is somewhat below the average. The figures are as follows:—

	Per-centage of husbands to total males above 15 years.
Scotland (generally)	50·406
Nairn	45·426
Moray	49·354
Banff	49·538
Aberdeen	47·775
Kincardine	50·163
Forfar	53·813

(Report on the Census of Scotland 1861, vol. 2, page xxx.)

am not at all surprised to find Forfarshire comparing favourably with the other counties here
tioned, because the supply of cottages appeared to me to be far better in that county than in the
rs: and the proportion of illegitimate children is according to the last return less; the proportion
legitimate to every 100 births is in Scotland (generally) 9·7, in Nairn 11·9, in Moray 15·8, in Banff
2, in Aberdeen 14·2, in Kincardine 14·1, and in Forfar only 11·4.

5. Of the importance of having good cottage accommodation I found but one opinion among the Importance of having good cottages.
er class of farmers. They all agreed that if they had cottages they could get a better class of
ants than if they had not; that their servants were less disposed to leave them; and so great was
desire to obtain a cottage, that servants would often go to get a place where a cottage could be
ined without giving the master the trouble of going to the feeing market to hire them.

6. On the whole I have met with no system connected with the agricultural population in either
gland, Scotland, or Wales, which I think so seriously detrimental to the comfort and morality of
people as the system which I have been describing of the farm servants living away from their
ilies. I think that it is impossible to use too strong language in its condemnation. I fear that it is
ond the power of the legislature to remedy it; it is, however, within their power to remove one or

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Causes of want of cottages.

two of the difficulties which prevent a remedy being applied by natural causes as soon as it otherwi might be. I have already pointed out that one of the chief causes for the want of cottag accommodation is the poverty of the landlords. It was of course no part of my duty to inquire int the financial condition of the landlords, but rumour, to which I could not shut my ears, pointed t some notorious instances of their straitened circumstances. It is in a great measure caused by th law of entail in Scotland which compels landlords to continue the nominal owners of entailed estat after the substance has departed from them. It is no part of my duty to make recommendations this head, the subject has already been taken up by the legislature, and I need only express my opin founded on the observations I have made that some alteration of this law is urgently needed. N only are landlords often unable to build cottages themselves, but no encouragement is given by the la to tenants to build cottages for their own use on the farms they occupy. Mr. Coutts of Banff in h evidence remarks upon this point that "debts incurred by a tenant in tail are only personal debts a may be repudiated by the successor after the personal property left by the tenant in tail has be exhausted. In consequence of this law I have known several tenants lose money they have spent i building houses and offices; they had built the houses and offices under a promise and obligation mad by the landlord that they shall receive compensation for their outlay at the end of their lease. Th landlord has died before the end of the lease and his successor has availed himself of his power repudiating the liability incurred by his predecessor" (A. 26).

Bothies.

37. I had frequent opportunities of examining bothies, and availed myself of every opportunity whic presented itself of doing so. A bothy is to be found on almost every farm in the lowland district Forfarshire and Kincardineshire; they are also numerous in Moray and Nairn, but there are very fe in Banffshire and Aberdeenshire. They vary very much in character, the best consist of a large sittin room with a separate sleeping closet for each servant, and a supply of fresh water for washing purpose These bothies where they are kept clean by a woman employed for that purpose appear to me to be as goo a mode of lodging unmarried men as any that can be adopted. Bothies of this character are unfortu nately very rare; I have only met with five or six, and these on the farms of landowners and large farmer As a general rule the bothy consists of a portion of the farm buildings or steading formed into a sing room of moderate size. It is supplied with no separate sleeping apartments, and nobody is employed t clean it or to make the beds (and the bothy men if left to themselves never attempt to keep it clean an tidy); a heap of coals will be seen in one corner and of firewood in another; it is furnished with no tabl and no seats, so that on returning from work the only place which the servants have to sit down upon their chests; and the flags with which it is paved are generally broken into small pieces by having th firewood chopped upon them. The bothies are but rarely well ventilated. In a few cases I have m with bothies attached to the stables where the ventilation (if indeed it can be so called) was of th worst description. I recollect two which consisted of portions of the stables in which cart horses we kept and were only separated from the stables themselves by thin wooden partitions, which were broke and defective in many places. These bothies had no means of obtaining air except what came throug the stables; and the stables themselves were badly ventilated and contained several horses each. Th air, therefore, which the men breathed must have been most impure. The bothy men are in gener provided with separate beds, but they do not at all object to sleeping two in a bed. I recollect visitin one bothy which was occupied by four men and which contained four beds, bedding being provided b the proprietor for all the four, only two, however, were occupied, and this was owing to the men pr ferring to sleep two in a bed. There can be no question that a life in such bothies as I have last bee describing must have the effect of making the men rude and boorish, and this appears to me to be th great objection to them. I did not understand that they led directly to vice or immorality, in fact th reverse appears to be rather the truth. In the Supplement to the monthly and quarterly returns the births, deaths, and marriages in Scotland for the year 1869 (from which I have already quoted), find at page 10 the following passage:—

Do not lead to immorality.

"Much of the illegitimacy prevailing in certain counties was at one time attributed to the existence of wh are called bothies, that is, houses apart from the farmhouse, in which the male and female workers on the far are separately lodged. These bothies only exist on the large farms, and if they had any influence in increasi the illegitimacy the proportion of illegitimate births would have been found to be highest in those counti which had the largest arable farms. It is a known fact that the smaller the size of the farm the more it worked with the assistance of young unmarried men and women who are fed in the house, and sleep either the house or in the stable loft or offices. It is only on large farms that married men are employed, so that many districts, as soon as a young man marries he loses his situation as a ploughman and is forced to become daily labourer dependent on his daily work for his bread; this of course acts as a strong check on his open marrying.

An official return was published in 1857, which to a certain extent enables us to trace the effect of the si of the farm on the proportion of illegitimate births in each county of Scotland; and it is instructive to not that in a general way, the illegitimacy was found to be highest in those counties in which the smallest far occurred. Thus in Banff the farms paying 20*l.*, and upwards, of annual rent only averaged 64 acres each a 15·5 per cent. of the births were illegitimate annually. In Aberdeen the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards rent only averaged 66 acres in extent, and 15·3 per cent. of the births were annually illegitimate. In Dumfri the average size of the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards was 87 acres only, and the high proportion of 14·4 p cent. of the births was illegitimate annually. In Kirkcudbright the average size of the farms paying 20*l.* a upwards was 88 acres, and 13·4 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. Contrast these with a few counti with large farms where married men are employed and bothies are of course more common. In the county Edinburgh the average size of farms paying 20*l.* and upwards was 114 acres, and among the rural populati only 8 per cent. of the births were illegitimate; in Fife the average size of the farms above 20*l.* of yea rental was 110 acres and only 7·6 per cent. of the births were illegitimate; in Haddington the average size the farms above 20*l.* of yearly rental was 219 acres, and only 8·7 per cent. of the births were illegitimate."

It is quite clear that when left to themselves the bothy men are likely to become careless and untid and to lose their self-pride and self-respect. The effect of the bothy upon the character of the m must depend greatly upon the amount of supervision exercised by the master. The men who live in the bothies are always provided with meal and milk which they cook for themselves, and the sameness diet which is thus entailed is certainly an objection to the system.

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:38. I saw a few bothies for women, occupied in some cases by women who came from the highlands to ork in summer, and in others by women who came from the neighbourhood to do the harvest work. Bothies for women. nese women's bothies are so few in number, that I had no opportunity of forming any opinion upon m. They were, however, generally spoken of to me as being highly objectionable and demoralising m want of supervision (A. 46, C. 16).

:39. In Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, and to a less extent in the other counties, what is called the The kitchen system. kitchen plan" is adopted: where this is done the men servants sleep either in a loft above the stable in a small apartment in the steading, and take their meals either in the farmer's kitchen, or in the ses of large farms in a room expressly provided for them.

The difference between this and the bothy system is, that in the bothy the men receive their meal d milk and cook it for themselves, on the kitchen plan meals are regularly provided by the farmer d cooked by his wife or one of his servants for the men. Much discussion has arisen between the vocates of these two systems of providing for farm servants as to their comparative advantages and disadvantages. It may be said in general that those who live where bothies prevail condemn the tchen plan, and vice versâ. The advantages of the kitchen plan are that the men have more variety of d, that their food is better prepared and more wholesome, and that they pass their evenings in the mer's house and often under his eye, and that they are therefore under a better supervision than the thy men who live out of the house in a place which their master rarely enters, and further it is said at the "kitchen" system gives better opportunities for study and self-improvement than the bothy, clean, well-lighted, and warm kitchen being more comfortable than a cold, dim, untidy, and ill-lighted thy; on the other hand the advocates of the "bothy" system say that it is impossible at the present y to adhere to the kitchen plan, because the men are far more independent than they used to be, they e far more particular about their food, and that it is difficult to provide for them without giving them ssatisfaction, and further that the kitchen plan gives the men opportunities of associating with the men servants in the house, which lead to immorality. For my own part it seems to me to be mpossible to say that either one or the other system is absolutely the best; they are suited to entirely fferent conditions of things. The original plan was the kitchen plan, which is suited to a system of mall farms, where the farmer is but little raised above his servants in the social scale. Where this state things still exists the farmer is willing to associate and dine at the same table with his servants; but radually, as the science of farming advances, the farmer becomes a far more important man than he reviously was, and occupies a much higher social position than his servants. As soon as this condition f things is arrived at the farmer is no longer willing to sit at the same table with his servants or even o have them in his house; he becomes more refined and will not expose himself to the inconvenience aused by a troop of dirty field labourers invading his kitchen for three meals a day. This state of eling gives rise to the bothy system, which is now to be found wherever large farms exist and which ill, I should expect, be gradually introduced wherever small holdings are consolidated into large farms.

To the bothy system I see no great objection in principle, but at the same time I think that farmers ould in justice to themselves pay more attention than they do to the condition of the bothies. It ould cost them but little either in time or money to secure the bothy being properly cleaned and kept dy; this object could be attained by the sacrifice of but a small portion of the time of the indoor ervant. It may be said (and I think with truth) that the servants themselves would not appreciate nese attentions. But surely it should be a matter of care with the master to cultivate the self-respect f his servants, even although he may find but small traces of these feelings in existence in the first nstance; to endeavour to induce them to live as human beings rather than as animals.

40. I will now explain the result of my investigations with reference to the state of education in Education. Scotland.

And here I mention that I feel no small difficulty in understanding clearly how much is expected of me in dealing with this branch of my inquiry. It is only six years ago since a Royal Commission was ppointed to inquire into the schools in Scotland. An elaborate examination into the state of education n Scotland was instituted under the direction of that Commission, and valuable reports were from time o time produced. Among others, a "Report on the State of Education in the Country Districts of Scotland" was compiled by two of the assistant-commissioners, Mr. A. C. Sellar, and Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell. That report was founded upon information collected in 17 counties, selected as typical of the whole country, and among others three of the counties to which my present report refers, were selected by Mr. Sellar and Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell for examination, viz., Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Nairn. The points to which my report has to be addressed do not appear to me to be precisely the same as those to which their attention was directed, their duty being to examine into the actual state of education among all classes in the country districts, and to make suggestions as to the mode in which it could be improved; mine to ascertain the bearing which the demands and opportunities of field work have upon the education of the agricultural population only. In investigating this subject I have of course been obliged to inquire into many points which fell under their notice, *e.g.* the sufficiency of the supply of schools: but I was not directed by my instructions to reconsider the points which had been so carefully and industriously elucidated by those gentlemen; speaking generally, I may say, that so far as my duties led me to go over the ground previously traversed by them, my investigation led me to concur in the conclusion at which they had arrived.

41. I may here mention at the outset that on no subject is the contrast between the Scotch and the Distinction between Scotch and English. English more clearly marked than on this; in the rural districts of England, as I have explained in my former reports, the farmers are too often opposed to education, the labourers, and sometimes the landowners themselves, are indifferent about it; and it happens not unfrequently that the clergyman is the only person in the parish who takes any interest in it, and struggles in vain with scanty means against an unyielding mass of opposition or indifference; in Scotland the feelings of the people on this subject are totally different. There all classes, farmers and servants, ministers and laymen, are unanimous in their conviction of the importance of education, and are willing to co-operate for the purpose of securing it.

42. As a general rule I found no children who were prevented from attending school from want of school accommodation. And here I may observe that Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell, at page 14 of their Sufficient number of schools.

R. report, point out that the school accommodation is insufficient to provide for all the children between the ages of three and 15. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement, but it is not customary for children to go to school as young as three, and they almost invariably leave in the summer months, if not altogether, before the age of 15. All that I assert is that I found scarcely any children of an age at which it is customary for children in Scotland to attend school prevented from attending by want of school accommodation.* Occasionally a spot may be found where a population has sprung up within the last few years, and where a school is wanted; but I heard of very few such places even in the mountain districts; and I generally found that wherever the population was sufficiently numerous to create a demand for education, the supply was soon forthcoming (B. 20). I have even heard complaints in particular spots of their being too many schools (A. 47, B. 6). In a few places schools have no doubt been multiplied to too great an extent, owing to a desire of persons belonging to different denominations to have schools of their own, but the religious difficulty is not a formidable one, and most parish schools are attended by the children of parents belonging to all denominations, including Roman Catholics, and no difficulty whatever is experienced in the conduct of these schools. All depends on the quality of the teaching.

Inducement to efficient instruction.

43. The quality of the instruction given in the various schools has been treated in considerable detail by Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell in their report, and I have no observations to make upon the conclusions at which they have arrived. Whatever the actual quality of the teaching may be there can be no doubt that every inducement is held out to the teachers to make it as efficient as possible. They depend largely upon the school fees for their incomes, more than one third of which is derived from this source; and the amount they can receive in school fees depends very much upon the efficiency of the teaching. The better class of parents (and I think they form the majority) watch with great care the progress made by their children, and a more efficient school, though placed at a distance from the child's home, is always preferred to one less efficient though nearer. Instances of the keen discrimination of the parents in the selection of schools for their children might be easily adduced. A good school in a well-populated district is almost sure to be well attended; no matter the denomination to which the school belongs.

Ages of scholars.

44. There are but few infant schools in Scotland, and children do not generally commence to go to school in the country districts until the age of 6 or 7; but before this age they have probably learnt their letters, and perhaps a few easy words at home. From the time they first come to school the attendance is continued with great regularity until the children are required for the summer work, in which the children of farm labourers, servants, and crofters begin to be employed at the age of from 9 to 11; occasionally in the moorland parishes they are employed as young as 8; but

Summer work.

generally in the lowland parishes not until 12 or 13. The summer work keeps them from school from about the month of April until after the harvest holidays, or indeed sometimes until far into winter. The school teachers complain bitterly that the summer work unsettles the children and indisposes them to resume regular school attendance. Besides which their clothes are sometimes worn out by work and have to be replaced, and the result of these causes of delay is that those who have been out to work in summer often do not return to school until November or the beginning of December. They continue to attend during the winter months up to the age of about 14, or in the highland parishes up to the age of 15 or 16, when they finally leave to go to service. It must be clearly understood that it is only the children of the poorest class of parents who are employed in this way; but in the highland parishes the whole population belongs to this class. The larger tenants who occupy rather a better pecuniary position, and can afford to dispense with their children's earnings, generally keep their children at school continuously up to the age of 13 or 14.

Difference between highland and lowland parishes.

45. The difference between the highland and lowland parishes in the attendance of children is this, that in the highland parishes they begin to go to work in summer younger, and continue to attend school in winter until they are older, than they do in the lowland parishes; in fact, in those districts where large farms exist, very few go away to work in summer at all.

Effect of summer work on progress at school.

46. The effect of the summer work upon their progress in school depends very much upon the proficiency attained when the scholars begin to go to work in summer. If they can pass the 3rd standard of the revised code before they begin to go to work in summer, the attendance in winter alone would enable them to progress steadily, but if they are not as far advanced as this the summer work throws them back very considerably, and, in fact, prevents them from ever attaining a satisfactory education. Mr. Michie, the experienced teacher of the parochial school in the parish of Coldstone, in Aberdeenshire, which is situated at the base of the moors, was kind enough to analyse his school returns for me, and the result of his analysis was, that two-fifths of those children who went to work in the summer were withdrawn before they could pass the 3rd standard (B. 6). During the whole of the time when they profess to be attending school, *i.e.* when they are not engaged in summer work, the attendance is very regular. It requires a very severe storm of rain or snow to keep them at home. I myself visited several schools on very snowy days, and never failed to find a good attendance; and I heard of two men who carried their children a mile every day to and from school when snow was on the ground, as the children would otherwise have been prevented from attending (D. 111).

At other times attendance very regular.

Fees.

47. The school fees for ordinary subjects, such as reading, writing, and ciphering, amount generally to from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a quarter, paid quarterly, the amount paid being increased as additional subjects are taught. If extra subjects, such as French, Latin, and German are taught the fees amount to 5*s.* or 6*s.* but these subjects are so seldom learned by the children of the agricultural labouring class as not to be worth considering. I did not find that these fees pressed hardly upon the resources of the agricultural population; but Aberdeenshire and Banffshire are particularly fortunate in being provided with special funds for the support of education by means of the "Milne" and "Dick" bequests, the working of which has been fully described by Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell in their report. In addition to these bequests, the children of all persons in receipt of parochial relief are paid for by

* This is confirmed by Mr. Sellar and Colonel Maxwell in a subsequent part of their report. I observe that at page 5 they state that in the parishes examined by them there was school accommodation for 14,657 children, while there were only 12,822 on the roll.

ie kirk sessions, and under the Act 43 Geo. III., cap. 54, the heritors have power to send poor ch[illegible]ren R.
every parochial school free of charge. I did not find that this power was much taken advantage of.
With so many sources from which school fees can be provided, the number of agricultural labourers nd farm servants who pay for their children is not large. Mr. Michie calculated for me that in his chool, which I think may be taken as a type of others to which the Milne bequest applies, only one half the children in attendance pay fees at all, and only one quarter of the fees actually paid were received om the children of the agricultural labouring class (B. 6.) In addition to the fees which are actually paid, ie children have to provide themselves with books. The cost of these is not heavy; in the lower asses of the school it is very trifling, but increases much in the upper classes; perhaps it may be fairly laced on an average at from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a year. It is of course an advantage in one respect, as providing ie children with books, which they can always keep at home and study by themselves if so disposed.

48. Home lessons are always set, consisting, perhaps, of a passage of English, the meaning of all the Home lessons.
ords in which must be correctly learned, a small piece of writing, and some sums. Dictionaries are used o enable the children to learn the meanings of the words and parsing. These lessons are tested as each lass comes in turn before the teacher, and the hearing of them involves no loss of time, but in fact orks in with and forms part of the daily school work. The home lessons are of great value. The arents generally approve of them, and many assist their children in preparing them; when the ildren are advanced in the higher classes the parents can seldom give them any assistance, but even that case they usually take care that they are prepared. I have heard complaints among parents that ie children are occupied too long in the preparation of home lessons: but these complaints are very are (B. 4).

49. The result of the school attendance which I have described may, I think, be shortly stated to be Proficiency.
is:—With the sole exception of those children who commence to go to work in the summer months efore they can pass the 3rd standard, who amount, according to Mr. Michie, to two fifths of all children the highland parishes, I think that all can read, write, and cipher fairly by the time they leave chool. I think they could all pass the 4th standard, and many the 5th or 6th; but after leaving school hey deteriorate rapidly; they keep up their reading fairly, but lose their power of writing and their nowledge of arithmetic (B. 3, D. 175, C. 4).

50. It is not at all uncommon for young men who have been out to service for several years to go back Young men at school.
nd put themselves to school for a quarter when they have saved sufficient money to enable them o live without going to work and to pay the school fees; sometimes they do this when they are nxious to improve themselves in order to get some special appointment, such as a clerk's place or a lace on a railroad; but the testimony of the school teachers goes to show that as a general rule the ducation of the young men who return to school has seriously deteriorated, and that only a very mall proportion keep up their education.

51. I always examined the cottages and bothies which I have visited for the purpose of ascertaining Books, &c. in bothies and cottages.
whether any indications of study were to be found in them; but the traces of studious habits which I ound were few in number. The most common books were the Bible, the books ordinarily in use in the arochial schools, and a few semi-religious works, such as the "Life of Colonel Gardiner." These were not unfrequently supplemented by a few shilling novels, and the bothy men often take in a ewspaper. Most of the bothies are, however, so uncomfortable as to discourage study on the part of he inmates, in addition to which the absence of chairs and tables makes it almost impossible to write.

52. Several of the teachers with whom I spoke complained to me of the interference caused to the Obstacles to education, constant change of places.
rogress of the children by the constant habit some of the parents have of changing their places (B. 8). A break of two or three weeks is often thus caused in the child's attendance, added to which onsiderable inconvenience sometimes arises from the system of teaching in the new school being omewhat different from that which prevailed in the old, and from a different set of books being used, he purchase of which entails an inconvenient expense upon the parents.

53. The interests of the scholars too sometimes suffer from permitting the young school teachers to Absence of teacher to attend at University.
bsent themselves from their schools for some time to go to Aberdeen to keep their terms at the niversity, entrusting the management of the school during their absence to a temporary teacher of nferior capacity (A. 64); but of course the necessity of securing for the teacher himself a high ducation is a matter of paramount importance, and the inconvenience arising from this cause can e but of temporary duration in the case of each teacher.

54. Another defect in the school system in Scotland which was pointed out to me was the want of Want of schoolmistresses.
emale instructors for teaching needlework, &c., as well as assisting in the general instructions given n the school. The heritors are under no obligation to provide these; the last statute on the subject, 24 & 25 Vict. c. 107. s. 5, appears to leave it optional, and as a matter of fact a female department would be often convenient (B. 6).

55. I have already pointed out (s. 49) that in the majority of cases the children of the agricultural Change in law proposed to improve education.
abouring class in Scotland do at present obtain a satisfactory elementary education. I have now to bserve that there are two classes of children to whom this observation cannot with truth be applied. They are, first, those whose parents are either indifferent about education, and therefore do not send their children to school at all, or not with sufficient regularity to secure the object in view; and, secondly, there are those whose parents, owing to their poverty, are unable to dispense with their children's assistance for a sufficiently long period of time to enable them to acquire a satisfactory education. I leave out of consideration those who live at too great a distance from a school to be able to attend regularly, because they are, in my opinion, so very few in number as to be hardly worth considering, and the remedy in their case is not one which falls within the cognizance of this Commission. With the exception of the few children last alluded to, the want of education in almost every case may, I think, be traced to one of the two causes before mentioned. In obedience to my instructions, I invited opinions from those best able to judge as to whether any, and if any, what change in the law was necessary for the purpose of remedying the defects I have alluded to. The great majority of those whom I consulted upon this point were of opinion that no change at all in the law was necessary to secure the object in view. Some few were in favour of compulsory education either up to a certain age or until certain results had been attained (A. 44; B. 1, 6, 11, 15, 29, 37; D. 105, 106, 119). These recommendations assumed various forms, but in principle they differed in no respect from the many and various

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recommendations which I received in answer to the same questions while prosecuting my inquiries in England. (B. 6, D. 99, 105, 106.)

No compulsion necessary.

56. My own opinion is that no system of compulsion at all should be resorted to. The cases for which compulsion is necessary are very few in number. They are certainly exceptions, perhaps I may say *rare* exceptions, when a general view of the whole agricultural population in the counties I visited is taken. Any system of compulsion founded upon the principle of the Factory Acts would be useless unless it were applied up to a far later age than 13; because up to the age of 13, and often later, it is the custom, as things at present are arranged, for children to attend school either continuously or during a considerable portion of each year. In the highland parishes a voluntary half-time system is at present applied; and if the results are considered generally unsatisfactory, of course the compulsory system to be introduced must be far more exacting than the voluntary system which at present exists, and a more exacting system would not in my view be sanctioned by public opinion.

Would weaken parental responsibility.

57. But I think that a stronger argument against the introduction of any compulsory system in Scotland arises from the certain effect it would have of weakening the feeling of responsibility which in Scotland undoubtedly presses with great weight upon the parents. This feeling of responsibility has already effected much, and is, I think, likely to effect more. In some cases it does undoubtedly fail to produce satisfactory results. But under every system there must be some failures; and I fear that if the compulsory system were adopted, the parents might think that the State had assumed the responsibility which they themselves now feel, and it is very doubtful whether the State could do more for the education of the children generally than is now being done by the parents themselves.

The general conclusions at which I have arrived are that in the counties examined by me in Scotland it is not the practice to employ women, young persons, or children in any unhealthy employments connected with agriculture.

That as a general rule the children of the agricultural labouring class have sufficient opportunities of acquiring a satisfactory elementary education, and that they take advantage of those opportunities.

I do not therefore think that it is desirable to apply the principle of the Factory Acts to this branch of the population.

I have again to express my gratitude to the gentlemen to whom I felt it my duty to address myself in the prosecution of my inquiries for the readiness with which they supplied me with the information I sought, and for the kindness which I personally received at their hands.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,

December 19th, 1870. F. H. NORMAN.

REPORT by Mr. G. CULLEY on the SOUTH-EAST of SCOTLAND.

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REPORT.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

NTLEMEN,

S.

1. I HAVE the honour of submitting to you the evidence which I received on the mode of employ- nt and general condition of the agricultural labouring class in the south-eastern district of Scotland, luding the counties of Perth, Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, Fife, Linlithgow, Edinburgh, ddington, Peebles, Berwick, Selkirk, and Roxburgh.* District to which the report refers.

According to the Agricultural Returns for 1869, these counties extend over an area of 4,138,635 es, of which 1,420,701 acres, are either subject to various systems of cropping or remain in improved rmanent grass; the remaining 2,717,934 acres represent chiefly heath and mountain land, finding ployment for a comparatively small though very interesting class of shepherds and their helpers.†

2. Having obtained a slight general knowledge of the various modes of procuring labour practised in different counties assigned to me, I determined, for the purpose of enabling me to compare the ect on the labouring class as well as on the supply of labour of what are known as the *bothy*, *nily*, and *bondage* systems, to spend as much of the time at my disposal as possible in the north, atre, and south of my district, and to fall back on the intervening counties, in order to see how ese systems gradually change from one to the other, as well as to ascertain generally that I had left hind me no subject of interest to the commission. Mode of collecting evidence.

Proceeding in this way I visited first Perthshire, especially the neighbourhood of the Carse of Gowrie, en the Lothians, and then the border counties of Berwick and Roxburgh, falling back through the unties of Selkirk, Peebles, Stirling, and Fife. The little counties of Clackmannan and Kinross I l not visit, having ascertained that I could learn nothing in them as affecting the object of the mmission which I had not before had an opportunity of learning in the surrounding district.

3. With the exception of some tables of school and labour returns, which will be found in the pendix of miscellaneous evidence, I have arranged the evidence from each county separately, in the der of my visit. From a glance at this evidence you will perceive that if I am not able to satisfy u on the different subjects of inquiry, it is not from a lack of able and willing witnesses.‡ Arrangement of evidence.

4. Before discussing more minutely the evidence I have received as it serves to answer the questions ked in the Commissioners' circulars of inquiry, it may be well that I should call your attention to Difference between the English and Scotch systems.

According to the Agricultural Returns for 1869 the area and population of these counties is as follows:—

	Population.	Acreage.		Population.	Acreage.
Perth	129,758	1,814,063	Haddington	38,666	179,142
Stirling	91,710	295,875	Peebles	11,704	227,869
Clackmannan	18,942	29,440	Berwick	36,751	302,951
Kinross	7,997	49,812	Selkirk	10,914	166,524
Fife	156,035	328,427	Roxburgh	55,776	428,494
Linlithgow	46,024	81,113			
Edinburgh	286,138	234,925	Total of District	890,415	4,138,635

† The improved permanent grass reckons for 345,015 acres, so that my district includes 1,075,686 acres of that varied and successful ltivation, for which Scotland is famed.
The heath and mountain land includes all waste land, such as roads, &c.

‡ I issued 309 of the Commissioners circulars of inquiry amongst clergymen, land owners, land agents, farmers, and other persons erested in the condition of the agricultural labouring class. These circulars I distributed over the different parts of my district in the lowing proportions: in Perthshire I issued 73; in the adjoining counties of Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, and Fife 64; in Lothians 58; in the border counties 73; between Peebles and Selkirk 41. Out of the 309 circulars so issued I had returned to 247. The careful and elaborate manner in which the numerous questions of the circulars have been dealt with by many of the tnesses returning them is a proof of the deep interest taken in the work of the Commission. Take, for example, the evidence given se Appendix A.) by Messrs. Robert Elliot, George Muirhead, Thomas Ross, and Thomas Landale, occupiers of land in Perthshire, the *report* (for it can be called nothing less) on the condition of the agricultural labouring class in Berwickshire, contributed by A. Campbell Swinton, one of the landowners of that county. Circulars distributed.

The witnesses whose evidence I have thought it necessary to print may be classified as follows:

Clergymen (Established, Free Church, and Roman Catholic)	40
Land owners (of whom 25 are also occupiers of land)	47
Land agents or factors	21
Farmers	108
Medical men	8
Other professional men	10
School teachers	22
Labourers	54
Total	310

The labour returns and tables of wages which I have inserted in the Appendix will show how much I am indebted to the occupiers land for the manner in which they helped me to investigate their arrangements of labour and somewhat complicated systems of yment.

S.
of obtaining and employing labourers.

one or two points in agricultural economy, affecting the position of the labouring class, in which th practice of Scotland differs from that usually found in England.

Labourers housed on the farm premises in Scotland.

5. The most important of these points is the manner of housing labourers. The village system England is unknown in the south-eastern district of Scotland. With one or two unimportant exception to which I shall afterwards refer, the whole ordinary staff of labourers on a Scotch farm are housed o the premises. Where there is not a sufficient supply of cottages or bothies the labourers (under thes circumstances single men or women) receive their food in the farm kitchen and sleep either in th farmhouse or in some adjoining building, an arrangement which is commonly known as the "kitche system."

Where cottages or bothies are supplied, as is the case generally in my district, they belong to an are provided by the landowner and are held by the farmer on the same terms as his own dwelling-hou and other farm buildings. From this follows naturally a system of yearly or half-yearly hiring, th occupants of cottages being engaged by the year, bothy men or bothy women either by the year half year. On the one hand the farmer uses his cottages to secure a sufficient staff for the ordinar work of his farm throughout the year; on the other hand the labourer secures, for the duration of h service, a house within easy reach of his work.

At one time, when farms were smaller than they now are and villages were few and far between, a is still the case in Scotland, the "kitchen system," which still lingers in some parts of my district, w the prevailing one; but as farms have increased in size and a more active cultivation has led to a large requirement of labour (especially female labour) the farm kitchen has given way to the cottage an the bothy.

Another change which has been creeping over the rural districts has no doubt had its share in th downfall of the "kitchen system," and will as certainly break down a "bothy system" if carried to far. Over large areas, where neither manufacturing nor mining labour is required, the population h been reduced to its purely agricultural element. Increased means of locomotion and improve machinery have put an end to the village tradesmen, the handloom-weavers, and all those forme dwellers in the country whose chief means of livelihood was not derived from farm labour. They a no longer near to aid the small staff of the farm in times of pressure nor to keep up the supply young men and women necessary for that staff.

Although, therefore, the custom of attaching cottages to farms may be said to have arisen from th paucity of villages, the advantages of the arrangement in an agricultural point of view are so we understood, that even where a farm is contiguous to a village, it is still supplied with a sufficien number of cottages to provide at least the ordinary staff of male labourers. Nor is the advanta all on the side of the farmer; in addition to the certainty of getting a house near his work, the labour secures a much better article than he could command at the same rent from an ordinary owner of hou property.

Payment in kind.

6. Not as a necessary, but as a very natural accompaniment of the farm cottage and yearly hiri comes the payment in kind, a custom which prevails generally throughout my district, with howeve some exceptions which I am afraid indicate its extinction or at least curtailment at no very distan date. Payment in kind reaches its widest development in the Border Counties where a "hind" ploughman receives only 5*l.* in money, the rest of his wage consisting of a cottage and garden, re free, the keep of a cow, carriage of fuel, potato ground, and certain allowances of oats (or oatmeal barley, and peas; in Perthshire the grain payments are reduced to an allowance of oatmeal, and inste of the cow's keep a Scotch pint of new milk is given daily, the money wage being increased to 2 The change from what may be called the meal and milk system of Perthshire and Fife, to the cow an grain payments of the Border Counties takes place gradually from about the line of the Forth. Sout of the Forth the daily allowance of milk ceases, but it is not till you enter Haddingtonshire that yo find the cow's keep established as part (a very important part) of the hind's wage. Formerly hind cows were common enough in both West and Mid Lothian, but there is now no such useful institutio on any of the farms I visited in the former county, nor in the northern and more populous part of th latter. Elsewhere, too, where cows are still the rule, there are signs that the hind may soon loose thi to his family, the most important item in his list of payments in kind.

Hours of work.

7. Another point of difference between the usual English and Scotch practice occurs in the arrangemen of the hours of work, and here again we find the effect of the farm cottage system. Throughout m district, except for very unusual operations, for which steam is fast replacing horse power, the univers practice is to plough with two horses abreast, guided with reins held by the ploughman. The tw horses with which he works are considered the peculiar charge of the hind, and his hours of wor arranged as much for his horses' comfort as his own, rule the work hours of the remainder of th farm staff. Exclusive of the time spent before and after work by the hind in feeding and cleaning h horses, he works with them 10 hours a day, and all ordinary farm workers are employed for the sam time.

The 10 hours work, which can, of course, only be obtained for a certain portion of the year, ar commonly divided by a mid-day rest of two hours. On some farms, however, in Haddingtonshire an Berwickshire I found a mid-day rest of three hours was obtained by beginning work at 5 a.m. instea of 6, and stopping at 10 o'clock instead of 11 to resume again at 1 p.m., as is the usual practice the neighbourhood. In Perthshire the ordinary hours of work are from 7 to 12 a.m., and 2 to 7 p.m In Fifeshire, which forms an exception to the usual 10 hours' rule, according to the evidence received from many sources, the ordinary hours of work, exclusive of time occupied by the hind i attending to his horses, are from 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. In Stirlingshire, where a good deal the light farm work is done by gangs, hired from neighbouring towns or villages, 10 hours' work usually obtained by curtailing the mid-day rest to one hour, field workers beginning their work as i Perthshire and Fifeshire at 7 a.m., and finishing at 6 p.m. South of the Forth, 10 hours' work is th rule, relieved during certain of the severer operations by a rest of a quarter of an hour about th middle of the forenoon and afternoon. In this district (with the exception of those employed on a fe farms where work begins at 5 a.m.) all hands turn out at 6 a.m., and continuing at work till 11 a.m. noon, according to the practice of the farm, rest for two hours, and beginning again at 1 or 2 p.m., a the case may be, cease work at 6. Judging from the farms I visited the most prevailing practice is t

. the two hours' rest so as to have five hours work in the forenoon and as many in the afternoon. In nter the mid-day rest is shortened to one hour, so that even during the shortest days seven hours' rk are obtained.* S.

That the more southern practice of beginning work at 6 a.m. is not the prevailing one north of the rth arises, I apprehend, from the fact that in the latter district a considerable number of the "out-rkers" are either married women (wives of hinds) or persons who have some distance to come to eir work. There is, however, no doubt a considerable amount of fashion in these arrangements, and e labouring class are very jealous of any change affecting such a delicate point as their hours of work. less indeed the change be to shorten them.

By means of the long mid-day rest (a matter of great importance in summer) and mid-day meal the otch farmer is able to get 10 hours' work out of his horses as against eight hours obtained by the nglish farmer, whose stableman hands over his team to the ploughman at 7 a.m. to be worked con-uously till 3 p.m. As the field-workers (that is to say labourers not in charge of horses, in Scotland ually women) are frequently engaged in the same operation as the horses, it becomes convenient, or a Scotch farmer would say necessary, that they should keep the same hours, and accordingly we nd that the hours of work of women and in fact of all hands employed in ordinary farm work are the me as the hours of horses. To rest and feed the horses in the middle of the day would not be prac-able unless the hinds lived close to their work and to the stables, nor would such an arrangement be nvenient to the other labourers unless they too lived near; I have, therefore, classed the arrangement the hours of labour as one of the effects of having the labourers housed on the farms.†

8. The Scotch practice again differs from the English in the much more extensive employment of Employment of women. omen. Throughout the whole of my district women are employed in all the lighter, and in not a few the heavier operations of farm labour. It is no doubt owing to the comparatively lower wages at hich female labour can be obtained that Scotch farming in an economical point of view owes a con-derable portion of its success. There are differences as to the manner in which a sufficient staff of omen is obtained, which I shall have to explain afterwards, but speaking generally on root-growing rms the number of men and women employed is pretty nearly equal.‡

9. It will be evident to you, therefore, that I consider the attachment to a farm of cottages under the Cottages under control of the farmer. ntrol of the farmer as the most important feature in the difference of the management of labour as tween England and Scotland, and, as a strong prejudice exists against this practice in the minds of any English landowners, I should like to explain why I am inclined to take a favourable view of it.

10. Let us take first its effect on agricultural economy. As I have endeavoured to explain, it leads to Effect of Scotch system on agricultural economy, very much better management of horse labour. Not only does the Scotch farmer employ two horses nd one man where the English farmer usually employs three with a man and boy, but he gets 10 hours ork out of them instead of eight. True his horses are better fed and better attended to, but his two rses actually do their work quicker as well as work longer hours than the three of the English farmer. hat they do more work is not only owing to better feeding, but to the fact that they are handled by the an whose peculiar charge they are and whose pride is to see his horses look well and perform well (a ry wholesome influence on the character of the hind). Not only are the attendants of horses always n the spot to give their help in case of any mishap by night or day, but shepherds and cattlemen are ere also to do the like for their particular charge or to take their share of work in any sudden disaster uch as fire or flood) which may attack the farm. Again the farmer has always at his command a ttle regiment of men and women ready to meet any emergency which a sudden change of weather ay produce, a regiment composed of persons all interested in the success of his operations. The eneral result is an amount of discipline which you may look for in vain upon an English farm.

11. Before passing to a consideration of how the farm cottage system affects the interests of the la- on the labour market, ourer as apart from those of the farmer and landowner, I should like to draw your attention to one of its ffects on the interests of the community at large, viz., in checking the overgrowth of an agricultural opulation and that accumulation of catch-labourers, depending greatly on the poor law for support, hich is such a distressing feature in many southern English villages. The farm village system with s yearly hiring provides a certain income for regular farm labourers, and as it were dictates how many milies a purely agricultural district can decently support. Outsiders are warned off, and the hint s not thrown away upon men of such independent character and migratory habits as the Scotch. The bsence of catch-labourers, no doubt, puts a certain amount of pressure on the farmer at certain easons; but on many well-conducted farms in the south of Scotland (the smallness of whose labour taff would astonish an English farmer) the work of the year, with the exception of harvest, is got hrough with only the occasional assistance of some members of the hinds' families who are not usually mployed in field work.

12. I come now to the effect of the cottage system on the interests of the labourer. on the interests of the labourer.

In his interesting account of the manner of housing and paying labourers in North Northumberland, Mr. J. J. Henley. here the system is the same as that found in the south-east of Scotland, Mr. J. J. Henley says:—

"The disadvantages and objections are as follows:—That the hind is at the mercy of a bad master or a bad steward; that if the harvest is wet he is paid in bad corn and bad potatoes; that having no ready money he

* The custom of shortening the mid-day rest to one hour, in the case of field workers not engaged in any operation where horses are oncerned, so as to allow those who live at a distance to cease work at 6 instead of 7 p.m. prevails also on some farms which I visited in erthshire.

The three modes of obtaining 10 hours' work before 6 p.m., practised south of the Forth, may be stated thus:—

First - - - - - -	6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m.
Second - - - - - -	6 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m.
Third - - - - - -	5 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m.

The first being the best division of the work is the most popular among farmers. The last, from the early hour at which work begins, ight be supposed not to be popular with the labourers; this is, however, not the case, and I was informed by a large occupier in laddingtonshire that he had some difficulty in persuading his labourers to adopt the two hours instead of three hours' rest, and so begin ork at 6 instead of 5 a.m.

† North of the Forth, according to my labour returns, where the ordinary hours of work begin at 7 a.m., the married women employed or at least three-quarters of the year are to the single as 200 to 297. South of the Forth, where the work day begins at 6, or earlier, only 9 women are returned as married (widows included) against 663 unmarried. (See Labour Returns, Appendix F.)

‡ See Labour Returns from arable farms in the counties of Fife, Haddington, Berwick, and Roxburgh. (Appendix F.)

S. is at times compelled to barter his corn; that he and his family must occupy the house which is given to him however miserable a tenement it may be, and however distant from any school suitable for his children." (See First Report of the Commission, B. 9 and 10.)

In answer to a letter of mine, drawing his attention to the Scotch system of putting farm labourer cottages under the control of the farmer, and asking for his opinion as to its effect on the conditio and character of the labouring class, the Right Hon. R. C. Nisbet Hamilton, owner of large estates i England and Scotland, says:—

The Right Hon. R. C. Nisbet Hamilton.

"I have no hesitation in saying that the system which generally prevails in England of the labourer bein the direct tenant of the landlord, in so far as the social condition of the labourer is concerned, is preferable t that which exists in Scotland; but it is in vain to try to force such a system on the tenant farmers in Scotlan because it would be impossible to let any farm unless you gave the tenant farmer an absolute control over certain number of cottagers.

"The Scottish agricultural labourer is very industrious and manifests a great desire to send his children t school. His wages are generally higher than those which are offered in southern English counties; but reality he is less civilized than a person of the same class in the Midland counties. His cottage and garde are generally neglected and his wife and family are, with few exceptions, untidy in their habits. I attribu this circumstance very much to the manner in which the cottages are occupied under the present system letting in Scotland. The Lincolnshire cottager, living as he does directly under the landlord, considers h cottage as equivalent to a freehold, he never dreams of leaving it, he takes an interest in it and in his gard as if they were his own, and the same families occupy their cottages for many generations. Unfortunately East Lothian the habits of the labouring classes are migratory; they seldom enter their cottages with th intention of occupying them above a few years, and the consequence is, that with few exceptions, they are ke in a very slovenly state."

Mr. J. J. Henley.

As to the payment in kind, which forms a usual though not necessary part of the farm villa system, Mr. Henley says:—

"The advantages of this system are, certainty of payment for the whole year, both in sickness and healt absence of temptation to spend money and of any necessity for overtime or over exertion in piecework; constant supply of good wholesome food at cost price, including abundance of meal and milk for the childre besides the various cakes of barley and peas, brown and white bread, butter, cheese, vegetables, and home f bacon, and fuel brought to the door free of charge."

Omitting the "brown and white bread," as wheat is not given as part of the wage in any part of m district in Scotland, and cottage ovens are very rare, this description of the advantages of the syste would apply to the southern part of my district, more especially the Border Counties, and with ve slight alteration to the whole of the south-east of Scotland.

Labourers paid in kind are best off.

Mr. Henley closes his observations on payment in kind by saying:—

"From my own observation in many cottages, and much conversation with the wives of labourers, I convinced that those who are paid in kind, or 'corn conditions,' are the best off."

Such certainly has been my experience in Scotland; the most comfortable homes and the most co tented labourers are to be found in that part of my district in which the "kind payment" is mo developed. No small part of these "advantages" I would assign to the cow. There is an absolu gain between the cost of the cow's keep to the farmer and its value to the labourer, arising from t industry and attention of his wife. To attend to her household duties and her cow is sufficie employment for the farm labourer's wife in the cow counties (Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Ea Lothian) and both are well attended to.

Condition of cottages under Scotch system.

13. Let us turn now to the other objections to the farm village system; 1st, "*that he and his fam*
"*occupy the house which is given to him, however miserable a tenement it may be and however distant fr*
"*any school suitable for his children.*"

It may be sufficient to answer to these objections that cottages are on the whole in the best conditio and education is best attended to in that very district where this system prevails.

Under the farm village system the average distance that children have to go to school is no dou increased, but this difficulty, which naturally occurred to Mr. Henley, in Northumberland, under voluntary supply of schools, practically disappears in Scotland except as regards infant and nig schools.

As you will see from the answers given to question 12 of the Commissioners' circulars of inqui (answers which are entirely corroborated by the "Statistics Relative to the Schools in Scotland," p sented to Parliament in 1865), almost every child, with the exception of a few living in very w districts, is within tolerably easy reach of some school. Night and infant schools become a difficul and as a result, with a people anxious to educate their children, school life, though beginning later continued long enough to produce that which, even with the aid of infant schools and evening class is seldom seen in England.

The account of the state of cottages, and prospect of improvements given by Mr. Henley in Report on Northumberland is, I think, the most favourable one which you have received from any p of England; I am glad to be able to state that the improvement of cottage accommodation has ma even greater progress on the north side of the Border. I shall have to refer to this subject aga and it may be sufficient here to state that judging from what I have seen, agricultural labour are now better housed in the south-east of Scotland than in any district which I have inspected England.

As in England, the improvement movement sprang from the action of wealthy and philanthro landowners: but, as under the Scotch system, almost all the cottages belong to the landowners, t movement has gone much farther north of the Tweed, and with some aid, to which I shall afterwa refer, might, say in the course of 20 years, leave nothing to be desired.

Before referring to Mr. Nisbet Hamilton's remarks, it is necessary to premise that while I am co paring the state of things in Scotland and England generally, he is contrasting the social condition Lincolnshire labourers with the same class in East Lothian, and perhaps more particularly referring the cottages and labourers on his own estates. Judging from what I saw of his property in E

thian I should think that the Lincolnshire labourer, who is indebted to Mr. Hamilton for his cottage, S.
oys home comforts far above the average of English labourers.

As to the migratory habit of the Scotch labourer, of which Mr. Hamilton, as well as most land- Migratory habit of Scotch labourers.
ers and farmers complain, I would observe that this migratory habit is the chief cause why "his
ages are generally higher than those offered in the southern English counties," and that even the
colnshire labourer would better his condition if he would "dream" oftener of leaving his native
age. In fact it is the absence of this migratory habit, and of the independent spirit from which it
es, that makes me somewhat hesitate in recommending the adoption of the Scotch system to
glish landowners.

No doubt this migratory habit is often carried too far, especially in the case of married men, but its
se is only connected with the farm village system in as far as that forms part of another Scotch
tem, viz., frequent changes in the occupancy of farms. The attachment of the Scotch labourer is
to his parish, and not so much to the farm he lives on as to his master. I have given you in
dence many examples of long service on farms which have remained long under the same
upancy.*

n spite, however, of the migratory habit, increased by the Scotch system of 19 years' lease, and
ing farms by public tender, I have not formed any such idea as Mr. Hamilton appears to have done
the comparative position in the social scale of the English and Scotch labourer. The few cottages
ned by southern English landowners are as it were the prizes offered to the best class of labourers in
ir neighbourhood and these, which are the cottages usually visited by "persons of quality," are
haps more tidily kept than the ordinary run of Scotch labourers' cottages, but in all that contributes
he comfort of life I would greatly prefer to be benighted in the average Scotch rather than in the
rage English cottage.

The self-reliant spirit of the Scotch labourer is apt to exhibit itself in an unnecessary rudeness of Character of Scotch labourers.
nner, but under the rough surface lies a mine of honest purpose, which is only faintly shadowed
Mr. Hamilton's expression, that "he is very industrious, and manifests a great desire to send his
children to school."

14. My chief reason for discussing the system of housing labourers in Scotland at such length has been Farm-village system as affecting the condition of cottages.
point to a remedy or partial remedy of the wretched state of cottages in many parts of England.
seems to me that as long as the labourer has to trust to some building speculator for his house
ommodation, so long he will be badly housed, as witness the miserable dens into which men earning
able the wages of agricultural labourers crowd their families. If, then, we could persuade English
downers that cottages attached to farms (whether under control of farmers or not) are a profitable
estment, irrespective of the rent the labourer is disposed to pay in money, I hold that we shall have
ie much to remedy a state of things that is a disgrace to many English counties.

The following Table shows the condition, age, and number of years' service of the male labourers on *Mr. John Gibson's* farm in Mr. John Gibson's farm, East-Lothian.
vton parish, Mid Lothian:

Quality of Servant.	Married or Single.	Number of Years Service on Farm.	Remarks as to Age, &c.
Overseer - -	M.	34	Age 54.
Groom - -	M.	35	„ 49.
Woman's grieve*	M.	9	„ 54.
Ploughman -	M.	25	„ 56. †
Do. - -	M.	17	„ 50.
Do. - -	M.	17	„ 46.
Do. - -	M.	4	„ 40.
Do. - -	S.	4	„ 24. ‡
Do. - -	S.	4	„ 23. ‡
Do. - -	M.	3	„ 34.
4 labourers - {	All M.	Average 12	Ages from 50 to 65.§

* [Man who takes charge of female workers.—G. C.]

† [For payment, see evidence on wages, &c.—G. C.]

‡ Have a "double hinding." Their mother keeps their house.

§ Were ploughmen till past 50 years of age.

The following is a similar statement for *Mr. Jas. Skirving's* farm, at Luffness Mains, East Lothian: Mr. Jas. Skirving's farm, East Lothian.
The farm includes 467 acres arable and 50 acres pasture.

Quality of Servant.	Married or Single.	Number of Years Service on Farm.	Remarks as to Wages, Age, &c.
1. Grieve -	M.	34	Age 45, on full wages.
2. Shepherd -	M.	4	„ 28 „
3. Groom -	M.	35	„ 35 „
4. Ploughman -	M.	26	„ 60 „
5. „ -	M.	17	„ 45 „
6. „ -	M.	18	„ 50 „
7. „ -	S.	4	„ 32 „
8. „ -	S.	23	„ 23 „
9. „ -	S.	2	„ 16, 20*l.* and food (son of No. 1.)
10. „ -	S.	2	„ 20, 9*s.* a week and potatoes.
11. Orra man -	M.	15	„ 40; full wages.
12. Cattleman -	M.	4	„ 35; 9*s.* per week.
13. Labourer -	S.	All his life.	„ 60; 8*s.* per week.
14. Driver of odd horse.	S.	1	„ 14; — (son of No. 5.)

Nine of these men (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11) receive full men's wages, *i.e.*, a ploughman's wage or above it.
Five were born on the farm (Nos. 3, 4, 8, 9, and 13).
Of the nine men above 30 years of age seven have served on the farm for periods exceeding 15 years.
Interesting evidence of the same kind is given by Mr. A. Paterson, occupier, Mid Lothian (Appendix B. 47); Mr. James Murray, occupier, East Barnes, Haddingtonshire (Appendix B. 69); and Mr. Alexander Scott, occupier, Haddingtonshire (Appendix B. 95).

S.

Owing to the expense of cottage building the introduction of a system of farm villages can only a very gradual process, beginning probably (as has been the case on some estates I have visited) attaching to large farms a certain number of cottages for important servants; such cottages being h directly from the landowner by labourers nominated by the farmer. I am, however, convinced t every approach to the Scotch system will be a benefit to all classes interested in the success of ag culture. I believe, for instance, that the yearly hiring and limitation of the number of persons depend for their livelihood on agricultural labour, and therefore increase of wages, follow as a natural con quence of the farm village system. If I am wrong it is because I am under-estimating the differe between the character of the English and Scotch labourer. On this subject you will, I think, re with interest a letter addressed to me by Mr. Thos. Bennett, late principal agent to the Duke Bedford. *See* Appendix F, 34.*

Better condition of the labouring class not simply a matter of education.

15. Should it be said that the better condition of the labouring class in the south of Scotland is sim owing to better education, and as it were in spite of the unnecessary control given to the farmer by Scotch system, I think I may answer the objection by pointing to Mr. Henley's report on Northumb land, where the same farm village system prevails. Although the farm labourers are well off in ev county I have inspected in Scotland, they are in no part of my district (save here and there in matter of cottages) better off than in Northumberland. True, in Northumberland they are bet educated than in most parts of England, but why so? either because the system at least permits a bet development of character, or because there is better stuff in the northern than in the southern labou For myself I believe both causes have been at work.

Different modes of housing and paying farm labourers in that part of Scotl to which my report refers.

16. I come now to the different modes of housing and paying farm labourers in that part of Scotl to which my report refers.

On arable farms in Perthshire, especially in the Carse of Gowrie and neighbourhood, a large p portion of the ploughmen are unmarried and live in bothies, cooking their own food and (with a exceptions where the wife of a neighbouring foreman or cattleman, gives the bothy an occasic "redd up") performing all necessary domestic duties for themselves.

Perthshire.

17. As this plan of employing unmarried ploughmen, leading naturally after the downfall of "kitchen system" to what is generally known as the "bothy system," is the chief feature which tinguishes the management of labour in the north and south of my district, it may be well to exp its apparent origin.

Bothy system.

In the Carse of Gowrie and lower part of Strathearn, the chief seat of the bothy as far as my dist is concerned, there is a great deal of stiff clay land (what is commonly known as carse land) requi

Its apparent origin.

a very large proportion of horses and therefore of ploughmen for its cultivation. At the same ti this carse land is not very well adapted for the growth of root crops, especially turnips, which of crops is the one causing most demand for female labour. In point of fact, up till a comparativ recent date very few turnips were grown in the Carse of Gowrie, and even on the "black land" of Inches potatoes, which demand female labour for a much shorter period, were much more popular.

Having then the necessity of providing a ploughman for about every 40 acres of arable land requiring very little help except in harvesting corn and potatoes (for the absence of turnips and gro of potatoes for sale implies the keeping of very little live stock) and having too in former tim sufficient supply of female labour from the families of handloom weavers for his occasional jobs, carse farmer naturally fell into a system of employing unmarried ploughmen as the cheaper article. the break down of the "kitchen system" consequent on the increase of the size of farms and ris the social scale of the farmer class, the bothy became the home of the ploughman.†

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* 34. Copy of a letter to the Assistant Commissioner from Mr. Thos. Bennett, late principal agent to the Duke of Bedford:

"My Dear Sir, May 30th 18

Mr. Thos Bennett's letter on farm cottages.

"As a northern man I can enter into your notions of letting cottages with farms; but you will find that the plan will not go with the southern landowner. Neither from my long experience should I feel disposed to leave the *day* labourer to the entire mer the employer. I do not see (as you are inclined to believe) that the plan would lead to a system of yearly hiring; certainly not, so as there is such an amount of surplus labour. I believe the nearest approach to your system will be arrived at by, to a certain e breaking up the village system by building cottages contiguous to farms, such cottages to be held by the landowners but their occu changed to suit the farmer. Every agent or owner will always listen to any reasonable objection a farmer may have to any or family. And, on the other hand, if the objection is frivolous, the labourer will always have a friend in the owner who wi wantonly disturb him.

"You have seen enough of the southern labourers to know that they have no migratory ideas; perhaps it would be much bette them if they had. Habit becomes second nature and it is hard to work against their long formed attachment to the village or p in which they were born.

"Where there is a superabundance of labour the employer rarely takes much interest in the condition of the people. If illness o accident occurs, wages cease on the moment, and the poor people are just as eagerly turned over to the relieving officer by the emp as they are themselves ready and willing to go.

"I have often heard them blamed for 'running to the parish' but to whom else are they to go when wages cease.

"When wages are paid in kind (the grain paid a quarter in advance, and the cow's grazing going on) the northern farmer does r the time feel the money loss occasioned by a labourers' temporary illness, and puts up with the inconvenience, and if other membe the family are earning wages there is no need to go to the parish in case of casual illness. This is no doubt to those who are brough in the practice, a far more wholesome state of things and calls forth better feelings between master and servant, but I do not see the change could be brought about in face of the feelings I have alluded to. I fear the tendency will be for the northern farmer t into the practice of the south and go in for weekly money wages. I believe nothing but the *cow and milk diet* will save the nor custom; if ever they become a beer drinking people, you may say good bye to the cow and the best family habits of the nor labourer

"Faithfully yours,

"George Culley, Esq." "Thos. Bennet

† Men living in the south of Scotland and writing on the "bothy system" generally, if not always, lose sight of these considera viz., the large number of ploughmen required and much less constant demand for female labour. They must, however, be bor mind to enable one to understand the expressions often used by Carse farmers, such as "bothies are a necessity," or "we must unmarried ploughmen," or Lord Kinnaird's remarks in his preface to "The Cottage, the Bothy, and the kitchen," where his Lor says: "Granting that the employment of young men is necessary, and that, as a rule, they cannot be expected to reside with families, some way of lodging them is called for."

Carse farmers in favour of bothy system.

Again, for example, where Lord Kinnaird, in the same preface, after some remarks on the decrease of the not strictly agricu rural population, says: "A cry has been raised, by those who do not understand the question, for the erection of a greater numb cottages, regardless of the fact that field labour, *which cannot, from its nature, be constant*, will not support a family." (In the t growing counties a large proportion of the women employed receive *constant* work.—G. C.)

On the same subjects, Mr. George Muirhead, occupier in Kilspindie parish, Carse of Gowrie, says:—

"The expediency of the bothy system has long been a bone of contention in Scotland, but in the existing circumstances of our and farm labourers in the northern counties it is one that cannot be dispensed with. I quote from the report of the inspector fo county for the Lands Improvement Commissioners. In answer to these gentlemen, who, on a plan being submitted to ther

don't mean to say that the bothy system only exists where land is heavy and the demand for female our is intermittent; but that it is a very natural way of supplying labour under these circumstances, ecially where the hands required for short periods of pressure can be obtained from a population not gether depending on farm labour. As soon as the population not strictly agricultural fails to provide workers for casual labour, or improved cultivation finds constant employment for outworkers, the le bothy system unless supplemented by a female bothy system, breaks down.*

S. Where the bothy system succeeds and where it fails.

All through my parish evidence from Perthshire you will find complaints from farmers of the difficulty obtaining outworkers. At the same time, that deep drainage and improved cultivation has been ending the growth of turnips on the carse land, and the plough has been creeping up the steep hill s, the rural population has been decreasing. In talking to me of the bothy system and want of ids for casual labour, Mr. McClaren, factor to Lord Kinniard, for example, said:—

"Our greatest difficulty is getting female labour. It is the rock we shall have to split on. If it was not the supply of Irish and Highland girls, farmers would be fast."

8. I did not see any female bothy in the Carse of Gowrie, but on two adjoining farms in Strathearn I nd such institutions, one of them usually occupied by six girls from the Isle of Skye. Nor did ome across any example of a married man living in a bothy and so separated from his wife; such imples may, however, I believe, be found.

9. The proportion of married to unmarried men varies on almost every farm, being a good deal, though altogether determined by the number of cottages attached to the farm. Judging from the farms isited, it will be approximately true to say, that in the arable part of Perthshire about two-thirds the ploughman and one-half of the adult male labourers (i.e. hired men) are unmarried and live in hies.†

Proportion of bothy-men.

10. That the employment of so large a proportion of unmarried men cannot under present circumnces, be treated as a self-supporting system, is evident from the number of bothymen strangers to the unty that I found in Perthshire bothies. Formerly, probably, the families of crofters and pendiclers ying a large proportion of the rent of their croft or pendicle by handloom weaving) afforded a fficient supply of bothymen, but this is no longer the case, and except as an outlet for counties ere married men are at a premium the bothy system of the Carse of Gowrie could not even as an onomic arrangement be defended.

11. It is, however, with regard to the supply of female labour that the system most signally fails. Notthstanding the influx of Irish immigrants who crowd the poorer houses in the town of Perth and such llages as Errol and Methven every available married woman is pressed into service as a field worker, d still farmers cry out for help.‡

Difficulty of obtaining female labourers where a male bothy system exists.

To meet this difficulty some farmers ask for more cottages, whilst others, farming Carse land with ttages at their command which they cannot find occupants for, see nothing but a return to the old stem of crofts. The explanation is simple enough; where a farmer can give constant employment to omen, by having what are called "cottar houses" at command he can secure native female workers; here he cannot give constant work he fails to secure native women, and must fall back on the

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proval, in which the bothy appeared as one of the buildings, 'desired to know for what purpose it was intended,' the inspector wrote as ows:—

"In this district the bothy is a most important farm building. It is indispensable in all our farms where more than one pair of ses is kept. It is the residence of all the unmarried men regularly employed on the farm; and the majority of our farm servants are ng and unmarried. On marrying, many of them go into towns and turn to other occupations, while those who remain as ploughmen farm workers are accommodated in the cottages attached to the farm.'" (See Appendix A., 38.)

In his report on the agriculture of Perthshire (Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society, 1868), Mr. John Dickson, d agent and W.S., says:—"Again it is notorious that the population in rural parishes is, except in villages, gradually being reduced where the improvement of land and its proper cultivation require an increase, and farmers find it difficult to get hands for out-door labour," (of the kind usually performed by women in Scotland.—G. C.)

Mr. John Dickson, W. S., Perth, on decrease of agricultural population.

Mr. Dickson continues:—

"The cause of this state of things may be found in men and women now having difficulty in earning a living, when not working on farms, which they formerly obtained, in hand-loom weaving or needlework of various kinds, now superseded by the power-loom and sewing machine. They find that the wages at the factories in Dundee, Perth, Blairgowrie, or in places out of the county, are better d more certain than the hard labour and uncertain wages of out-door work. Emigration also has tended to thin the population, and st do so the more it proceeds, because, when people find that they have as many friends and relations in New South Wales or New aland as at home, much of the aversion to a new country is removed, and they come to regard it as a new home prepared for them, th better prospects than the old one they are to leave behind. The tendency also on the part of proprietors to endeavour to check increase of the poor rates, since the Poor Law of 1845 was passed, by not rebuilding or repairing cottages, has also had its share in ntributing to the reduction of the rural population. If thrashing machines, reapers, horse-rakes, and various other agricultural plements had not been invented, farming operations would long ere this have come to a dead lock. Those proprietors only who farm rt of their own estates can be fully aware of the hardship entailed on their tenantry from this cause, and if it continue, landlords ll find that a policy which, in the first place, affected the tenants will ultimately affect themselves, and that they had better ve met the obligation imposed on them, than attempt to relieve themselves by extraordinary expedients. In places where there are o many people and too many horses, and the labour of both is misapplied and wasted, they may well be reduced in number; but in ose districts where all the present population and more are wanted, it is a great mistake, from a terror of poor rates, to thin their mbers.

"To prevent the further desertion of their native land by the labouring class of this country, it is not too soon that the movement for e improvement of their dwellings, both cottages and bothies, has been originated. The best means for checking the reduction of the cessary rural population, would be by a more general employment of married ploughmen, who would rear families on the farm early stomed to and suited for farm work. Farmers in the county prefer them, both on this account and because they are steadier than othy lads; but of course married men with families require cottages, and all farms have not cottages sufficient."

† For example: Mr. John Richmond, a large occupier in Dron parish, has 19 ploughmen all unmarried and living in bothies. Mr. R. arke, occupier in Errol parish, employs 26 men over 18 years of age, of whom only 10 (including upper servants) are married. On o farms in Methven parish nine out of 21 adult males of all descriptions lived in two bothies.

Notes on bothies visited by the Assistant Commissioner.

The following is an extract from my notes on Methven parish:—

"Visited two bothies, one for four the other for six men; two beds in one and three in the other. Bothy men, if left to themselves, em to like to sleep double; you will often find two sleeping together when other beds are vacant. All these men healthy, strongoking ploughmen, well dressed for their work, and seemingly contented with their life. Three of those I spoke to were strangers to the nties, from Fife or Forfar. All gave the same account of their food—porridge for breakfast and supper, and brose for dinner, not getting the milk. They appear to sell some of their meal and buy wheaten bread, but, according to their own account, they seldom never have animal food. Very little furniture in the bothies, but as much as they require. Except in the gardeners' bothies, I have seen much literature, save an old Bible and an occasional newspaper. Musical instruments are very common; concertinas, g-pipes, and fiddles seem most popular."

‡ On six farms in the Carse of Gowrie, including 2,463 acres of arable land and 63 acres of grass. The ordinary staff of lads and men om 18 years old and upwards is 79 (of whom 70 are over 18). The spring staff of women (most of whom are partially employed in mmer) includes 25 married women as against 21 girls and young women over 18 years of age. The whole of my labour returns from rthshire include 59 married women employed for three quarters of the year, of whom 46 are also employed in winter.

S. employment of Highland girls, who will occupy a bothy for three-quarters of the year and go home t the winter months, or trust to occasional supplies of Irish women coming out from the nearest town village.*

To what extent the bothy system is answerable for the lack of female labour it is difficult to say, to what extent an increase of cottages and larger employment of married men would remedy t evil: judging from the state of matters in the Border counties, where only native women and the almost all unmarried are employed, I should say that the bothy system is answerable to this exte that it discouraged the growth of a population of whom the female portion as well as the male looked farm labour as their means of livelihood.

Result of bothy system.

22. The result is to my mind an unmitigated evil: instead of the fine healthy race of young women y find employed in farm work in the south of my district, in the bothy counties all the lighter farm wo is passing into the hands of Irish immigrants, and if this process goes on at the rate it has be doing of late, a great change will come over the character of the rural population in the centre Scotland.

A considerable increase of cottages might well be made on farms (say especially turnip farms) whe constant employment can be found for women; but I confess I do not think that the landlord of t ordinary Carse farmer receives much encouragement from his tenant to build cottages. Work must constant or the native Scot, man or woman, will not accept it. Besides the fact that field work f women is more uncertain in Perthshire than in the south of my district, there is a greater demand f manufacturing labour, and with an improvement in the management of labour there must come improvement in the wages of female field workers, if the farmer means to overcome the temptation the manufactory and domestic service.

Stirlingshire.

23. As in Perthshire, so in Stirlingshire, almost all the light and uncertain field work is passing into t hands of the Irish. Here again there is the temptation of the manufactory and the lack of cottag attached to farms. In Stirlingshire, however, the "kitchen system" is still the prevailing one, as it in the north of Perthshire.†

Fifeshire.

24. In Fifeshire the bothy system exists to the extent of lodging about one-fourth of the adult ma farm labourers. I saw no example of a female bothy connected with farm labour.

Proportion of bothy-men though small leads to the employment of married women.

That a system under which about one-fourth of the male labourers are unmarried cannot be said n to be self-supporting, as far as ploughmen are concerned, is evident from the fact that Fife comes the aid of the carse of Gowrie; but there is abundant evidence to show that even practised to th extent the bothy system is not altogether satisfactory.

Again, we find a large proportion of the female field workers are married women, and there is general complaint on the part of farmers of a lack of cottage accommodation.‡

In Fife, however, the field work is done (except in harvest) by native labourers, in spite of a ve large demand for manufacturing labour, and so far things are in a more healthy state than in Perthshi or Stirlingshire. It may be that the temptation of manufacturing labour and the increased dema for domestic service is changing the habits of the native girls; but I am strongly inclined to think th landowners would do well to listen to the demand of farmers for increased cottage accommodation.

As in the counties of Perth and Stirling, where married women are employed, so in Fife, t work-day begins at 7 a.m. instead of 6, as farther south; but unlike Perth and Stirling the work-d ceases at 6 p.m., and the hours of work are reduced to nine.

Linlithgowshire.

25. In Linlithgowshire the male bothy has almost disappeared, and though the kitchen system st lingers, the rule is a cottage and family system. We find, therefore, the proportion of unmarried married women employed in field work rising. According to my labour returns, on five farms includi 1,920 acres of arable land and 150 acres of pasture, the spring staff includes 45 young women and gi over 13 years of age as against 13 married women, while in winter the proportion is 33 single wom to nine married. The workday begins at 6 a.m.; but because the hind's cow is absent the proporti of married women employed is greater than farther south. The complaint of want of cottages st occurs; but though there are colonies of Irish here and there, as at Queensferry, the bulk of t lighter farm labour is performed by native women. Female bothies, however, occupied by Highla or Irish women, begin to appear.

Cottage and family system the rule.

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* The following is an extract from my notes on Errol parish:—

"On the day I visited Mr. Constable's farm (Feb. 19th) he had six Irish women from Perth dressing potatoes at 1*s.* a day, walki backwards and forwards eight miles each way, and yet Mr. Constable had four empty cottages on his farm which he was willing to let 40*s.* a year."

Mr. Drummond, occupier in Inchture parish, says:—

"I have eight plougemen, six of whom are married, and two bothy men. I am unusually well supplied with cottages as I have eig for 365 acres (strong Carse land requiring eight pairs of horses.—G. C.) I have five female workers, three of whom are the wives of t ploughmen. One of my cottages is now vacant and I cannot get a tenant to find me a woman worker. I should like to get a wid with a daughter if I could. We have so much difficulty to get female workers, that I think we shall have to go back to the 'pendi system.'"

† Mr. Campbell, occupier in Kippen parish, says:—

"My farm contains about 140 imperial acres. There is no cottage attached to it. There is great need of a cottage to put a marri ploughman in. Unmarried men are continually changing.

Irish gangs in Stirlingshire.

"I get my turnips singled by a band of Irish women or lads who go out chiefly from Stirling or Raploch (about 13 miles), under ganger who takes the job by the piece and keeps his gang together perhaps 10 days till the job is done. They then generally mo to some other farm near. While with me they sleep in a barn. The ganger is always an Irishman. They bring their bedding, they want any, with them and I find straw. Hay and corn harvesting, and potato lifting and dressing are done in the same way." (Appendix E. 12.)

Peter Quigley, labourer and ganger, says:—

"I am an Irishman and live in Stirling. I am in the habit of engaging women to single turnips, which they do with the ha chiefly. Sometimes I take the job by the piece, and in that case I divide the money amongst us when the job is done. Oftener t farmer pays each worker, sometimes by the piece from 1¼*d.* to 1½*d.* per 100 yards, sometimes by the day. When they do day wo they work for nine or 10 hours. By the piece they work much longer when there's plenty of work in hand. I have known women ea 5*s.* a day.

"Most of them are still (June 24th) out bark-peeling. When they go 'peeling' the families all go together and live in a wood shed put up by the employer. A boy 10 or 12 years old can earn 2*s.* a day sometimes peeling bark. They go out about the beginni of May and should be coming home now. We never take children turnip hoeing, they are no use and the farmers won't have them."

‡ According to my labour returns, on 24 farms including 10,216 acres of arable land, and 1,896 acres of pasture, there are employ in spring 134 married women as against 161 unmarried women and girls over 13 years of age. In winter the married women are reduc to 104, and the unmarried to 146. See Appendix F. 5 and 10.

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26. In Edinburghshire there has been of late years a considerable increase in the number of cottages attached to farms. An increase rendered necessary not only by the employment of more outworkers but also from a greater inclination on the part of the hinds' daughters to go out to domestic service. Instead of spending their lives as field workers, the hinds' daughters now as a rule go out to service as under-housemaids or kitchen-maids as soon as they are old enough to take such situations; to supply their place the farmer resorts to a system of cottar houses, let to a widow with daughters, or unmarried women who are content to stick to farm labour. Such an arrangement causes a demand for more cottages, which has been usually met by leaving a certain number of the old cottages standing, when, as often happens at the beginning of a lease, there has been a stipulation for new and better ones.*

Edinburghshire.

Cottar-houses and supply of female labour.

Owing, however, to the great demand for outworkers, and still absent cow, a larger proportion of married women are employed than farther south. According to my labour returns on 10 farms, including 970 acres of arable land and 155 acres of pasture, the married women employed in spring are 55 as against 99 single women and girls over 13 years of age. In winter the married women are reduced to 5 and the single women to 74.

This is exclusive of a considerable number of women, a good many of them Irish, who go out from Edinburgh at busy times, such as corn and potato harvest, to work on neighbouring farms. Female bothies inhabited by Highland and Irish women become more common; but light field work is still chiefly done by native women.

27. In Haddingtonshire, as in Edinburghshire, there are no ploughmen's bothies; but as villages are farer the female bothy becomes more common, especially in the most highly cultivated parts of the ounty, while towards the borders of Berwickshire the "bondage system" is still to the fore.

Haddingtonshire.

Female, bothy, and bondage systems.

By the bondage system I mean the practice of compelling each hind, or rather cottage holder, to rovide an outworker, generally understood to mean a woman. Usually the outworker is the daughter r sister of the hind or cottager; but in case the head of the house is not blessed with a daughter or ister prepared "to work the bondage," under this system he is obliged to hire a woman, whom he oards and lodges, receiving from the farmer a certain allowance in money for every day she is employed on the farm. The hind is obliged to pay whatever wage the woman can command, according o the current wages of the season, besides finding her lodging, food, and washing; from the farmer he eceives only so much a day for every day she works, and the number of days she works depends on he will of the farmer.

For example, at the same daily wage a "bondager" or female worker may on one farm earn 17*l.* in the ear, on another 15*l.*, while in each case the hind has to pay her the same yearly wage, say 12*l.*, besides eeping her. It will be evident that there is a great element of uncertainty here, and as farmers were nwilling to raise the outworker's daily wage at the same rate as the women were able to raise their wn terms with the hind, within the last few years a determined effort was made by the hinds to get id of the bondage system.†

This effort has so far succeeded that in the west of Haddingtonshire few cottagers are compelled to ind outworkers; men with large families, especially of grown-up daughters willing to work, are at a premium; women's wages have risen, and cottar houses and female bothies are the rule.‡

28. There is another cause of pressure for female bothies in the west of Haddingtonshire. In that district, as in Mid Lothian, the hinds' daughters incline to domestic service; their term of farm work generally extends only from about 14 to 17 or 18 years of age.§

Why female bothies exist in the Lothians.

In the absence of a bondage system, and having no great supply of cottar houses, while at the same ime the native girls seem now to prefer domestic service, the farmer in West Haddingtonshire is compelled to adopt a system of female bothies. Most of these bothy women come from the Western Highlands, ome few from Ireland, and as long as the supply lasts the farmer obtains a somewhat cheaper article han the native woman. How long the supply will last is a matter of doubt, and at the same time of ome importance. Knowing something of the Island of Skye I was considerably surprised to find ow many female workers it is now supplying to East Lothian alone.

The number of women allotted to each bothy depends on the size and requirements of the particular farm. I visited two bothies, each containing eight women, but these were on large farms, and I should hink more than that number are seldom found together.

Highland and Irish women, I believe, never live together, and neither have much intercourse with he native population.‖

29. As if, however, to prove that with a sufficient number of cottages neither "bondage system" nor bothy is necessary, as well as to indicate what proportion of cottar houses (*i.e.*, cottages not occupied by hired men) is required to provide a sufficient staff for a highly cultivated farm in East Lothian

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* The following is an extract from my notes on Swanstone farm, in Colinton parish: "The cottages are old thatched ones, having been somewhat improved at the beginning of the last lease (about 20 years ago). The occupier having entered on a new lease is to have 13 new cottages built, five or six of the older ones are to remain for cottar women, it being understood that the tenant is not bound to keep the old cottages in repair."

Notes on cottar-houses.

Mr. Mylne, occupier in Liberton parish, who has six cottages held by cottars on condition of finding female workers, says: "I consider it most important that there should be a sufficient number of cottages on a farm, not only to accommodate all the married men required but also to provide a sufficient number of women workers, such as widows and their daughters, &c."

† It will be evident that if a labourer pays a woman worker 12*l.* a year, besides keeping her, and receives only 15*l.* or even 17*l.* from the farmer for her services, there must be a considerable loss to the labourer, some part, however, of this payment in kind, formerly both cottage and potato ground, were given free in consideration of his keeping the woman worker.

That the bondager is usually a woman and not a young man is simply a matter of convenience on both sides; the hind gets her help after work hours for domestic duties, and the farmer secures a gang of women instead of a mixed gang of women and lads.

‡ Mr. James Skirving, occupier in Aberlady parish, says: "Never having bound my labourers to keep 'bondagers' I have a female bothy occupied by girls from Skye." (Appendix B. 56.)

Examples of female bothies.

Mr. James Douglas, occupier in Athelstaneford parish, says: "There is no 'bondage' system now as a rule, hence a few bothies are required to supply female workers." (Appendix B. 58.)

Mr. Thos. Begbie, occupier in Dirleton parish, says: "The bothy system has existed here since the bondager system was abolished. I have a bothy for eight women, generally filled in summer and half filled in winter." (Appendix B. 64.)

§ Mr. James Skirving says: "The daughters of my ploughmen and labourers generally work on the farm from 14 to about 18 years of age; after that they go out as domestic servants, in which capacity they behave themselves well and make good servants." (Appendix B. 56.)

See also Appendix B. 83.

‖ In one bothy I visited only one out of eight Skye women could speak English.

S.

East Barns farm as an example of the complete success of a strictly family system.

under a strictly family system, I may point to the description given in Appendix B. 69 and 70, of the labourers employed by Mr. Jas. Murray, occupier of East Barns farm in the parish of Dunbar.*

Mr. Murray's farm, which is about 33 miles east of Edinburgh and four miles from the small town of Dunbar, includes 500 acres of rich red loam, all under the plough, and cultivated in seven course rotation: for this he pays a rent of 2,400*l.* a year.†

There are attached to this farm (including groom's and gardener's cottages) 24 cottages, and from these Mr. Murray obtains a staff of 23 men and lads and 22 women. Nine of these cottages are occupied by cottars supplying 14 female workers (of whom 13 are single women and one a widow), the remaining 15 cottages, as it were under a voluntary system, contribute eight female workers.

Mr. Murray's system is a family one in every sense of the word, not only do his female house servants all belong to the families of his farm servants, but there were at the time I visited the farm six cottar houses occupied by the widows and daughters of men who had died in his service.

It may be that Mr. Murray conducts his labour arrangements on what to most farmers would appear too benevolent a scale, but the enormous rent he pays from ordinary agricultural produce serves to contradict this, as well as to justify his boast, that during the quarter of a century he has occupied East Barns farm, no labourers of his or any members of their families have received parochial relief.

Additional number of cottages required to do away with female-bothy and bondage systems.

30. Taking Mr. Murray's farm as an example it would appear, as was stated I believe some years ago by Mr. George Hope (than whom no man is more deservedly well-known in the agricultural world of Scotland) that to do away with the necessity of the bothy or bondage system, the number of cottages attached to a farm in high cultivation should exceed by one half the number of hired men (*i.e.*, grieves, shepherds, cattlemen, and hinds).‡

31. Where cultivation is less active and root crops occupy a smaller proportion of the land under cultivation (say, under a five course rotation, where two-fifths of the arable land are in first or second years artificial grasses) a smaller proportion of cottar houses would be required to do away with the bondage or bothy systems, always, of course, granted that a supply of native women can be obtained.

Mr. Hunter of Thurston's farms.

Take for example Mr. Hunter of Thurston's farms in Innerwick parish, where the bondage system still remains to a limited extent.§

This gentleman, to whom I am indebted for a great deal of information interesting to the Commission (*see* Appendix B, 89, 90, 108, and 109), farms 2,300 acres (of which 1,455 are arable in five course rotation) of his own estate, and employs an ordinary staff of 49 men and lads, and 26 women. Of these 26 young women only four are hired by the cottagers and are therefore "bondagers" proper, but four others belong to the families of men employed on the estate, and would therefore probably not be available for a tenant farmer. We have then under ordinary circumstances a proportion of eight out of 26 female workers, for whom under a cottar system probably five additional cottages would be required, and as the remainder of the staff is supplied by 27 families, the addition would not amount to one-fifth of the cottages now occupied.

On Mr. Hunter's farms, however, there is a large proportion of pasture land, and the number of male labourers as compared with female is much greater than on an ordinary farm under the same course of cropping. As the number of women employed approaches that of men (on some farms they are equal) so the proportion of cottages necessary to supply "cottar women" in place of "bondagers" or bothy women increases. It may be that an addition of one-fourth to the present number of cottages represents about the average increase required, as I have endeavoured to show, it will vary from one-fifth to one-half, depending on the inclination of the hinds to keep their daughters at home for farm work, as well as on the proportion of arable and pasture land.‖

Very few married women employed in Haddingtonshire.

32. Having now got into one of the cow counties, we find the number of married women employed in farm labour comparatively insignificant. According to my labour returns there are employed on 12 farms, including 6,403 acres of arable land, and 1,104 acres of pasture; in spring five married women against 150 unmarried women and girls over 13 years of age; and in winter two married women against 149 single women and girls. In point of fact the employment of married women almost disappears, while the number of single women (with the exception of some extra hands in summer and harvest) remains the same throughout the year.

Carrot weeding versus school attendance.

33. The only other peculiarity in my labour returns from East Lothian which I have to call your attention to at present is the inclination to employ children, who ought to be at school, in weeding carrots on some farms on the shores of the Firth of Forth.

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* Mr. Murray says: "My people have all free houses; nor have I for many years bound any of my ploughmen to keep a female "worker; there are always some of them who have daughters who like to stay at home and work, and they get extra payment."

† Mr. Murray's course of cropping is, 1st. turnips; 2nd. barley (sown down with grass seeds): 3rd. grass (partly cut for hay and partly pastured); 4th. grass; 5th. oats and potatoes (one-half each); 6th. potatoes and beans, or beans and peas mixed (the potatoes after oats, and beans after potatoes); 7th. wheat.

Mr. G. Hope.

‡ In his answers to circular questions (see Appendix B. 61), Mr. Hope says: "The cottages have been much improved of late years in "size and comfort. They are not quite sufficient for the supply of labourers, as more labourers might be advantageously employed "on many farms. I have one half more cottages on this farm in proportion to the acreage than is generally the case. I have "thus no difficulty in getting labourers, and find a profit in employing them."

Mr. Hope has 27 cottages attached to a farm of 660 acres of arable land, and employs a *winter staff* of 27 men, eight lads and 28 women. In spring and summer these numbers are considerably increased, and such is the number of hands in regular employment that only about 15 strangers are needed in harvest.

As a further proof that to do away with the female bothies and substitute cottar houses on farms in high cultivation in East Lothian an addition of about one half more cottages than will suffice to accommodate the hired men is required: I visited two such farms where the bothy women (employed for at least three-quarters of the year) are as many as the cottages provided for hired men. Granting that cottar houses can on the average provide two workers each, the additional cottages necessary for these farms under a cottar instead of bothy system, would be exactly one half of the number now existing. As, however, the bothy might be easily converted back again into a cottage, the landlord would, in the cases I am referring to, only have to provide an addition of one-third to the present number, there being now on each farm eight cottages and a female bothy.

Hind's objection to the bondage system.

§ Mr. Hunter's estate lies on the borders of Berwickshire, where the bondage system prevails much more than in East Lothian, and where also there is much less inclination on the part of hinds' daughters to exchange farm labour for domestic service.

‖ One peculiarity in Mr. Hunter's case is, that he has standing empty cottages sufficient to banish the bondage system altogether, but under liberal treatment he finds that the hinds do not object to the bondager (at least a sufficient number of them for his purpose), and that, taking the whole condition of the families into account, it would be no advantage, either to him or his hinds, to substitute cottars for the four bondagers. I shall have to return to this subject again, but I may as well note it in passing, as one of the evidences that the hind's objection to "the bondage" is mainly a pecuniary one.

The evidence of this subject may speak for itself. Mr. George Hope, occupier in Dirleton parish, S. says,—

"Children are not generally employed under 14 years of age . . . . . There is, however, one exception, where young children are employed in June and July weeding carrots when they ought to be at school." (Appendix B., 61.)

Mr. Robert Pringle, occupier in the same parish, says,—

"I only employ the young boys for about eight or ten weeks in summer, weeding and thinning carrot, and in autumn in gathering potatoes, which allows them six or eight months to go to school if they choose. (Appendix B., 66.)

Mr. Samuel Shirriff, occupier in the same parish, says,—

"From the middle of May till the middle of July boys and girls, from 10 to 15 years of age, are employed in weeding carrots (Mr. Shirriff returns six boys and as many girls under 13 years of age as so employed on his farm of 318 acres). In October they may be again employed gathering potatoes."

I have thought it desirable to give this evidence at length, as carrot weeding is the only agricultural employment seriously interfering with the school attendance of children under 12 years of age that I have found in my district. If regular school attendance up to 10 years of age is all that the compulsory clauses of an Education Bill would demand, then carrot weeders will not be interfered with; but if all parents are to be expected to act up to the usual Scotch practice of keeping their children in regular attendance up to 12 years of age, then the state of matters on carrot-growing farms is a warning that some pressure is needed even with the native Scotch, and an indication that the earnings of children (in this case 9*d.* or 10*d.* a day) have only to rise high enough to compete successfully with the ordinary desire for education. I confess I was somewhat startled to find that even 9*d.* or 10*d.* a day would induce the southern Scotch parent to sacrifice the early education of his child.

Peeblesshire.

34. In Peeblesshire, owing to the attractions of the Tweed-cloth mills, which are considerably increasing in number and size, few females can be obtained for farm labour, and this difficulty has been very much increased by the scarcity of farm cottages and prevalence of the "kitchen system."

Scarcity of native out-workers.

Mr. W. Chambers, landowner, in his answers to the circular questions, says,—

"The employment of children under a certain age might very properly be checked, but I would recommend great caution in legislating as to the employment of women. At present there is a growing scarcity of both male and female labour for rural occupations. My impression is that things are tending in Scotland towards the importation of Chinese coolies as labourers for field work."

Why Chinese coolies, I don't know, but as I have endeavoured to explain there is a fast increasing demand for Irish and Highland labourers in the centre of my district.

I did not find any example of a female bothy nor of a native male bothy in Peeblesshire, but farmers seem every day to become more dependent on Irish labour.

Irish labourers.

Irish men and lads are employed in time of sowing and thinning turnips, as women are farther east, and at the same time that turnip culture is spreading up the steep hill sides, hitherto devoted to sheep pasture, the Irish supply is failing. The habit of the Irish was, after the thinning of turnips was over in Peeblesshire, to go to the eastern counties for the earlier harvest there, and return for the later harvest of the former county. Now, perhaps because reaping machines have so shortened harvest operations as to make it not worth their while, or perhaps because the Irish surplus is almost exhausted, labourers either native or foreign are very difficult to get in Peeblesshire.

The Tweed-cloth mills are no doubt a great attraction to women, but I feel convinced the pinch would not have been so severely felt by farmers but for the lack of cottages. As elsewhere, the casual labourers, especially the female portion of them, who are necessary to keep up the balance of a kitchen system, very soon leave the rural districts when any constant manufacturing employment is brought within their reach.

More married women employed.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining young female workers, the proportion of married women to single employed in agriculture is high. My returns show 9 married as against 22 single women. Being also chiefly a grazing county, there are sundry complaints of children being kept from school to herd cattle.

Selkirkshire.

35. In Selkirkshire, another grazing county, the circumstances affecting the supply of outworkers for farms are pretty much the same as in Peeblesshire. There is the same demand for females for the Tweed-cloth mills, but either owing to some change in the character of the people, or more probably to a better supply of farm cottages, I did not hear of anything like the same difficulty in obtaining outworkers. How much the custom of giving hind's cows, which prevails more in this county than in Peeblesshire, has to do with this result I do not know, but there is nothing, to my mind, more likely to lead to what we may call an agricultural habit, than the possession of a good cottage attached to a farm, and a well-kept cow.

Difficulty of obtaining out-workers not so great as in Peeblesshire.

There are in Selkirkshire a considerable number of sheep-grazing farms, with from 50 up to about 200 acres of tillage land attached to them; in such cases the shepherds' children and young women kept in the house to look after the farmers' cows become available for light summer field work.

Berwickshire and Roxburghshire.

36. As, in all that affects the character and condition of the labouring class, the agricultural arrangements of Berwickshire and Roxburghshire are alike, I shall treat the two counties as one district.

In these two counties there is neither male nor female bothy, the kitchen system has almost disappeared, and, although on arable farms about one-half of the adult labourers are women, the whole of the ordinary farm work is performed by natives housed on the farm premises under a mixed family and bondage system.

Native female labour more easily procured under a mixed family and bondage system.

Whether from the comparative absence of a demand for manufacturing labour, or the pressure of a bondage system arising from the exigencies of turnip culture and paucity of cottage accommodation, or a desire on the part of the parents to keep their children at home for the sake of helping the family purse, or more probably from a combination of all these causes, there results in the eastern border counties a system under which women form quite as important a part as men of the ordinary farm staff, and exhibit far fewer signs than are to be found elsewhere of a desire to exchange field labour for domestic service or factory work.*

* I heard no complaints from farmers in the neighbourhood of the cloth mills of Hawick and Jedburgh of any difficulty of obtaining female field workers.

S. Family system in the Border counties.

37. That, notwithstanding the existence of a certain amount of "bondage system" (which I have before described), the employment of so many native women in farm work arises from no pressure, unless it be parental pressure for the sake of the "family purse," will I think be made clear by a few quotations from my evidence.

John Jeffrey, foreman or "farm steward," Castle Law, Berwickshire, says,—

"I think it would be a great misfortune to the country if our young women were to give up field work, and oblige the farmers to keep Highland or Irish girls in bothies. It's a great matter both for moral and religious training to keep families together." (Appendix C., 27.)

Mrs. Purves, wife of a labourer at Fairnington, Roxburgh, says,—

"Girls in service get less than they do working out, but it takes less to keep them. Some of them incline to service in the house, but I daresay most of them likes field work better. They that have them within themselves (*i.e.* daughters of their own) like best to keep them at home, though I think the bondagers are just as well looked after as house servants; may be they are not subject to such strict rules, and that's why they like it better."

"Young married people lose by the bondage; but I don't see that it's any injury to families, and it keeps them together to help one another."

"There's only two women hired into houses in this toon (farm village) though there's more than 20 bondagers (female field workers), the rest are the daughters and sisters of cottars and ploughmen." (Appendix C., 100.) *

Mrs. Aikman, wife of a hind at Ladyrig, Roxburghshire, who has two daughters at home doing field work, says,—

"My husband is a hind, but he's no bund to keep a worker; the lasses like to stay at home and work, and it helps to school the others; they give me all they win (get) and I buy their clothes for them; most everybody does the same in this quarter." (Appendix C. 101.)†

Again, Mr. D. Milne Home, landowner in Berwickshire, deprecating the extent to which women are employed in farm labour, says,—

"I should be glad to see a restriction on female agricultural labour so as *to force* women into other occupations more congenial to their sex." (Appendix C. 2.)

38. Though the name "bondager" has been generally applied to female field workers in these counties, it is scarcely necessary to explain that that there is no bondage in the ordinary acceptation of the term. The female worker is perfectly free to enter into the engagement or not as she pleases, and the hind is at perfect liberty to decline any service compelling him to provide the worker.

Proportion of hinds who are compelled to hire female workers.

39. What proportion of the women workers are hired by the hinds I have not the means of knowing; but I am inclined to think the proportion is very small and is gradually diminishing as the supply of cottages increases. On many farms the bondage system is entirely given up, while on others, where the hinds are still bound to provide a worker, the supply, as in the instance of Farnington, quoted above, is pretty nearly provided by the families of the hired servants.

A typical instance may serve best to show how the matter stands—

On a farm in Roxburghshire or Berwickshire requiring say six pairs of horses and therefore six hinds a farmer would ordinarily be furnished with nine cottages. If all his hinds were married men these cottages would be occupied by his steward (foreman), shepherd, cattleman, and six hinds: to produce a staff of nine to 12 outworkers for summer and six for winter, he would probably have to bind all his hinds to find an outworker throughout the year, and his other hired servants to provide one each for the summer half-year, trusting to a voluntary supply for what more were required in summer.

It might be that one of his hinds was a single man living with his family (who had what is called a "double hinding") and in this case he would have a cottage free to let as a "cottar house," i.e., to provide one or more outworkers, and in this case if one or two of his hinds had grown up families there might be no need to compel any man to hire a woman, more especially if the men who could not provide a "full" woman worker for both summer and winter had children of 13 or 14 years of age (at school in winter according to the custom of the counties) ready to take their part in summer field work.‡

Ten cottages on such a farm would make it comparatively easy to avoid compelling any man to hire a woman, while eight would probably make it absolutely necessary.

Increase in number of cottages necessary to put an end to the bondage system.

40. It will be evident to you, therefore, I think, that the Scotch system of farm cottages has been supplemented by the "bondage system," chiefly from the want of a sufficient supply of cottages; I say chiefly because, as I shall have to show afterwards, that as long as the labourer was willing to submit to the system, the farmer obtained a cheaper article in the bondager than in the cottar woman. Now that a combination on the part of the hinds has forced up the bondager's wage (the free cottage which she does not require excepted) to something like an equality with the wages of the cottar the labourer no longer fights as he did a few years ago against "the bondage," and the remedy, an additional number of cottages, becomes almost altogether a landowner's question.§

Speaking of the substitution of a cottar for a bondage system, Mr. Campbell Swinton, in his very excellent letter addressed to me on the state of the agricultural labouring class in Berwickshire, (Appendix C. 1.) says,—

Mr. Campbell Swinton.

"To substitute universally this mode of providing female labour for the bondage system would require a

* Mrs. Purves has one daughter in domestic service, and two doing farm work.

† The two girls, being in for their "dinner time," were sitting near mending their clothes, while their mother was giving this evidence.

‡ Two children, who can between them hoe a turnip drill as fast as what they call a "full" woman, are frequently accepted for the summer bondage.

"Border Farm Servants' Protection Association."

§ The following is extracted from a letter written by Mr. Thos. Simson, secretary of "The Border Farm Servants' Protection Association," as explanatory of a copy of the rules of the association, sent to the Assistant Commissioner:—

"I may remark, that although the foregoing rules contain nothing which prohibits a member from engaging a *bondager*, a resolution was engrossed in the minutes of the society at its institution which strictly pledges its members from making any such engagement, the *abolition of bondage* being the principal object of the society.

"It is a matter of regret that so many of the farms servants of the district keep aloof from the society which was instituted to protect their interest in 1866, thus precluding themselves from enjoying the benefits derived therefrom. In the society at the present time there are only 60 members, while there might be four times that number."

(In point of fact the chief object of the members of the association, viz., to raise the bondagers' daily wage having been attained, the association has no longer any charm for them.—G. C.)

great addition to the number of cottages, and would, I fear, result in the erection of dwellings of an rior character."* S.

"very great addition" is, I think, too strong an expression; if Mr. Swinton only contemplates ıg away with the necessity of hinds *hiring* female workers. On many farms the number ottages is already sufficient for that purpose, while on others it is almost sufficient and on few, ny, that I visited, would the additional number of cottages required exceed one fourth of those now xistence.

ranting that the inclination for field work remains as it is at present, the additional number of ages required to substitute a cottar for a bondage system in the Border counties is not great, unfortunately it will press most heavily on those estates which can least afford to meet the sure, as on them less has been done in preparation for such a change. It may be that the Inclosure missioners will come to an understanding of the position, and permit the erection of cottars houses er loans sanctioned by them, at a smaller cost than they are at present inclined to do.

n the Lothians, as I have explained before, these cottar houses are usually old cottages patched up the purpose at the beginning of a lease when there has been a renewal of "hinds' houses." This erhaps not the best of plans, but it is quite possible that a cottage unfit for a man and his ily, may be a very comfortable dwelling for a widow and her daughter or for two sisters.

1. It seems to me that this cottar system is just what is wanting in the south of my district to bring at such a state of things as I have described on Mr. Murray's farm at East Barns (Haddingtonshire), er which the widow of a hind, instead of becoming either a burden to the parish or a trouble- e addition to the family of a married son, and being under the necessity of letting her daughters out as bondager's, is able to keep them at home and with their help as well as that of other nbers of her family to maintain herself in comfort and independence. Cottar houses versus bondage and bothy systems.

2. As many farmers, and thinking men who are not farmers, attribute the very favourable condition of agricultural labouring class in the Border Counties to the limitation of the supply of labour ing indirectly from the bondage system (*i.e.*, in its broad sense of expecting each cottage to pro- e both a male and female worker), I have felt some diffidence in pressing on landowners so expen- a change as is contemplated by adopting a cottar instead of a bondage system. It is perfectly , as far as my experience goes, that in these counties as well as those touching them farther north, ere the bondage system still lingers, the general condition of the labouring class is better than in district of equal size in the United Kingdom. But I am convinced that when the number of ages is so limited as to compel men to *hire* women workers, the result is only damaging to a custom employment with which I would not be inclined to find any other fault.

n these counties the term bondager is applied to all female workers, I have, however, used it in the e restricted sense of field workers hired by the labourer to do the farmer's work, and it is only to h an extent as to relieve this practice that I would urge some addition to the number of cottages.

f this was done there would be, I conceive, an immediate levelling of women's wages. The dager would no longer be as now a cheaper article to the farmer than the cottar, and the farmer ıld have to induce his hind to keep his daughter] at home by giving that daughter the full market ıe of her work. We should no longer find men keeping one daughter at home and sending another, erhaps two others, out to work "the bondage" for some other hind, probably on some other farm, ause a girl's wages and keep as a bondager are worth more than her earnings would amount to if remained in her father's house.

gain the element of uncertainty between the wages demanded from the hind by the bondager, and earnings as paid to the hind by the farmer is a frequent cause of ill feeling, or at least discontent. ny unnecessary changes of service take place on this account; unnecessary I mean in the sense the man is quite content with his own situation, but feels compelled to change because his master s not give as much employment to the bondager as he thinks another might give.†

)ne very intelligent labourer in Fogo parish (Berwickshire) after discussing the hardships of the dage system, said:—

I think they should have *bothies* for women when they need bondagers, then the masters would have to pay women's wages and their wages would rise.

This, as I have before stated, is the arrangement in the Lothians where sufficient cottars' houses are provided; but what is the result? Native women will not live in bothies, and if they did, I rather nble for the morals of the farm village. To fill the bothies you would have to import Irish and ghland women, and we might speedily say good bye to physically the finest class of women to be n in the country, and in course of time good bye also to the Scotch hind as we know him now. thout that system, which keeps his family together to help to feed and educate each other, and vides for him a strong and industrious wife of his own race, the Scotch hind would probably enerate into an article dear at the wages paid to an English ploughman.

3. The most important feature, then, in the manner of obtaining and employing labour in Scotland is practice of housing labourers on the farm premises, and this practice is attended with the best ılts in those districts where it becomes most strictly a family system. As I have endeavoured to w, a nearer approach to a family and self supporting system of native labour can only be obtained some addition to the number of cottages in those parts of my district where the bothy and bondage tems exist. In the bondage district the remedy is comparatively easy and is, I think, working its How a family system can be maintained.

The following are Mr. Campbell Swinton's observations on the bondage system:— Mr. Campbell Swinton.

Most of the hinds or farm servants are required to keep a female, to whom the term "bondager" used to be applied, whose labour ailable when required on the farm. To a woman of this class the hind gives, besides her food, 8*l.* for the summer half year and 4*l.* he winter. The wages when employed on the farm are 1*s.* 2*d.* per day, and are paid to the hind. As full employment is not always n to the woman, the hind is often a loser by the arrangement. And this, rather than the moral and social effects of the system, has o its unpopularity amongst the hinds. Unless the number of labourers' cottages were very greatly increased it is difficult to see how system could be dispensed with. In cases where the so called '*bondager*' is the daughter or sister of the hind or his wife the system s in no respect objectionable, and is certainly infinitely preferable to the "bothy system," as partaking more of the *family* relation. evils do undoubtedly result from the practice of the female labourer being selected by the hind at a hiring market without any tiry as to her habits or character, and principally it may be with a view to her apparent bodily strength."

Mr. Willliam Fairbairn, in his pamphlet on "The Evils of the Bondage System," treats this as his fifth and last objection. He too Mr. William Fairbairn. hepherd, and an example of what farm labourers in Scotland can do,) treats the pecuniary loss to the hind as his first objection to the dage system.

S. own cure; but in the north part of my district, if farmers expect their landlords to help them in t manner I have suggested, they must make every possible effort on their part so to conduct the farming operations as to give constant employment to the occupants of the additional cottages. T build more cottages than will suffice for the accommodation of persons who can be regularly employ would be to do away with the chief advantage of the Scotch system.

In the neighbourhood of towns and villages the farmers may legitimately enough cultivate his la in a manner requiring occasional outside help; but in rural districts he must not expect his landlord do anything towards creating an over supply of the labour market.

Cheap trains for field workers.

It is a great blessing to the poorest class of townspeople to be able to get occasional country wor and it struck me several times in Scotland that the railway companies might facilitate this process b running morning and evening cheap trains, to and from highly cultivated districts, at busy times of t year. Say, for instance, for 20 miles east and west of Edinburgh, and from Perth and Dundee into t Carse of Gowrie.

Wages.

44. The average value of the weekly wages at the command of any ordinary able-bodied farm labour in my district may be very shortly stated as varying from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week. Showing less variati than I have found in single counties in England.

Payment in kind and family purse.

As however the chief object of the Commission in inquiring into the rate of wages is to ascerta the means at a man's disposal to educate his children, it will be necessary to go into this question ve closely in Scotland, where there is not only the custom of payment in kind, but a still more importa custom of a family purse.

This report, which is already lengthening much faster than I could desire, would extend beyond reasonable limit, if I was to go very minutely into all the variations in the manner of payment pr vailing in the different counties I visited. You will find the evidence on this subject, stated in t most minute detail by a large number of witnesses, arranged at the end of the general evidence fr each county.

Under the Scotch system the earnings of ploughmen (who form much the largest class of agricu tural labourers) may be taken to measure the standard wages of the district. Foremen and shepher usually receive considerably higher wages than ploughmen; on the other hand, spademen, when r working by the piece, receive rather less, the ploughman in Scotland being to a certain extent a skill workman and having to work (adding his stable work) rather longer hours than day-tale men.

45. In order to show how I arrive at the average payments of a district, I have tabulated the evide on wages for each county, and have given one or two examples of such tables in the Appendix (S C. 115, 116, 117; D. 47; E. 26, 27, 28, 80, 81, 82, 83.)

For example, take Roxburghshire, where as well as having nearly the whole wage paid in kind have to separate the wages of the hind from those of the female worker provided by him.

Earnings of hind and female worker in Roxburghshire.

Evidence on the Mode of Hiring and Manner of Paying Agricultural Labourers in Roxburghshire.

The Table below will show the variations in hinds' wages and gains, and the wages of women workers, and help to explain connexion between the two. It will be understood that in addition to the gains stated in the table, a hind has a free house garden, food in harvest, carriage of coal, permission to keep a pig, and a keep of a cow; and that the woman-worker also her food in harvest.*

Parish.	Witness.	Hind's Wages and gains.								Bondager's Wages.	
		Oatmeal or Oats.	Barley.	Peas.	Potatoes.	Money.	Allowance for keeping Worker, if any.	Coals.	Whether bound to keep a Worker or not.	Harvest wage.	Rest of Yea
						£	£ *s.*				
Bedrule -	Mr. T. R. Scott -	100 stones	21 bushels	6 bushels -	1,600 yds.	5	3 0	6 tons of coals at pit price.	Yes - -	17*s.* a week.	12*d.* a day for year, and 10 winter quar
Do. -	Mr. G. Pott -	Do. -	72 stones -	28 stones -	1,500 yds.	5	3 0	96 cwt. at half price.	Yes - -	Do. -	Do.
Eckford -	Dr. Murray -	120 stones	24 bushels	6 bushels -	Not stated	6	- -	95 cwt. to 105 cwt. at half price.	Yes - -	Not stated	15*d.* to 16*d.* o average.
Do. -	Mr. A. Logan -	100 stones	18 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5	- -	Quantity not stated.	Not stated	Do. -	Not stated.
Ednam -	Mr. W. Broad -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yds.	5	†	7 cart-loads at half price.	No - -	Do. -	14*d.* a day for year, and 12 winter quar
Makerston -	Mr. J. Usher -	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	6	- -	Quantity not stated.	Not stated	Do. -	Not stated.
Morebattle -	Mr. R. Oliver -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5	- -	Carriage free (long lead).	Yes - -	2*s.* 6*d.* a day.	15*d.* a day f year, and 12 remainder.
Roxburgh -	Mr. J. Munro -	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	1,800 yds.	4	2 10	6 tons at half price.	Yes - -	2*s.* a day	12*d.* for ever hours' work
Do. -	Mr. J. Robertson	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	1,600 yds.	6	- -	Do. -	Not stated	2*s.* 1*d.* a day.	12*d.* a day for year, and 10 winter quar
St. Boswell's	Mr. J. Boyd -	60 bushels	18 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yds.	5	- -	Quantity not stated.	Do. -	Not stated.	14*d.* a day in mer, and 12 winter.
Smailholm -	Mr. W. Broad -	100 stones	21 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5	- -	6 tons at half price.	Do. -	Do. -	14*d.* a day for year, and 12 winter quar
Southdean -	Mr. D. Pringle -	Do. -	60 stones -	Do. -	1,800 yds.	4	- -	3 tons free.	Do. -	Do. -	15*d.* a day for year, and 12 winter qua
Sprouston -	Mr. J. Clay -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,600 yds.	5	- -	Quantity not stated.	Do. -	Do. -	Not stated.
Do. -	Mr. C. Robson -	Do. -	19 do. -	Do. -	1,800 yds.	5	3 0	Carriage from station.	Yes - -	Do. -	14*d.* a day for year, and 12 winter qua
Do. -	Mr. W. Dunn -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yds.	5	- -	6 tons at half price.	Not all -	2*s.* 10*d.* a day.	Do.
Yetholm -	Mr. J. B. Boyd -	60 bushels	18 do. -	Do. -	1,200 yds.	4	3 0	Carriage of 6 loads.	Yes - -	3*s.* a day	12*d.* a day for year, and 1 winter qua

* The cow's keep was accidentally omitted in Appendix C., 115.
† If hinds keep a worker, 1,000 yards of potatoes and three bushels of barley are given in addition.

46. As far then as it is possible to separate the hind and bondager's earnings, the average wages and allowances of a married hind in Roxburghshire may be considered to be— S. Hind's "gains."

Money, 5*l.*
Cottage and garden free.
Carriage of 6 tons of coal free.
Cow's keep.
Straw for pig.
Food for, say, 4 weeks, in harvest.
100 stones of oatmeal.
21 bushels of barley.
6 do. of peas.
1,600 yards of potatoes.

47. When the hind keeps a woman worker, as is usually the case, he receives, in addition to the above wage, a gratuity or fee of 3*l.* and the woman's earnings at 1*s.* a day for three-quarters of the year and 1*d.* a day for the winter quarter, or he receives only her earnings at 14*d.* a day for three-quarters of the year and 1*s.* a day for winter. The 3*l.* given to the hind is worth more than the difference earned by the bondager at an increase of 2*d.* a day to her wage, as, on an average, 270 days (of 10 hours) is about her complement of work for the year. Accordingly we find the 3*l.* reduced to 50*s.* on one farm in Roxburghshire, and in one case in Berwickshire (where the bondager's wages are the same) to 2*l.*—(Appendix C. 53.)*

Taking, however, the fee given to the head of the family to be simply an equivalent for the extra 1*s.* a day paid in other cases to the woman, the bondager's earnings in Roxburghshire may be computed thus :— Bondager's earnings.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
270 days of 10 hours at 14*d.* - - -	15	15	0
Extra wages and food in harvest - - -	2	10	0
	£18	5	0†

48. On the other hand a cottar (if the cottar's house only produces one worker) costs the farmer :— Cottar's "gains."

	£	*s.*	*d.*
A cottage and garden, say - - -	2	10	0
1,000 yards of potatoes, say - - -	3	0	0
3 bushels of barley, at 4*s.* 2*d.* - - -	0	12	6
Carriage of 4 tons of coal, say - - -	1	0	0
270 days at 1*s.* a day - - - -	13	10	0
Extra wages and food in harvest, say - -	2	10	0
	£23	2	6‡

49. Suppose each cottar house produces only one worker and that hired bondagers, as I have suggested, were replaced by cottars, such a change would cost the farmer an addition of 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per annum for each woman not voluntarily supplied by the hind's family.

I am anxious to note this fact, as the sum I have named is probably the greatest amount of loss that can occur, under the present bondage system, to a hind who is obliged to hire a woman worker.§

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* With regard to this practice of giving a fee to the head of the house, instead of increasing the bondager's wage, Mr. Hunter, of Hurston (see Appendix B. 108), says :—

"The giving 52*s.* a year to the head of the family makes no earthly difference, and I am no gainer thereby. The woman's wage is paid to the head of the family, and he charges so much less for her keep. It makes no difference with regard to neighbours' wages. It was done at a time when there was a threatened strike amongst the women for an increase of wages, which I stopped by giving the increase to the head of the house." Fee paid to the head of the family.

(I cannot see that making the payment to the head of the house does make any difference, except that where the head of the house gets 3*l.* or even 52*s.*, as given by Mr. Hunter, in Haddingtonshire, he receives more than the bondager would earn by the extra 2*d.* a day, even to female workers who are not provided under a bondage bargain. The bondager for whom the fee is paid knows very well what the hind receives for her services, and will doubtless continue to demand higher wages from him as long as she can get them, notwithstanding any fictitious value which may be given to her daily wage as paid by the farmer. G.C.)

† The following examples of bondagers' earnings in the Border counties will serve to confirm the valuation I have made.

A hind's wife in Yetholm parish told me that, including the 3*l.* fee, a bondager they were obliged to hire earned as near as might be 3*l.* (Appendix C. 134.)

The following are the earnings of five bondagers on Billie Mains farm (Berwickshire), *including a 2l. fee to the hind* (1868 to 1869) :— Examples of "bondagers'" earnings.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Mary Wood - - -	18	13	6	
Margaret Purvis - - -	18	1	6	
Mary Purvis - - -	18	9	6	Average 18*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*
Jane Cowe - - -	18	16	0	
Jane Logan - - -	18	12	0	

On Black House farm (Berwickshire), five bondagers earned as under (1868 to 1869) :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Helen Tunnah - - -	18	7	9	
Jane Tunnah - - -	18	6	9	
Mary Reid - - -	18	3	9	Average 18*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*
Margaret Reid - - -	18	3	0	
Jane Crowe - - -	18	9	0	

These 10 bondagers are all employed by Mr. Allan, who gives the 2*l.* fee for each bondager however many a family may keep. (See also Appendix C. 58, 62, 125, and 130, &c.)

‡ I have put the cottage and garden at 50*s.*, as cottar houses are usually old ones inferior in quality to hind's cottages.

The barley I have valued at 4*s.* 2*d.* per bushel, as I find that is the average of the Fiars prices for barley in the Border counties for seven years ending 1868.

For value of cottar woman's wages, see (Appendix C. 58, 61, 117, 126, 131, 132).

§ It is a very common thing for a hind to say that he is "all the woman's meat out of pocket." That this is not the case may be proved from several cases, as well as by the general difference between the woman's earnings and the wages the hind gives her. For example, take the evidence of a hind's wife in Yetholm parish in Roxburghshire. This woman says (*see* Appendix C. 134) :— Cost of bondager to hind.

"We have to hire a *woman*, and pay her 8*l.* in summer and 4*l.* in winter. She earns about 15*l.*, *i.e.*, about 9*l.* in summer and 6*l.* in winter, and we get 3*l.* for keeping her [*i.e.*, her earnings are altogether equal to 18*l.*—G. C.] Wi' yae thing and another, it takes all the 7*l.* to keep her in the winter. A woman from Yetholm works my winter bondage, and I give her all she wins (gains) and the 30*s.* we have for her." [During the winter, therefore, this woman neither lost nor gained by the 'bondage.']

"Last summer and the summer before I hired one from Yetholm, and I had to give her 14*d.* a day and her dinner when she worked and her harvest wages, and 1½ bushels of barley," [*i.e.*, putting the barley at 4*s.* the bushel, and the number of day's work for summer, minus harvest, at 130, which is about the average, this hind's wife received 2*s.* 4*d.* out of her 30*s.* fee for giving the bondager a dinner on 130 days, and her husband's "gains" must be debited to the bondage account to the extent of that difference, owing to the fact that she paid the bondager 14*d.* a day, while for her work she received only 12*d.*—G. C.]

S.

Comparative cost of bondagers and cottar women.

Many cottar houses, however, provide two or more workers, and we shall be quite on the safe side in assuming that, on an average, each pair of cottar houses would provide three workers. The change to the cottar system would therefore be less costly to the farmer and I think less a matter of gain to the hind.

For example, assuming that each pair of cottar houses would provide three workers, two out of the three would cost the farmer (according to my calculation) 23*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* each, while the third would cost only as much as the bondager, viz. 18*l.* 5*s.* As against three bondagers, there would be an increased cost of 9*l.* 15*s.* or 3*l.* 5*s.* per woman, applicable, however, only to such women as are now hired, say, as the outside, one-fourth of the women employed.

Receiving 18*l.* 5*s.* in the year for 270 days (of 10 hours) work, the bondager costs the farmer over 1*s.* 4¼*d.* per day; the cottar would cost him a little over 1*s.* 7*d.* By paying therefore an extra wage of, say, 3*d.* a day for the number of women he now compels the hinds to hire, the farmer would get rid of a sore bone of contention between him and his servants, and would at the same time do away with one of those impediments to marriage which increase the rate of illegitimacy in rural districts.†

Unmarried hinds.

50. Unmarried hinds in the border district command an upstanding wage of 14*s.* a week, and as long as his loss by keeping a bondager exceeds, or is nearly equal to, the increased value of his wage as a married man, so long he has a strong inducement to remain single.

51. In the Carse of Gowrie, bothy men, who form about two-thirds of the ordinary ploughmen, are on an average paid as follows:—

Earnings of ploughmen in the Carse of Gowrie.

Money, 20*l.*
Bothy lodging, bedding, and light.
One ton of coal.
65 stones (6½ bolls) of oatmeal.
‡ One Scotch pint (16 gills imp.) of sweet milk per day.
Harvest food.

Married ploughmen receive in lieu of the bothy lodging, and in addition to the above wage,—

A cottage and garden rent free.
§ Two bolls (10 cwt.) of potatoes, or an equivalent of potato ground.
Carriage of from 3 to 4 tons of coal.
Straw for a pig.

Foremen.

Grieves or foremen get from 25*l.* to 30*l.* in money, with the same allowances, or a smaller addition to the money wage, and the keep of a cow.

Cattlemen.

Cattlemen get about 24*l.* in money and the same allowances.

First-class ploughmen also get as high as 23*l.* with the allowances I have stated, but the payments I have named for bothymen and married ploughmen are those which an ordinary able-bodied ploughman, married or single, can command. (*See* Appendix A, Nos. 81 to 117.) ‖

"My neighbour got for me what she won (1*s.* a day), 1½ bushels of barley and the 30*s.*" [*i.e.*, she lost 6*s.* worth of barley only by the bargain.—G.C.]

On the other hand take the evidence of a labourer (not a hind) in Fogo parish Berwickshire (*see* Appendix C. 47). This man says:—

"My wages are better than a hind's. Where a hind has to keep a bondager I don't think he gets more than 12*s.* a week for himself if you take the cost of the woman. They have raised the women's wages lately to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, but I don't see that the hinds are at better off, for the women just ask more money. Some of them get 8*l.* 10*s.* and some 9*l.* for the summer and 4*l.* for the winter. I consider the hind is all the woman's meat out of pocket, and you cannot meat a strong young woman much under 1*s.* a day. If a man keeps his daughter at home he gets her money, but she would get more in service."

* On Mr. Mylne's farm in Liberton parish, Edinburghshire, I found one cottar house providing five workers (a widow, her three daughters, and a son.)

On Mr. Murray's farm in Haddington, as I have said before, nine cottar houses supply 14 female workers.

† Several farmers besides Mr. Murray, of East Barns, have adopted cottar houses as a resting place for old servants. Mr. Wilson, of Cumledge, in Berwickshire, for example, lets two former field-workers occupy cottages to provide one woman each. As Mr. Wilson gives 1,300 yards of potatoes, each worker provided in this way costs him 24*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per annum, *i.e.*, taking an average of 270 working days, over 1*s.* 9*d.* a day.

Cottar-houses at Cumledge in Berwickshire.

The following is the evidence of Bell Fortune, one of these cottar women:—

"I have a cot house from Mr. Wilson to keep a woman worker. I have what the girl wins (earns), and I have a cottage and garden free, my coals led (say four tons), 1,300 yards of potatoes, and three bushels of barley. I believe cottars used to have peas, and the barley is in place of them.

"I pay my girl 7*l.* for the summer half and 4*l.* for the winter. I can't just tell what she costs me to meat her and wash her.

"I can't do much at out-work now, you may say, next to nothing; I'm 67, but I worked full work till I was 65.

"The girls are much better off now than they used to be, but they dress so fine; the merchants get a good deal out of them. There was no such thing in my young days."

Each of the female workers representing these cottages is a hired girl in no way related to the cottar woman with whom she lives (one is the daughter of the steward of a neighbouring farm, and the other of a railway porter), and all the cottar woman has to live upon herself and keep her bondager on unless she has saved money, is the difference between the value of her allowances including the girl's earnings (24*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*), and the wage she has to pay the girl (11*l.*) It is perfectly clear that unless this difference of 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* including cottage rent was sufficient to keep or very nearly keep two women the arrangement would not be looked upon as a great kindness on the part of Mr. Wilson. Bell Fortune had as she says worked "full work," meaning farm work till she was 65, yet I defy any man to find a better kept or more comfortable little home in the country.

‡ There are two so-called Scotch pints, one equal to about 16 gills or two quarts imperial, the other equal to 12 gills imperial. Some farmers give the "large pint" (16 gills) in summer, and the "small pint" (12 gills) in winter, while a few give the "small pint" throughout the year. Commonly, however, the 16-gill pint is given throughout the year.

§ The allowance of potatoes or potato ground also varies very much. A common practice is to give as many "falls" (a fall is equal to 1·261 imperial poles) as the ploughman's pig manure will suffice for at 1*s.* a fall, which is about half the value of the crop to the ploughman, the land being worked by the farmer.

Mr. McClaren's valuation of wages in Carse of Gowrie.

‖ Mr. McClaren, factor to Lord Kinnaird, gives the following Table of the Earnings of different classes of farm labourers:—

——	1st Class Foreman.	2nd Class Foreman.	1st Class Married Ploughman.	2nd Class Married Ploughman.	1st Class Unmarried Ploughman.	2nd Class Unmarried Ploughman.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Money	30 0 0	25 0 0	23 0 0	19 0 0	24 0 0	19 0 0
Meal	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0
Milk	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0
House and garden	3 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0	2 10 0	—	—
Bothy lodging	—	—	—	—	2 12 0	2 12 0
Potatoes	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	—	—
Firing and lights	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
Haulage of fuel	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	—	—
Fod in harvest, &c.	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Pig manure	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	—	—
Totals	47 14 0	42 14 0	40 4 0	36 4 0	40 6 0	35 6 0

Good day-tale men can command about 13*s.* a week on an average, for the year.* S.

Day-tale men.

In the Highland district of Perthshire, *married shepherds* have,— Highland shepherds.

A cottage and garden.
20*l.* in money.
Grazing and hay for two cows.
6½ bolls (65 stones) of oatmeal.
As much potato land as they like to work.
As many peats as they like to cut.

Unmarried shepherds have 20*l.* and their food in the farmhouse, or in lieu of their food, 65 stones of oatmeal, 16 gills of milk daily, and fuel. (*See* Appendix A. 89, 90, 94.)

52. *Women* in the Carse and neighbourhood receive generally 1*s.* a day, increased to 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* Earnings of women in Perthshire.
turnip singling and potato lifting, and to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day in harvest.
Mr. John Richmond, occupier, in Dron parish, calculates the earnings of a woman always ready for work, thus:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Twenty days harvesting at 2*s.* 6*d.* - - - -	2	10	0
Ten days, at 1*s.* 6*d.* - - - - -	0	15	0
230 days, at 1*s.* - - - - - -	11	10	0
	£13	15	0

Mr. Geo. Muirhead, occupier, in Kilspindie parish, says:—

"The average earnings of a female worker regularly employed for the year will be about 12*l.* to 13*l.* Of course the term 'regularly' must be accepted with a certain amount of reservation, as no female worker is employed every day in the year. Constant employment will consist, on an average, of say 220 days—

Spring (March to May) - - -	55 days.
Summer (June to August) - - -	80 „
Autumn (September to November) - -	60 „
Winter (December to February) - -	25 „

Appendix (A. 100).

Mr. Thos. Landale, occupier in Rhynd parish, speaking of six Highland (Isle of Skye) bothy women, says:—

"These women, besides the wages I have given for native women (1*s.* a day for ordinary days, 3*s.* a day in harvest, and 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for three weeks potato lifting), cost me their travelling expenses from Skye, a few potatoes, a quart of milk per day, lodging, coals, and bedding. I calculate that besides the higher wages at harvest and potato lifting, they cost me 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. Women are paid fortnightly, and I find the earnings of a woman to be from 16*l.* to 18*l.* in the year." (Appendix A. 112.)

Charles White, grieve on Powgavie farm in the Carse, says:—

"I don't think women that work out most ever earn 10*l.* in a year in the Carse, we have so little turnip."

The meaning of this evidence is that on Carse farms where few turnips are grown the married women who work out "whenever they can win (get)," as they say, can seldom add 10*l.* to the family purse, and I am very much of John White's way of thinking where he says (Appendix A. 35):—

"I never see that a man's family is any the better of his wife's working out, except in harvest, and there is a deal of discomfort about it."†

On farms where more turnips are grown a woman worker in Perthshire may earn 15*l.* or 16*l.* in the year.

Women who live in the house and do dairy or field work get 9*l.* to 10*l.* and their keep, being about 2*l.* less than is given in the Border Counties to bondagers hired and fed by the hinds.

53. In Fifeshire the money payment and allowances to ordinary *married ploughmen* are as follows:— Earnings of ploughmen in Fifeshire.

Money, 18*l.*
House and garden free.
One quarter of an acre of potato ground or 2 tons of potatoes.
‡ Scotch pint of milk per day.
65 stones of oatmeal.
Carriage of about 4 tons of coal.
Two meals a day in harvest. (See Appendix E. 80.)

The *bothy-man* in Fifeshire receives besides his bothy lodging, bedding, firing, and lights,—

Money, 20*l.*
Oatmeal, 65 stones.
Milk, 14 gills per day.
Potatoes for supper, valued at 15*s.*§

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* Mr. McClaren says: "I have taken the meal boll (equal to 140 lbs.) as worth 20*s.* a boll or 2*s.* a stone. The Scotch pint (sometimes 12 and sometimes 16 gills) of milk I have taken as worth 2*s.* a week, as that was the allowance in lieu of the milk fixed by the sheriff at the time of the cattle plague. Where a foreman has a cow I consider the allowance worth 3*l.* more than the milk. If potatoes or potato ground is not given free the labourer generally has as many falls as his pig manure will cover, at 1*s.* a 'fall,' the crop will be worth to him, say, 2*s.* a 'fall.' When ploughmen are away from home they get an allowance of meal, and if they are laid up with sickness they get full pay for six weeks. The master is also a loser by a certain number of holidays."

* Mr. Elliot, of Clunie parish (north of the Carse), gives an average of 14*s.* a week to his day-tale men. Mr. G. Muirhead, of Kilspindie parish, gives 13*s.* 6*d.* as their average. The rest of the evidence, however, justifies me in saying that 13*s.* a week on an average is fully as much as they can command.

† I may remark in passing that the meaning of the farmers giving food in harvest is to allow all the family, including the hind's wife, to lend a hand. Harvest food.

‡ 16-gill pint in summer and 12-gill pint in winter.

For the above estimate of gains, see the table compiled from the evidence of 18 farmers given in Appendix E. 80.

§ See table given in Appendix E. 82.

The Fifeshire bothy-man receives rather less milk (14 gills against 16 per day) than the bothy-man of Perthshire; but the difference is made up to him in what he calls his "supper potatoes."*

Giving supper potatoes allows a wholesome change in diet from the continual porridge or brose and milk, and removes the temptation of taking potatoes which do not belong to them, a temptation too strong for many bothy men to resist, especially as they know their masters wink at the performance. Masters had much better give a fixed allowance of potatoes than wink at a system of petty pilfering which may have a tendency to enlarge itself.†

Foremen.

Foremen, as in Perthshire, have from 5*l.* to 10*l.* more than married ploughmen. A common arrangement is to give the grieve (*i.e.* foreman) say 20*l.* or 21*l.* in money instead of 18*l.* given to the ploughman, and a cow's keep instead of the milk allowance, the other allowances being the same for all classes of hired men.‡

Day-tale men and drainers.

Good *day-tale* men can command about 14*s.* a week. *Drainers* working by the piece and finding their own tools can make from 18*s.* to 24*s.* a week when at work.

Women's earnings in Fifeshire less than in Border counties.

54. *Women* are paid 1*s.* a day for nine hours' work. In potato lifting they get from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and in corn harvest 2*s.* a day and meat, or as high as 3*s.* a day without meat.

As you will see by my labour return (Appendix F. 5), more women are employed in Fifeshire in proportion to men than in any part of my district. A large proportion of these women are married, and in hiring a ploughman it is always a matter of consideration whether his wife can work out or not. A married woman can seldom add 10*l.* to the family purse by field work, her earnings commonly range from 8*l.* to 9*l.*, besides her food in harvest. Cottar women can earn about 15*l.*§

Instead of the free cottage and garden 1,000 yards of potatoes and 3 bushels of barley given in the Border Counties, the Fifeshire cottar woman only has her cottage and garden at a low rent, say 20*s.* under their value, and costs the farmer much less than the same class of woman in the more southern counties. This is a rather peculiar state of things, considering the great demand for female labour in Fifeshire, and arises no doubt from the employment of married women.

Ploughmen's earnings in West and Mid-Lothian.

55. In West and Mid Lothian a *married ploughman* can command the following money wage and allowances:—

Money, 26*l.*
Oatmeal, 65 stones.
Potatoes, 16 cwt. (4 bolls).
Carriage of 5 tons of coal.
Harvest food.
Cottage and garden rent free. (See Appendix B. 13 to 18 and 44 to 54.)

Day-tale men.

Day-tale men, when not continously employed by the same master, receive 15*s.* a week. If constant employment is given they may be obtained for about 14*s.* a week.

Women.

56. *Women* are paid 14*d.* a day for 10 hours' work, except in harvest, when they receive 2*s.* a day and three meals, or as high as 3*s.* a day without food.

Cottar women, as in Fifeshire, get their cottage and garden for 30*s.* a year, and have their coals led free. They are paid for their work the same price as other women, and on an average can earn from 15*l.* to 16*l.* in the year.

Ploughmen's gains in East Lothian.

57. In East Lothian an ordinary married ploughman is paid as follows:—

Money, 14*l.*
Cottage and garden free.
Carriage of 6 tons of coal.
Cow's keep.
65 stones of oatmeal.
12 bushels of barley.
4 bushels of beans.
1,000 yards of potatoes.
4 weeks harvest food (two meals).
Straw for pig.

Grieves and shepherds.

As elsewhere grieves (or foremen) receive considerably higher wages, and shepherds who receive the same payments have in addition the keep of four or five sheep. Gratuities also, usually in the shape of a boll of wheat, are given to ordinary ploughmen who keep the time or set out the ridges, as well as to men who can stack corn and feed the thrashing machine.‖

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* Valuing milk at 2*d.* per quart, he receives 15*s.* 2*d.* less per annum in the shape of milk, but his supper potatoes are worth at least 15*s.*

† William Speed, bothy man, Dairsie parish, Fife, says:—

Bothy-man's food.

"We have brose (scalded oatmeal) at breakfast, there's no time to make porridge, brose at dinner, and when we havn't porridge at supper, we have boiled potatoes and milk.

"They don't give potatoes in Perthshire, but where a master does not give potatoes, there's always some way of getting them."—(Appendix E. 53.)

‡ Formerly a good many married ploughmen had cows, now grieves only (and not all of those) have them.

The evidence of George Johnstone, farm grieve in Dairsie parish, is to the point on this subject; he says (Appendix E. 54.):—

Labourer's cows.

"When I remember first some of the common labourers had cows, and I think they lost them as much by their own fault as anything. They were always taking more than they were allowed for their cows, and hurting the beast often as well as doing what was wrong."

§ According to my labour returns from 20 farms extending over 12,112 acres, in Fifeshire, there are employed in spring:—

Males over 18 years of age	238	260
Do. between 13 and 18	22	
Females, married	134	295
Do. unmarried, over 18	117	
Do. between 13 and 18	44	

Mr. Kidd, bailiff to Mr. Oswald, of Dunnikeir, Kircaldy parish, says:—

"Most labourers' wives work out, and in hiring a man this is always a consideration."—(Appendix E. 97.)

George Johnstone, farm grieve, Dairsie parish, says:—

"Cottar women get a house and garden for a small rent, say 30*s.*, coals driven, and the same wage as other women, *i.e.*, 1*s.* per day ordinarily, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for about a fortnight in potato lifting, and 3*s.* 0*d.* a day in harvest for, say, three weeks. Their gains run to 15*l.* a year including everything."—(Appendix E. 54.) See also table of womens' wages, Appendix E. 83.

‖ On farms where there is a good deal of grazing land, shepherds receive very little or no money, the difference being made up by an additional number of sheep, as in the Border counties.

58. *Women* are paid 1*s.* a day, summer and winter, except in harvest, when they receive 2*s.* and their d. Besides the 1*s.* a day, bothy women have their bothy quarters free, and about one ton of coal per d. Cottar women have their cottage and garden free, and coals led. In some cases regular female rkers also get an allowance of potatoes equal to about 30*s.* Although the employment given is pretty gular, owing to the difference in the daily wage (2*d.* a day for three quarters of the year), the nings of women in East Lothian are lower than the same class in Berwickshire, a result probably the female bothy system. S. Women's earnings in East Lothian.

59. Having noted the variations in the manner of paying male and female agricultural labourers in important parts of my district, it is unnecessary to pursue the subject farther.* Valuation of ploughmen's allowances.

There remains, however, the necessity of putting a value on the ploughmen's allowances, of which ave given the items.†

The cottage and garden I shall take as worth 3*l.* a year.‡

The cost of the carriage of coal varies greatly. In the Carse of Gowrie I shall take it at 2*s.* 6*d.* a ; the same in Fifeshire; in the Lothians, at 4*s.* a ton; and in the border counties at 5*s.*§

The straw for pig including the use of sty, I shall take as worth 10*s.* a year.‖

The harvest food for four weeks I shall consider worth 20*s.*, where two meals are given, and 24*s.* ere three meals or two meals and an allowance of "supper barley" are given.¶

Potatoes I shall take as worth 50*s.* a ton, or 20*l.* an acre on good land.**

Oatmeal, as by common assent of labourers and farmers, I shall take as worth 2*s.* a stone.

For barley, beans, and peas I must accept the Fiar's prices of the different counties, taking the erage of seven years, 1862 to 1868 inclusive.††

The milk allowance of the north of my district I shall take as worth 2*d.* per quart, making the large otch pint given daily worth 6*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* per annum.‡‡

Last of the allowances for which I have to fix a value comes the "keep of a cow." This privilege of urse varies according to what the farmer allows for keep. In East Lothian, for instance, the hind's w is allowed grass (usually first or second year's grass) in summer, and oat straw in winter. In oxburghshire and Berwickshire, old grass, where available, is given in summer, and the oat straw is pplemented by turnips or oilcake in winter. In all cases where the hinds have cows the byre and dding are provided by the farmer. The attendance (*i.e.* the feeding of the cow and cleaning out of e byre) usually falls to the lot of the hind's family.

Of course the value of the cow to the hind depends very much on the character of the animal and s wife's management, as well as on the food provided by the farmer. In all cases the value to the rvant ought to considerably exceed the cost of keep to the master. All sorts of estimates of this lue are given both by labourers and farmers, but I think I am bound to take that sum as the erage value which hinds are inclined to accept in lieu of the cow's keep, I shall therefore value this em of his wages to the East Lothian hind at 7*l.*, to the Border hind at 9*l.*§§

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* Any person interested in the subject will find the evidence on wages from the counties of Stirling, Peebles, and Selkirk, quite as mplete as that with which I have been dealing.

† Valuations are given by many farmers, and these will greatly aid any inquirer in estimating the correctness of the values which I ve given. Take for example the table of values given by farmers in *Fifeshire*. (*See* Appendix E. 81.)

Valuation of ploughman's gains by 10 occupiers in Fifeshire.

Parish.	Witness.	Money.	Meal.	Milk.	Potatoes.	Cartage of Coal.	Cottage and Garden.	Harvest Food.	Total Value.
		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
obotshall -	D. Aitken -	19 0 0	20*s.* per boll	3½*d.* per pint	3*s.* per cwt.	0 10 0	2 10 0	0 15 0	37 17 0
„ -	J. Williamson	20 0 0	„	5*d.* per half-gallon.	1*s.* 6*d.* per fall	0 18 0	2 10 0	0 10 0	39 16 1
erdour -	— Philipps -	20 0 0	„	5*d.* per pint	8*s.* per boll	Not stated	2 10 0	Not stated	37 16 1
mbog -	J. Ballingall	19 10 0	2*s.* 1½*d.* per stone.	3½*d.* per pint	12*l.* per acre	0 6 0	3 0 0	0 15 0	38 8 6
„ -	D. Berwick -	18 0 0	22*s.* per boll	5*d.* per half-gallon.	16*l.* „	Not stated	3 0 0	Not stated	39 14 8
rryport -	P. Christie -	16 0 0	2*s.* 2*d.* per stone.	4½ per pint	2*l.* per ton	0 10 0	2 10 0	0 12 1½	36 6 0
ilmany -	D. Anderson	19 0 0	20*s.* per boll	4*d.* per half-gallon.	50*s.* as value	0 10 0	4 0 0	1 0 0	39 11 8
ingsbarns -	J. Barclay -	18 0 0	„	3½*d.* „	33*s.* 5*d.* per ton.	1 0 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	38 14 0
euchars -	A. Duncan -	18 0 0	„	4*d.* per 14 gills.	3*l.* per ton	0 10 0	3 0 0	Not stated	40 1 8
ruivie -	A. Reid -	18 0 0	„	4*d.* per half-gallon.	12*l.* per acre	0 10 0	3 0 0	0 10 0	38 0 0

‡ This is of course much less than a reasonable interest on the cost of the cottage, but it is as much as a farm labourer would be illing to pay for house accommodation provided by any person other than the landowner. It is also about the rent paid by English lbourers (albeit for much worse cottages). Most farmers in their valuations put the cottage and garden at 50*s.* or 52*s.* a year.

§ In the Lothians and Border counties railway carriage is included as well as cartage.

‖ This is considerably under the valuation of many farmers.

¶ These are the valuations of most farmers.

** In the Border counties the allowance of potato ground varies from 1,600 to 1,800 yards of a 30-inch drill according to the quality of ne land. The allowance is supposed by farmers and labourers to be worth 5*l.*

†† The Fiars are the average prices, yearly, ascertained by the sheriff with the help of a jury, of the several kinds of grain of the rowth of his county, in the preceding crop. The forms of procedure are regulated by the Acts of Sederunt, 21st December 1723 and 9th of February 1728. Ministers' stipends and corn (or grain) rents take their value from the Fiars, creating as it were an antagonistic nterest between farmers on the one hand and ministers and landlords on the other, and notwithstanding the fixing of the forms of rocedure by Acts of Sederunt, curious differences arise in fixing the average price of grain. On the whole, however, rent-charges arying with the price of grain are more equitably arranged under the Scotch than under the English valuation. Fiar's prices.

As farm servants are entitled to the best corn after the farmer has selected his seed, I have taken the "first Fiars," *i.e.*, the value of ne best grain.

‡‡ By an order of the sheriff during the time of the cattle plague, 2*s.* a week, or 5*l.* 4*s.* for the year, was fixed as the compensation a rmer should pay to a hind or bothy man in Perthshire for the loss of his milk. At ordinary times, however, farmers are compelled o allow money at the rate of 2*d.* per quart for all deficiencies.

§§ I should like to quote here some opinions on the advantages of the cow system. Mr. Elliot, of Laigwood, in Perthshire, farming n a district where this privilege, except for shepherds, is very unusual, says :— Value of cow to labourer's family.

"So far as my own opinion goes, I consider there is nothing so conducive to the comfort and contentment of a farm labourer or hepherd with a wife and family as a comfortable cottage with a good moderate sized garden attached, provided the keep of a cow

S. Valuation of a married ploughman's income in five districts.

60. Assuming then that I am right in the value I have assigned to the different items of payment in kind, the ordinary married ploughman can command an annual income in—

	£	s.	d.
The Carse of Gowrie of - - -	38	6	8
In Fifeshire of - - - - -	39	6	6
In West and Mid Lothian of - - -	39	10	0
In East Lothian of - - - -	40	3	0
In the Border Counties of - - -	40	16	0

The result is a very simple statement, but to arrive at it I have had to wade through a flood of confused local weights and measures. That it is sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes can be easily ascertained by taking the cases, increasing in number, where money payments have been introduced.

Unmarried ploughmen in the Carse of Gowrie, Fifeshire, and Border Counties can command a wage of about 14*s.* a week. What difference there is being in favour of the northern bothy-man.

We may say then that throughout my district the married ploughman receives a wage equal to about 15*s.* a week, and that there is not 1*s.* a week difference between the Carse of Gowrie and the Merse of Berwickshire.*

As I have said before, the ploughman in Scotland is a skilled workman, and having besides longer hours, receives 1*s.* a week higher wages than ordinary labourers. He is a gainer too by his yearly hiring, which at least saves the amount of insurance paid by the English ploughman to his "sickness fund." †

Married ploughman's start in life.

61. You have then about 15*s.* a week as the available means of a Scotch hind to educate his children up to the time when the elder children begin to work. He may or may not have some assistance from the earnings of his wife, but in this respect his position differs very little from the English ploughman.

There is, however, one very important difference. The English couple usually begin with no provision to set up a house, and therefore begin the battle of life in debt. A Scotch couple (save where the marriage is hastened by a "misfortune" on the part of the woman) seldom marry without a providing of something like 40*l.* equally divided between the man and woman.‡

As soon as the elder children have received, what the hind considers, a sufficient education, the position of the family is one of comparative ease. Under the family system of the Lothians and Border district, with its accompanying family purse, incomes of from 75*l.* to 100*l.* a year coming into a hind's cottage are by no means uncommon.§

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is allowed along with these. During the whole of my farming life I have advocated this, and in Dumfriesshire gave all my married men a cow's keep, while here I have generally 25 cows which I keep for shepherds, ploughmen, labourers, and others, and I am satisfied nothing assists more in making an agricultural population contented. For 33 years I have scarcely had the change of a servant excepting from death, when the son generally succeeded, or when changing from one county to another, and even then some of them followed me; and I in great part account for this from the keep of a cow being allowed, and fair attention paid to the state of the cottages."—(Appendix A. 3.)

Charles White, foreman of Powgavie farm, in the Carse of Gowrie, says:—

"I have a cow, and I would not take a place without one. If it was not for the cow I could not give my children the education they should have."—(Appendix A. 54.)

Thos. Thornton, grieve to Mr. Monteith, Liberton, Mid Lothian. "We had a cow on a farm I was on about 20 years ago in this "county. We have sold 8*l.* worth of butter and milk off her besides supplying our family (wife and two children), and the cow would "not cost the master more than 6*l.*"

Mr. F. G. Rutherford, of Printonan farm, in Berwickshire, thinking at first the cow system troublesome, offered his men 9*l.* in lieu of her keep. Now he is so convinced of the benefit of the system that he lends a cow to any hind who has not got one, and keeps them so well that one of his hind's wives valued her privilege of keeping a cow at 12*l.*—(Appendix C. 35.)

Mrs. Linton, wife of a hind in Selkirk parish (Appendix D. 13.), says:—

"We a' hae coos here, and the maister's rale gude to the kye. When a maister's gude to the kye he's gude to his servants. Some coos is no worth much, but a good ane's worth a' ten pounds more some o' them when they're well keepit. We came here from Mid Lothian, where the coos is no so well keept. They only gave us caff (chaff), and straw in winter, and here we get turnips and cake (oilcake), or both, and a better pasture in summer. Some people (farmers) gives 7*l.*, and some as high as 10*l.*, instead o' the coo, but it's no a gude job for a family to want the coo, they're just the mainstay o' us poor folk, and it's easy to see the difference; where the children get their milk they look kind o' robust like beside them that does'nt."

The cost of insurance in cow clubs is another indication of the difference of the value of the cow to the servant according to the allowance of food given by the master.

Cow clubs.

In the Spott Club, East Lothian, the annual payment to insure 10*l.* on the death of a cow, has for some years averaged 14*s.* (See Appendix F. 25.)

In the Garvald Club, also in East Lothian, the annual payments have averaged 12*s.* to insure the same amount.

In the Dunse Club (Berwickshire), to insure 8*l.* the annual payments for seven years have averaged a trifle over 6*s.*

You will find the cow question very well discussed in Mr. Scot Skirving's pamphlet, entitled "*Landlords and Labourers*" (Blackwood and Sons), on pages 72 to 74.

Mr. Skirving, however, is inclined to give more hinds credit for insuring than I would do. I should say that not more than half the cow owning hinds, in my district, have that important member of their family insured, and I think this cannot be wondered at as long as the rate of insurance is so high. Mr. Skirving might do good service to the cause of the labourer by inquiring into the management of cow clubs.

The hill shepherds, who commonly have two cows each, rarely insure them. Mr. Jas. Coultherd, shepherd, in Yarrow parish (Selkirk), says:—

"We ken naething aboot cow clubs here; if death happens a poor shepherd's cow, we get up a subscription to buy him a bit beast."—(Appendix D. 18.)

* The actual difference according to my calculation is 14*s.* 9*d.* a week in the Carse, against 15*s.* 8*d.* in the Border counties.

† Some farmers calculate their loss by sickness and holidays at 12 days per annum on an average.

Young men's and young women's providings.

‡ The girl's "providing" generally consists of a chest of drawers (usually the most ornamental part of the cottage furniture), blankets, bed and table linen, and crockery.

The man provides beds, tables, chairs, and dresser, &c.

The following is the evidence of Mrs. Dewer, wife of a farm labourer in Scone parish, Perthshire, on this point:—

"When a farm labourer marries about here he expects the lass he's married on to provide napery, (towels, sheets, table-cloths, and bed clothes,) crockery, and a chest of drawers; he provides beds, dresser, chairs, and a table. When a girl has'nt got her providing, if a man wants her he must just take her without." (See Appendix A. 79.) (See also Appendix B. 25.)

There was a very interesting article, comparing the positions of the Scotch and English farm labourer, published in September 1864, in the Cornhill Magazine, in which the start in life of the English and Scotch ploughman are ably contrasted.

Examples of earnings of families.

§ The following are some examples taken from my evidence:—

On Mr. Mylne's farm, in Liberton parish, Mid Lothian, a cottar woman, a widow, with the aid of three daughters and a son received about 80*l.* last year.

On Mr. Hope's farm, near Dirleton village, East Lothian, a hind, with the aid of two sons, who are also hinds, and one son who takes charge of cattle, receives upwards of 120*l.* a year. (Appendix B. 62.)

On Mr. Murray's farm, at East Barnes, East Lothian, one family (a father, son and daughter working) receives about 90*l.* a year. Another ploughman and his two sons (one only 13 years old) receives nearly 90*l.* (Appendix B. 69.)

On Mr. Scott's farm, in Prestonkirk parish, one ploughman, with the aid of three children, and another with the aid of two, received last year over 75*l.*

2. The only pinch is when a hind has what he calls a large small family. In such a case, the edu- S.
on of the elder children must suffer, and the accident of the order of his birth frequently condemns Elder children help to educate the younger.
eldest son or daughter to stick to farm labour against the more ambitious instinct of the parents.
'ake, for example, the family of one woman I conversed with on Mr. Wilson's farm at Preston in
wickshire:—This woman keeps the house of her eldest son, a ploughman; of the remaining six
, who, with a daughter, complete her family, two are coachmen in good places, two are game-
pers, one an engineman on board ship, and one a draper. The daughter is in domestic service.
ppendix C. 14.)*

t may be well for agriculture that there *is* a pinch, or we might expect to see all field work in
tland given up to the Irish immigrants.

3. There is one class of men whose wages I must refer to before leaving this subject, and that is the Shepherds of the Border Hill district.
pherds on the slopes of the Cheviots in the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk. These men are
l chiefly in stock, that is to say, they have a flock of sheep (called the shepherd's pack) numbering
n 45 to 50, a cow's keep, 65 stones of oatmeal, 1,000 yards of potatoes and a free cottage. The
ıe of the wage depends greatly on the price of wool and mutton, but cannot be taken at less on an
rage than 50*l.* a year. (See Appendix C. 128, D. 18 and 21.)

The result of this system is that on grazing farms on the northern slopes of the Cheviot hills,
re breeding flocks of mountain sheep (Cheviot's) are kept, about one-sixth of the sheep belong to
shepherds.

Many of these farms are what are called "led farms," *i.e.*, are held by men who live and farm in the
clands, the shepherd being left in undisturbed possession for the greater part of the year. Every-
y who knows what the opportunities of a shepherd are will scarcely need telling that such a state
things could not exist unless the shepherds were a thoroughly trustworthy class. You will see from
evidence in what high repute they stand; for myself, I would say, they are the finest set of men I
ever brought in contact with.†

It may be too much to say that the mere holding of a position of trust from one generation to
ther (for these shepherds usually succeed each other from father to son) is the cause of the high
utation for honesty held by the shepherd class, but it seems to me that there is nothing so likely to
ke men trustworthy as to put them in positions of trust.‡

4. I have said nothing as to the wages of children. Throughout my district they seldom begin any- Children's earnings.
ng like regular work till 12 years of age and then usually begin at about 8*d.* a day. Even for occasional
rt jobs such as bird-scaring, no child would be sent out to work by its parents under 6*d.* a day

5. On the subject of wages there remains only to state that they have been steadily rising for the Farm wages have been steadily rising for the last 25 years.
25 years and in that time have increased by nearly one third.

Mr. McClaren, factor to Lord Kinnaird in the Carse of Gowrie, for example, says,—

"In 1836 the money wage of a foreman was 14*l.* now, 25*l.* to 30*l.* First and second class ploughmen in
6 received 11*l.* and 8*l.* in money, now 24*l.* and 19*l.* Their houses now are much better, and the allowance
milk costs the farmer more. So with women; in 1836 their wages were 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day. The wages of
ouring men in 1836 were 8*s.* to 10*s.* a week, now 12*s.* and 15*s.*"

"Piece-work, such as thrashing in harvest, has risen in the same proportion." (Appendix A. 96.)

Mr. Graham, occupier in Methven parish, also in Perthshire, gives the rise in the money wages
ween the years 1864 and 1870. (Appendix A. 106.)

	1870.			1864.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Grieve (also shepherd) - -	27	10	0	25	0	0
Cattleman - - - -	24	0	0	20	0	0
1st. Ploughman (1st class)	23	10	0	21	10	0
2nd. „ (1st class)	22	0	0	19	0	0
3rd. „ (1st class)	21	0	0	18	0	0
4th. „ 2nd class -	19	0	0	15	0	0
Lad - - - -	8	10	0	8	0	0

n Mr. Hunter's farms, in Innerwick parish, East Lothian, exclusive of extra wages and food in harvest, one ploughman's family
workers) earned last year 121*l.* 10*s.*; another (four workers) 113*l.* 14*s.*; another (four workers) 106*l.* 12*s.*; another (five
kers) 95*l.* 10*s.*; another (four workers) 94*l.* 4*s.*; another (four workers) 90*l.* 6*s.*, while four families, of three workers each, earned
same sum, 82*l.* 10*s.*

is needless to extend these examples.

A hind's wife on the same farm has two sons, gamekeepers, one son a footman, and another son an engineman, while two younger
at school.

Dr. Anderson, provost of Selkirk, says:—

"The hill shepherds are usually a superior class, both as to education and morals. They are particularly well up in theological Character of Hill shepherds.
ects." (Appendix D. 2.)

ne Rev. J. Falconer, minister of Ettrick, says:—

"The hill shepherds are the most respectable and best behaved class of men to be met with. Their employers place great confidence
them, and generally retain the sons to succeed to the father's employment. They read to a considerable extent and are very
lligent." (Appendix D. 5.)

ne Rev. C. K. Greenhill, minister of Roberton, says:—

"I would characterize the hill shepherds as being among the most shrewd and intelligent men in the country. I can testify to their
iety and the responsibility laid upon many of them, and the honourable way in which, for the most part, they fulfil their trust
ighly praiseworthy. Some of them write business letters which, for style and penmanship, could not be surpassed. There are of
se exceptions, but as a whole I should say the shepherds in the south of Scotland are a very superior class of men."
ppendix D. 10.)

r. William Riddell, occupier, Irquair parish, Peebles, says:—

"Our shepherds are a fine race, far more interested in their flocks than even their masters, seldom change their situations, famous for
ly rising."

† You will probably find, from the reports of my colleagues, that there are now a considerable number of southern Scotch shepherds
harge of large sheep farms in the Highlands. If so, you will hear that these men are paid in sheep while the native Highland
herd receives his money, meal, and milk.

S. Mr. A. Dickson, landowner and occupier in Berwickshire, at the other extremity of my district says:—

"Twenty years ago 9*s.* a week was the day-work wage, it is now 15*s.* a week."

This evidence is amply confirmed for the whole of my district, especially by persons lamenting that the increased wage has not improved the manners and customs or comfort of the agricultural labouring class.

Legislative Restrictions on the Employment of Women and Children.

Legislative restrictions on the employment of women and children not needed to protect them from physical injury.

66. At this stage of the inquiry it is scarcely necessary for me to say, that I am not prepared to recommend any legislative restriction on the employment of women or children for the sake of protecting them from any supposed injury arising from the nature of their work.

On the score of health the evidence of landowners, clergymen, medical men, and farmers is overwhelming. There is, in my district in Scotland, no system of little ploughboys toiling for eight hours through sticky land, and, as far as physical strength goes, there is no class of women in the country, as far as I know, who can compare with the "bondagers" of the Border district. (See for example the evidence of Doctors R. C. McWatt, M. J. Turnbull and Mackenzie and Messrs. Alex. Brown and H. Vost, surgeons. Appendix C. 5, 6, 7, 79, and 80.)

67. I should like any man who objects to female field work on the score of physical injury, to have seen the 16 good looking native girls I had paraded for my inspection in their working dress at East Barns (East Lothian).

Dress of female field-workers.

I may as well describe their dress. A bonnet with the universal blue shade (or ugly). A jacket (or polka) of Winsey. A small shawl pinned across the shoulders. A short petticoat of striped Winsey. Black woollen stockings and strong laced boots.

As the operation they were about to be employed in was dressing potatoes for market, each girl also wore a printed cotton apron.

The appearance of these young women was enough to convince one that field work, as usually conducted in Scotland, is not open to the charge of doing injury to health.

Morality of women-workers.

68. On moral grounds there is, perhaps, more room for difference of opinion, and curiously enough as in England, the chief complaint is against the language used by the elder women. This is only a sign of naturally coarser habits and manners of speech than those practised by their critics and I am afraid very little change can be expected for the better until at least one generation has become accustomed to the greater amount of refinement a proper separation of the sexes in their cottages will permit. We are very apt to be confused in our endeavours to discriminate between morality and refinement.

It may be that a sufficient check on coarse language is not always exerted by the foreman who has charge of the woman workers; but judging from the evidence, the manners and conduct of the field workers in rural districts are good indeed, as compared with those of the women who go out occasionally from towns to do farm work.

Mr. John Reed, grieve, Swanstone farm, for example, says:—

"We get women from Edinburgh sometimes; they are a terrible loose lot and I do without them as much as I can. They are bad workers and use fearful language and they are very difficult to keep quiet. I always put them under the charge of a good steady man, when I am obliged to have them, which is as seldom as possible." (Appendix B. 22.)

Several farmers also told me that they never when they could help it, allowed their farm girls to be mixed up with town women.

Irish and Highland women.

There is, however, another very strong indication that farm labour cannot be fairly charged with being the cause of the immorality (as measured by illegitimacy) prevailing in the rural districts. There are as I have said before, a large number of Irish and Highland women employed exclusively in farm labour of whom it may be shortly said they make no contribution towards the number of illegitimate births.*

Conduct of Highland women.

* Mr. Thos. Landale, occupier in Strathearn, Perthshire, says:—

"The Skye girls live in a house by themselves, and are exceedingly steady, quiet, and well conducted. I have some who have come to me for seven or eight years, and have had three who remained with me three years without returning home." (Appendix A. 112.)

The Rev. J. H. Tait, minister of Aberlady, East Lothian, says:—

"There are bothies in my parish; these are occupied by Highland and Irish girls. I have never heard of any evil results arising from their existence." (Appendix B. 55.)

Mr. Jas. Skirving, occupier in Aberlady parish, says:—

"I have a bothy occupied by girls from Skye [there were eight in it when I visited the farm.—G.C.]. These girls have been uniformly well behaved, and have in several cases saved a good deal of money." (Appendix B. 56.)

Mr. Jas. Douglas, occupier in Athelstaneford parish, speaking of the Highland bothy women, says:—

"The conduct of these women is invariably good." (Appendix B. 58.)

Mr. Geo. Hope, occupier in Dirleton parish, says:—

"These women (Highland) are generally well behaved." (Appendix C. 59.)

Mr. Thos. Begbie, who has a bothy containing eight Skye women in Dirleton parish, says:—

"I have had no instance of bad conduct."

Character and habits of Irish settlers.

The chastity of Irish women of the labouring class is too well known to need any remark from me. The following evidence however of Mr. Nicol Reid, a Scotch Presbyterian, tailor and volunteer baillie of Raploch, a village just outside Stirling, chiefly inhabited by Irish, gives a very interesting sketch of the character and habits of the Irish settlers.

Mr. Reid says:—

"There is a colony of Irish here and has been for about 20 years. They live in very poor houses, and have very little furniture, but they pay small rents and some of them pay no rent. When they first came here they used to make great rows amongst themselves and were very troublesome. A good many were taken up by the police and fined, and that quieted them; they don't like losing their money, so if they make a row now I just threaten them with the police and they're quiet directly. About the beginning of May they go with their families to the bark peeling, and lock up their houses, nailing a board across the door. They stay out about two months and sleep in wooden sheds, lying together as thick as bees, but there's no immorality among them; indeed they just behave to each other like a wheen children, you would think they hadn't the same notions as other folk. I have only known two or at most three Irish girls go wrong, and it was always with Scotchmen. They are a saving race, and can live where a Scotchman would starve. When they go to the bark peeling they frequently leave their savings bank books with me, and a good many have them. I have one book with 40*l.* to the good on it now in my house."

9. Mixed gangs of women and children are almost unknown in the south-east of Scotland; as far as dren under 10 years of age are concerned I may say quite unknown. Owing to the general ployment of women, farmers can very well do without the labour of children, and the general desire education is a sufficient check against any probability of a change in this respect to the extent of mitting children to physical injury.

8. Young children very little employed in agriculture in Scotland.

0. The most striking feature in the labour returns I collected is the comparative absence of juvenile ourers.

Thus on 131,540 acres including 63,553 acres of tillage land, and 67,987 acres of grazing land, ributed very fairly over my district, the labour return for the spring quarter which may be taken to resent the normal staff of a farm, includes,—

Males, over 18 years of age - -	1,328
„ between 13 and 18 - - -	226
„ between 10 and 13 - - -	58
„ under 10 - - - -	1
Total -	1,613
Females, over 18 years of age - -	1,039
„ between 13 and 18 - -	210
„ between 10 and 13 - -	29
„ under 10 - - -	0
Total - -	1,278*

Or take the difference between the spring and winter staff on 60,609 acres of lowland farms, including 090 acres of arable land.

There are employed on the farms included in this acreage†:—

——	In Spring.	In Winter.
Males—over 18 years of age - - -	1,130	1,128
Do. between 13 and 18 - - -	190	170
Do. between 10 and 13 - - -	52	21
Do. under 10 - - - -	1	0
Females—over 18 years of age - -	941	823
Do. between 13 and 18 - -	193	153
Do. between 10 and 13 - -	29	12
Do. under 10 - - - -	0	0

71. Contrast this return for spring with the like returns for 61,179 acres in the counties of Bedford, ickingham, Oxford, Berks, and Herts. (See Appendix to the First and Second Reports of the ommission.)

The last sentence betrays a saving propensity, which is a very marked feature amongst the Irish immigrants. Wherever you find Irish settlers in Scotland, at least in the rural districts, you will hear from the actuaries of savings' banks that y are very regular depositors. In making this remark I am afraid I am betraying a secret, which, for some reason best known themselves, the Irish labouring population in Scotland are very anxious to conceal. I shall be sorry indeed if what I have said uld lead any class of men to act in a manner calculated to discourage this anxiety to save.

Industry and thrift of Irish immigrants.

n the south part of my district, where native women work out, there is not much employment for Irish women, but a large portion of the drainage is done by Irish men. These men are rather inferior to the natives in strength, and far less careful of ir health. In their endeavour to earn as much money as the native Scotch they work far longer hours, and expose themselves in bad ather.

The following is the evidence of Robert Lamb, a Scotch drainer, whom I found draining on a farm in Crailing parish, xburghshire:—

'I live in Jedburgh, seven miles off, and have been a drainer for 26 years. We sometimes work 11 hours in fine weather but dom more than 10. Some of the Irishmen work far longer hours and stand out in bad weather, such weather as we would'nt rk in, but it kills a 'feck' (considerable number) of them. I've known many a likely well made young Irishman done in 10 rs time, quite stiff and useless. They overwork themselves at times and expose themselves more than we do. When they begin ung and take care of themselves the Irish are about as good as we are." (Appendix C. 86.)

David Murdie, a Scotchman, draining in Southdean parish (Roxburghshire) gives the following evidence on the same subject:—

"We have 12 Irishmen and three Scotchmen at work; they live in Jedburgh (about 10 miles off); but some of the Irishmen ve taken possession of an old cottage here. The Scotchmen are stronger men and better drainers, and take more care of themves than the Irish. Some of our Irishmen were working till 7 o'clock last night (May 20th) or later; they generally stand out t or dry, and hurt themselves; but they can't earn so much as the natives. One of the Irishmen has been 24 years in Scotland."

* The following are the labour returns for the different counties, in detail, for the spring quarter:—

Counties.	Acreage.			Males.					Females.					
	Arable.	Pasture.	Total.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
rth - - -	10,993	44,370	55,363	—	12	24	261	299	—	13	25	59	94	191
rling - -	1,508	320	1,828	—	1	10	31	42	—	—	5	7	12	24
fe - - -	10,216	1,896	12,112	1	11	22	238	272	—	2	44	134	117	297
thians - -	13,293	1,409	14,702	—	8	77	346	431	—	3	74	73	219	399
ebles - -	2,620	7,089	9,708	—	2	11	44	57	—	—	2	9	20	31
lkirk - -	1,840	6,460	8,300	—	1	5	32	38	—	—	—	2	13	15
rwick and Roxburgh.	23,083	6,444	29,527	—	21	77	376	474	—	11	60	5	275	351

‡ It will be seen that the number of children under 13 years of age employed varies inversely as the number of females over at age.

† Of the 60,609 acres, 10,088 are in Perthshire, 12,112 in Fifeshire, 14,702 in the Lothians, and 23,707 in the counties of Berwick and Roxburgh.

S. Female and juvenile labour in Scotland and England contrasted.

District.	Acreage.			Males.					Females.					
	Arable.	Pasture.	Total.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18 Married.	Over 18 Unmarried.	Total Females.
South-east of Scotland.	55,090	5,519	60,609	1	52	190	1,130	1,373	—	29	193	260	681	941
(a) South Midland Counties, England.	43,071	18,108	61,179	36	285	505	1,884	2,710	3	5	35	436	49	528

(a) The five English counties are thus represented in the acreage:—Beds, 2,725 acres; Bucks, 8,442; Oxford, 16,536; Berks, 25,762; and Herts, 7,714.

The acreage from both countries is about the same (570 acres in favour of England); and as there is a much larger proportion of grass on the English farms, if the course of cropping was the same, the number of hands employed on the Scotch farms ought to exceed, instead of being much less than, the number employed on the English. The course of cropping, however, varies too much to allow a comparison of this kind, but knowing both districts pretty well and the farms from which the returns are made, I feel sure that the 2,314 persons employed under the Scotch system enable the farmers to pay very nearly as much rent as the 3,236 employed under the English system. While the wages are, under the Scotch system, divided amongst a much smaller proportion of families than is represented by the difference in the number of persons employed.*

Farm labour interferes very little with education of children.

72. After examining the English returns I was able to say, I hope truthfully, that farm labour interfered very little with the education of children under 10 years of age. I may assert positively for the South-east of Scotland that it does not interfere at all.†

As to children above 10 and under 13. The proportion of such boys employed in farm labour in the English counties I have named is one to about seven adult males; in Scotland it is one to about 22 adult males. Further, this proportion is in Scotland in winter reduced till we find only one boy employed for every 54 adult males. It follows then, as is confirmed by the answers to circular questions, that farm labour does not prevent a large proportion of the children of that age from attending school for the greater part of the year, and that there are comparatively few who cannot attend during the winter months.

School returns.

73. Having determined then approximately the extent to which farm labour interferes with the education of children under 13 years of age, let us take the school returns which I collected from 51 schools in 37 rural parishes scattered over my district.‡

The number of children *on the registers* of these schools in summer and winter are as follows:—

	Summer.	Winter.
Boys under 10	1,032	1,040
Do. between 10 and 13	614	875
Girls under 10	893	980
Do. between 10 and 13	434	623

The numbers *in average attendance* are as follows:—

	Summer.	Winter.
Boys under 10	915	897
Do. between 10 and 13	588	707
Girls under 10	774	822
Do. between 10 and 13	346	546

The difference between the number of boys and girls is accounted for by the omission of a certain number of girls' schools supported by private contributions. By selecting from tables 19 and 20 Appendix F., parishes where there is only one school, it will be evident that up to 13 years of age there is very little difference between the attendance of boys and girls. What difference there is, is in favour of the boys. In those counties where married women are much employed, girls of about 12 years of age are more useful than boys to leave at home to take care of the house or younger children.

* This may be gathered from the proportion of adult males employed, on the Scotch side 1,130 against 2,710 on the English, and is the result of the employment of unmarried women.

† In my gross returns from Scotland I have only one child under 10 returned as employed, as against 1,328 adult males.

‡ Where the parish, as in Linlithgow, involves a mixture of townspeople, the children of agricultural labourers only are given. The schools and parishes are thus distributed:—

Perth	17 schools	13 parishes.
Stirling	4 do.	2 do.
Fife	5 do.	3 do.
Lothians	13 do.	8 do.
Berwick	4 do.	4 do.
Roxburgh	4 do.	3 do.
Selkirk	1 do.	1 do.
Peebles	3 do.	3 do.

I was very anxious to get you a complete return of the children attending elementary schools in the Carse of Gowrie, separating those over and under 10 years of age, but schools were so many and time so short I was unable to do so. To get these returns accurately usually implies a visit to the school.

74. The most observable point of difference between these returns and those I collected in the South Midland counties in England is the much smaller difference between the number of children over and under 10 years of age.

S. School life longer, but attendance more irregular in Scotland than in England.

The number of boys under 10 in average attendance in summer in the English counties was to the s over 10 as six to one; in Scotland it is less than two to one. At the same time the increase of elder boys in winter is much greater.

Another difference is a greater irregularity in attendance on the part of the Scotch children, ecially of those under 10 years of age.

Both of these differences appear to me to arise from the same cause. In Scotland the school life the agricultural labouring class extends to a much greater age than in England; and there is so much pressure for close attendance on the part of very young children. Infant schools are rcely known in Scotland, and even in the case of children of 7 or 8 years of age Scotch parents not appear to realize the advantage of regular attendance. A child of 7 or 8 years of age is often wed to remain at home because its elder brother or sister cannot "take care of it to the chool."

In other respects these school returns confirm the impression I have drawn from the rest of the dence, that farm labour is a very slight hindrance to education in Scotland even up to 13 years ge.

75. The irregularity in attendance I have spoken of causes a considerable amount of annoyance to oolmasters, and is greatly to be regretted; at the same time there is no denying the fact, testified by so many independent witnesses, that the native Scotch throughout my district show a great iety to educate their children, and frequently make very considerable sacrifices on that account. On this head I must let some of my humbler witnesses speak for themselves.

Southern Scotch show great anxiety to educate their children.

Duncan McPherson, shepherd to Lady Menzies (Highlands of Perthshire), says:—

"There are a few shepherds from Lochaber in this district who are Roman Catholics, but I never heard of ir objecting to send their children to the nearest school. They are glad to get them educated any way. *ere's no mistake about it, they all get their children the best education they can.*"*—(Appendix A. 26.)

Mrs. Lyall, wife of a ploughman in Inchture parish (Perthshire), said:—

"I have five children, the eldest nine. The two eldest are at school. The eldest will be 13 or 14, may be 14, ore he goes to work."

To my suggestion, "You must do without any help from your children then till your eldest boy is or 14," she answered:—

"We ma'n (must) do; he must have his education like the lave (others). Of course they ma'n be ıcated." (Appendix A. 37.)

The wife of a hind in Costorphine parish, Mid Lothian, said:—

"We just keep our children at school till they are educated. It's all we've got to give them, poor things l we do what we can to make them scholars." (Appendix B. 28.)

Mrs. Robertson, wife of farm steward (foreman) at Billie Mains, Berwickshire, said:—

"I have three children, all at school; the boys are 13 and 15 years old, and the girl is 10. The boys will rk out in summer to pay for their winter schooling. I want to make them all scholars; I don't want them be hinds, draggling on the land all their lives, if they can better themselves." (Appendix C. 12.)

Mrs. Bradford, wife of a hind on Kelloe Mains farm, Roxburghshire, said:—

"I had four children at school in winter; but two of 13 and 14 are working now (May). We give our ildren as good an education as we can afford, and we can't do more." (Appendix C. 44.)

Mrs. Miller, wife of a hind in Maxton parish, Roxburghshire, said:—

"We have five children, none of them working, the eldest 10. Three are at school. It's very hard metimes, when there's a large family and none of them bringing in anything; but we have to keep them at hool, poor things. If they dinna' get their education when they're young, they'll no get it at all, and we a'n do our duty by them." (Appendix C. 94.)

Mrs. Douglas, wife of a hind at Kerchester, Roxburghshire, said:—

"My children have all been at school, at least in the winter, till they've been 15. I worked the bondage yself to send the eldest to school when they might have got work." (Appendix C. 110.)

76. These are fair specimens of many conversations I had with the mothers of families on the subject the education of their children. It must not, however, be imagined that, though the bulk of Scotch ırents are anxious to educate their children, there is not room for improvement. Besides a very neral complaint from schoolmasters against the irregularity of attendance, you will find scattered rough the evidence sufficient proof that there exist, even amongst the native Scotch, instances of ırelessness as to the education of their children.

Examples of carelessness about education most common amongst Irish settlers.

Amongst the fast increasing Irish population carelessness is the rule. For example, Mr. Smythe, of Methven, a landowner in Perthshire and convener of the county, says:—

"I believe among the native population there are very few, if any, children who do not receive a certain mount of education; but we have a good many Irish in the village of Methven whose children are not sent school. The Roman Catholic priests do not countenance the parish school." (Appendix A. 53.)

* As to the attendance of Roman Catholic Children at Presbyterian schools, Mr. Ferguson, schoolmaster at Raploch, a village just tside Stirling, where there is an Irish colony, says:—

"Some of the Irish children attend the Roman Catholic school in Stirling, others remain with me till they are 13 or 14, attending the ripture class and learning the shorter Catechism, like the rest of my pupils, although they are Roman Catholics."

Mr. Sellar and Col. Maxwell, in their report "on the state of education in the country districts in Scotland," 1866, seem to me to draw a ery sensible distinction between what they call "the religious and ecclesiastical difficulties." My experiences as your Assistant ommissioner have led me to make very light of any "religious difficulty," as separated from an "ecclesiastical" one. Unhappily, the aders of sects are apt to make much of their ecclesiastical difficulty under the guise of its being a religious one.

Religious and ecclesiastical difficulties.

S.

The Rev. J. Wilson, minister of Methven, says:—

"Not many Scotch parents neglect the education of their children, the defaulters are chiefly Irish Roman Catholics. There are about 50 children in the parish of the agricultural labouring class neither at school nor at work; almost all of them are Irish." (Appendix A. 54.)

Mr. Ferguson, schoolmaster at Raploch, Stirlingshire, says:—

"In summer I have about five or six Irish children; in winter about 20. They go out park-peeling with their parents in summer. The Irish are much more irregular in their school attendance than the Scotch. A good many of their children are not sent to school at all, or so irregularly as to be of no use. The parents keep them at home without even the excuse of work."*

Compulsory school attendance frequently recommended.

77. Without some qualification as to the anxiety on the part of Scotch parents to educate their children, it would be difficult to understand the frequent recommendations, which you will find in the evidence, for a compulsory system of attendance extending far beyond the limit the Commission has ventured to propose for England.

In several instances these recommendations come from farmers, which you may take as a proof that the agricultural interest would not suffer from some interference in this direction.†

Modification of the Factory Acts' principle applicable to the case.

78. As soon, then, as I found that the general practice amongst the native agricultural labouring class in my district, with regard to the education of their children, leaves very little to be desired, and that their mode of obtaining school attendance is in fact a modification of the plan enforced under the Printworks Act, I wrote, under that question of the "Commissioners' Circulars of Inquiry" which explains the provisions for school attendance under the Factory Acts and Printworks Act, a suggestion, for the consideration of intended witnesses, that the following modification of the Printworks Act's plan might meet the difficulty, by adopting the practice of the careful parents and putting the necessary pressure on the careless, viz., a school attendance for eight or nine months of the year for children under 10, and for three or four months for those between 10 and 12 or 13.

The following is a fair summary of the answers to this suggestion:—

That it is rather less than the amount of school attendance insisted upon by most parents (whose plan is to keep their children regularly at school up to 11 or 12 years of age and to send them back for the winter quarter till they are 13 or 14), and is, as to them, therefore unnecessary.

That it could not do any harm, either by interfering with the cultivation of the land or by robbing the parents of any legitimate profit from their children's earnings, and might do good.

That it is decidedly the most suitable form (granted that the education obtained under it would be sufficient) in which to enforce school attendance for children engaged in agriculture.

The following are examples of the answers of persons probably looking at the question from different points of view.

Evidence of landowners, farmers, and labourers thereon.

Mr. Campbell Swinton, a Berwickshire landowner, says:—

"As far as this neighbourhood is concerned, I scarcely think that any legislative compulsion is necessary to secure a certain amount of school attendance in the case of children earning wages by field labour. The hinds or farm servants show a most commendable anxiety, and must often make considerable sacrifices to obtain education for their children. The children begin to work in the fields at the age of 12 or 14, scarcely ever earlier, and as it is only during certain months that there is any demand for their labour, they attend school during the remainder of the year. As there are probably parts of the country where the parents are more careless in this respect, I would approve of a provision prohibiting the employment of children who had not been to school for six months of the preceding twelve in case of children under 10, or four months in case of those between 10 and 13." (Appendix C. 1.)

Mr. John Turnbull, also a landowner in Berwickshire, says:—

"I would not place any restriction on labour except for the sake of education, and even that is not required in these parishes where the children are all sufficiently educated. Where restrictions are required in agricultural parishes the most convenient and effective plan would be to require a certain number of months' school attendance in each year, that number to depend on the age of the children, say eight months' attendance for children under 10 years of age, and four months for the next two or three years." (Appendix C. 8.)

Mr. Wm. Riddell, tenant farmer in Traquair parish, Peeblesshire, says:—

"As to the application of modifications of the Factory Acts principles to agricultural labour, the half-day system is simply nonsense, the alternate day system would not suit here. Such a modification as you suggest of the Printworks Act principle, viz., eight or nine months' school attendance for children under 10 years of age, and three or four months' attendance between that age and 13 or 14, is just the system carried out here, and works right well with young Traquair." (Appendix D. 43.)

Mr. R. Tod, another occupier in the same parish as Mr. Riddell, says:—

"Education for eight or nine months in the year for children under 10 years of age, and three or four months each year for the following three years, is the amount of school attendance here, and it is most suitable." (Appendix D. 44.)

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* This is from no lack of a Roman Catholic school as there is one within a mile at Stirling.—[G. C.]

† See the evidence of Mr. G. Muirhead, Kilspindie, Perthshire. (Appendix A. 38.)

Evidence of farmers in favour of compulsory attendance.

Of Mr. George Davidson, Carriden, Linlithgow, who says: "No farmer should engage by the year or half-year any boy under 13 who "has not attended shool during a certain portion of his life; nor employ casually any boy under 11 who has not attended school during "a certain portion of the preceding 12 months."

Of Mr. Glendinning, also of Carriden, Linlithgow, who says: "I think children should be compelled to attend school until 12 years "of age."

Of Mr. S. Kerr, of Livingston, Linlithgow, who says, "No child should be employed under 12 to 13 years of age, and then only "in such measure as would allow of its education being carried on."

Of Mr. Hope, Fenton Barns, East Lothian, who says, "Children up to 12 or 13 should be kept regularly at school."

Of Mr. R. Calder, Kelloe Mains, Berwickshire, who says, "I think education should be compulsory, and that no child should be "allowed to work without a certificate of ability to read and write."

Of Mr. Robson Scott, of Newton, Roxburghshire, who says, "If necessary, children mignt be compelled to attend school regularly up "to 10 years of age, and for four months during the winter of the next three or four years, without interfering with the cultivation of "the land or the legitimate gains of the parents from youthful labour."

Of Mr. Dunn, Redden, Roxburghshire, who says, "It has long been my conviction that education ought to be made compulsory "between the ages of 7 and 11, and that from 11 to 13 children ought to attend school for six months of the year."

Mrs. Purves, wife of the byreman at Fairnington (Roxburghshire) who has had to educate eight S.
ldren (three of them aged 10, 12, and 13 being still at school), says, speaking of her children:—

They have all been at school up to about 14. It's a general way to send them to school to about that ; but there is many one very careless about putting them to school.

Nobody could object to the childrens' being regularly kept at school till they're 10, and for four months ear after till they're 13. They must have their education, and they could not get it with less than that." ppendix C. 100.)

The following is the evidence of Hugh Borthwick, shepherd in Selkirk parish:—

I have had 10 of a family, and with such a family I found it necessary to let some of the elder ones work in summer when they were 11 years old. I left school myself when I was 11, and I have since written eral essays on agricultural subjects. I never neighboured a Scotch family where the children could'nt read write. I think that if the children could be kept at school regularly till they were 10 or 11, and get four nths schooling after till they were 13 or 14, it would be first-rate. They would get schooling enough, and able to help their parents in summer." (Appendix D. 14.)*

Form of compulsory attendance recommended by the Assistant Commissioner.

'9. Taking, then, into consideration all the evidence I have received on the subject of education, as l as the practice of the careful parents, and the requirements of agriculture, the modification of the tory Acts' principle, which I am prepared to recommend for the agricultural labouring population of south-east of Scotland, *is a compulsory school attendance of eight months in the year for children between nd* 10 *years of age, and of four months for those between* 10 *and* 13.

Such a regulation would be within the practice of those parents who are anxious to educate their ldren (parents who happily form the bulk of the population in my district), and would rob no family my increase to its income which can be fairly expected from the earnings of its younger members. At same time it would provide against cases of neglect, which are chiefly to be met with amongst the w important section of Irish immigrants.

To include children under six years of age in any compulsory scheme would be, under the circumnces of my district, practically impossible; the farm village system is a decided bar to infant schools. r are infant schools necessary under such a provision as I have suggested.†

I have had some doubt as to whether I should suggest compulsory attendance, beginning at 7 years age and ending at 12, instead of beginning at 6 and ending at 13. As, however, the attendance I ntemplate after 10 years of age only amounts to four months in the year, I am inclined to think that, less the age is extended to 13, there will be no security for a sufficient education, meaning by a fficient education the power of reading, writing, and ciphering with ordinary facility.‡

In order, however, to lighten the pressure of such a compulsory scheme as I have suggested, and at same time to encourage parents to attend closely to the education of their children in their earlier ars, *I would propose to release any child of* 12 *years of age who could pass in the 5th Standard of the vised Code from all further obligation of school attendance, and let any child of* 9 *who could pass in the 4th andard rank as a child of* 10 *years old.* If this last proposal was adopted I think it would be safe ough to make the age at which compulsory attendance should commence, 7 instead of 6. §

English and Scotch educational reformers.

80. The proposers of educational schemes in England have usually limited their demand to some tional system which would reach every child, and, by securing to all the power of reading, writing, and phering, give to all children a fair start in the race of life, without which it may be said their after reer is not in their own hands. To justify such a proposal, which necessarily inflicts some pressure taxation on the rate-paying class, it has been very fairly argued that the burden of taxation would repaid by a diminution of pauperism and crime.

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* Hugh Borthwick gives the following account of the arrangements made by shepherds to educate their children (owing, however, to increased number of side schools, there are few families on the northern slopes of the Cheviots who are not within what a shepherd nsiders tolerably easy reach of a school.—G. C.)

Education of shepherd's children.

Borthwick says:—

"Very few of the shepherds' children have now more than three miles to go to school. Up in Yarrow and Ettrick the shepherds have ustom of keeping a young lad or old man who is good for nothing else, as a tutor for the children. The tutor boards week about th, may be, five or six shepherds' families, and teaches the children. They choose as much as they can a centrical house, and as the epherd's children can stay longer at school than other labourers, they get on pretty well."

† I confess I am at a loss to understand the principle on which Mr. Sellar and Col. Maxwell, in their report of 1866, base their lculations of the want of school accommodation on the number of children between 3 and 15 years of age. It may be all very well to lieve mothers of the care of their children by a system of nursery schools, but the attendance at such schools cannot be made compulsory, r can they, in Scotland at least, be made part of a system supported by a compulsory rate. In my district a system of infant schools uld tend to encourage the employment of married women, a result by no means desirable.

Mr. Sellar and Col. Maxwell's report.

‡ The following is the evidence of the Rev. Wm. Lee, D.D., minister of Roxburgh, on this subject, contained in a letter addressed to e Assistant Commissioner, on certain questions suggested in a letter from Mr. Tremenheere.

Dr. Lee says:—

"On the last question, as to whether the early removal of children from school has the effect that the education received is not permanently retained, I gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Education in Scotland a few years ago, and I then, as far as I recollect, pressed my belief, on grounds which I stated to the Commissioners, that the school learning given to children who are removed om school at an age so early as 11 or 12 years is often in a very great degree lost before they reach manhood and womanhood, st at least to this extent, that though at the latter period they may still be able to read in some fashion, they very often are not le to read with ease or to much purpose. That is a view I have formed chiefly on the evidence of the experience I have in nducting classes for young persons from 17 to 20 years of age, who are being prepared for admission to the Communion. Many these Catechumens cannot read intelligibly or intelligently, partly perhaps from their education never having been carried far ough, but also partly, I believe, from its not having made a permanent impression, to which result a certain degree of maturity mind, seldom found in children under 12 years, is probably indispensable." (Appendix C. 81.)

Dr. Wm. Lee on state of education.

§ The following proposals are worthy of your attention.

Mr. W. Duncan, parochial schoolmaster, Costorphine, Mid Lothian, says:—

"I am prepared to recommend that no child, male or female, shall be at all employed in agricultural labour till it has passed andard IV. of Revised Code, or, as an alternative, attended school for 200 half days on six separate years, after the age of six, and that males pass a similar standard in industrial work. That after being admissible to agricultural work they shall pass Standards V. and VI. Revised Code on two separate years, or attend school 200 half days on three separate years (if unable to pass the above standards). hat females in addition pass similar standards in industrial work; provided always, that any parents who desired their children to be ducated otherwise than at a public school should be allowed to have their children examined in said standards. That fines be posed on employers employing children otherwise than as above. Children qualified as above for agricultural work might be ught privately in an evening school, in order to pass Standards V. and VI., no children being admissible to an evening school in rder to pass Standard IV." (Appendix B. 30.)

Scheme of Mr. W. Duncan, schoolmaster.

Mr. P. McLagan, landowner and M.P. for Linlithgowshire, says:—

"No child should be put to constant work under 10 years of age. But I see no objection to allowing a child even under that ge to do some light work for a week now and then, if the school is not open. One child may be more vigorous and robust and tore fit for work at eight years of age than another at 10 or 11. No child should be put to constant employment under 13 or 14 who cannot read and write, and show some progress in arithmetic." (Appendix B. 40.)

Mr. P. McLagan, M.P.

S. Scotch educational reformers, as you will have seen from the proceedings at many influential gatherings, go much farther, advocating apparently a system of universal endowment to schools of different grades.

Secondary schools not so much needed in Scotland as in England.

81. You will find in Appendix F., 32, a very interesting letter on this subject addressed to me by Mr. Francis Russell, sheriff substitute of Roxburghshire. Practically, under a system of certificates instead of capitation grants, there is less need of what Mr. Russell calls secondary schools in Scotland than in England. The Scotch parochial teacher is not constantly labouring under, to the English teacher, the pecuniary necessity of gradually raising his younger pupils from one standard to another. He receives his Government grant in consequence of having obtained a certain certificate of merit, and may treat his classes as he pleases. The result is a greater attention to the "higher branches," and an opportunity, embraced by many intelligent pupils, of bettering themselves in the world.*

I confess I am not yet a convert to Mr. Russell's plan, having conceived a considerable horror of all endowments. In a system of secondary schools, if such a thing can be fairly carried out in a thinly peopled country, I however see a solution of the difficulty caused by district and industrial schools and reformatories. The difficulty I mean is this, that to enable the promoters of such educational establishments to get decently rid of the pauper or criminal children, they are obliged to furnish an education which ordinary industrious parents of the labouring class cannot themselves provide. All managers of reformatories know very well how parents of the worst class manage to get their children educated at anybody's cost except their own, and every time I hear of the success of some pupil turned out by a district school, I receive it as another advertisement to industrious parents to neglect their duty. Secondary schools affording a fair chance of advancement in the world would act as a counter charm.

Boarding out pauperchildren.

In Scotland, as you are aware, there exists a system of boarding out pauper children, which appears to me a very much more wholesome arrangement than district schools.

Night Schools.

82. Under the farm village system there is some difficulty in maintaining evening schools. Such schools do, however, exist here and there throughout my district, and where tried, they have met with a fair amount of success.†

Lord Kinnaird's evening classes for ploughmen.

By far the most important experiment of this kind to be found in my district is the system of evening classes for ploughmen, established in the Carse of Gowrie by Lord Kinnaird.

These classes meet at nine different stations in the three parishes of Abernyte, Errol, and Inchture. In Abernyte and Inchture the classes are under the care of the parochial schoolmasters; the six classes held in any available building in Errol parish are superintended by a master specially engaged for the purpose. The following is the very interesting report of Mr. Duncan, parochial schoolmaster of Inchture, who has a general charge of the ploughmen's classes:—

"Having been connected with these schools since their commencement, 10 years ago by Lord Kinnaird, who, I believe, was the first in Scotland to try them as an experiment, and who has grudged no labour of his own nor any expense to render them attractive and efficient, with a view to the prosperity and elevation of the agricultural labourer, I can testify to the vast amount of good they have accomplished. The schools are opened on the first Monday of December each year, and continue open for 13 weeks. The hours are from 6 to 8 at night. The teachers are selected with due care and paid at the rate of 1*l.* each per week. Where the teachers have also had situations in Dundee or Perth, free lodgings and railway expenses were allowed in addition. The classes extend over four parishes where his Lordship has property, but their benefits are not confined to those on his Lordship's estates. They are free to all who choose to attend them. The annual average attendance has been about 300, ranging from the ages of 12 to 50, and in some instances to 60. Most of the ploughmen have a long way to travel to school, in some cases two miles in cold, wet, and dark nights, over mud and clay, and after a hard day's work. There is a real love for learning and a desire to improve their position among the majority of the men. Their earlier education having been imperfect, unfinished, or forgotten, they in most cases anxiously avail themselves of this chance of promoting their interests in life. I can point to nearly a score of cases, under my own eye, where the parties began at the simple rules of arithmetic, went through the ordinary text books into algebra, as far as simple equations, and into mensuration and trigonometry. All write and read, and a great many can work the compound rules and simple

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* Besides the comparative freedom of a certificate instead of a capitation grant, the schoolmaster in rural parishes in Scotland usually holds some or all of the following appointments: registrar, collector of poor rates, inspector of poor, clerk to Kirk sessions, and collector of heritor's money.

Scotch parochial teachers.

Including school fees (generally in my district higher than in England), allowance (including house and garden) paid by heritors, and salaries arising from such offices as I have described, the annual income of Scotch parochial teachers is often large, and his social position one of considerable importance.

The salaries paid by the heritors to the 15 parochial teachers in the county of Peebles are as follows:—

	£	
To 1	40	Besides house and garden.
„ 5	45	
„ 7	50	
„ 1	55	
„ 1	70	

Including the other offices they hold the incomes of these masters, independent of any government grant, must range from 70*l.* to 140*l.* a year.

The result of this system is to secure the services of a very superior class of men who thoroughly understand the wants of the body as well as of the mind of their poorer clients. Any sign of poverty, as a preventing cause to education is noted by the schoolmaster in his capacity of inspector of poor, and either the family is put on the poor roll for the sake of enabling the children's education to come on the rates, or some kindly patron takes up the case, the kindly patron being not unfrequently the schoolmaster himself.

It is worthy of note here that although the heritors can legally charge one half of the school rate (master's salary, &c.) on the occupiers, this is not done in, I should say, half the parishes I visited. The landowners in Scotland are generally content to accept the school rate as a landowner's rather than a farmer's tax.

† Mr. Mylne Home, landowner, Berwickshire, for instance, says:—

Other evening classes.

"I have for the last two or three winters established evening classes for young servants which have met with varying success."

Mr. Robert Henderson, parochial teacher, Innerwick parish, East Lothian, says:—

"I open an evening school say every five years, and get an attendance of upwards of 30 pupils from 15 to 20 years of age."

See also evidence from several other parishes.

portion. It is impossible to question the effect that this school discipline and this self-teaching to a great tent, must exercise upon the rough and blunt habits of such a class of society; and contrasting the manners the ploughmen *now* with what they were in former years, whatever is the cause, I know that there has n a great change for the better. Perhaps another effect of these night schools and the progress of the es is a greater desire on the part of ploughmen to have their children more regularly and longer at school n they used to have them." S.

"Were these schools universal, well organized, and well superintended, they would mitigate the evils of egularity and non-attendance at the day schools; but it is to be hoped the Legislature will devise a scheme ereby they will be less requisite. Meanwhile, all who take an interest in and maintain them deserve well their country."

"Nearly all the ploughmen who attend these classes are able to read and write when they first attend, and understand what they read. Nearly one-fourth begin at simple addition. I have only had two or three n in the course of 10 years who were ashamed to read before the other pupils. Several married men attend se classes."

83. As an instance of how regular the attendance at these classes is, take the attendance at the chture class for the winter of 1869 to 1870. Out of 47 pupils on the roll, eight attended the whole mber of classes (22), 30 attended between 20 and 21 classes, and the smallest number of classes tended by any one pupil was 15 out of 22.

It so happened that I was present at a meeting of the Inchture class on a very rough night during e snow storm of last February. I cannot now remember the number of pupils present, but the ister was decidedly good, and I was very much struck by the earnestness with which they entered to the work when I ventured to put them through a slight examination.

84. On the roll of names sent me by the teachers of the different classes, the ages of the men or lads e stated in 192 cases, and are as follows:—

Above 40 years of age - - - - - -	4	192
„ 30 and under 40 - - - - -	9	
„ 20 and under 30 - - - - -	51	
„ 15 and under 20 - - - - -	79	
Under 15 - - - - - -	49	

The oldest pupil, a ploughman, is 51.

The occupations are stated in 148 cases, above 90 per cent. being described as ploughmen.

According to the figures sent me by Mr. Duncan, the whole expense attending the maintenance of ese classes, including the cost of the annual supper, for the session of 1868 to 1869, was 93*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* ee Appendix F. 21.)

At an expense then of something less than 100*l.* a year, Lord Kinnaird, by his system of oughmen's classes, is conferring on three large parishes a benefit which it would be difficult to aggerate.*

85. You will observe by the last paragraph of his report on Lord Kinnaird's evening classes, that r. Duncan gives a very favourable account of the state of education amongst the ploughmen who tend these classes. I have already quoted the opinion of Dr. William Lee, minister of Roxburgh, hich is not so favourable. On the whole the evidence on this subject, I think, establishes the fact at most of the adult labourers in my district can read and write with tolerable facility.† State of education amongst adult labourers.

86. In a circular letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioners, on the 7th of April last, you call r attention to one or two special points connected with Scotch habits and feelings in the matter of ucation as affording interesting subjects of investigation.

There remain three of these points on which I have yet to answer your inquiry:—

87. 1st. *Is it a common practice for parents to make their children learn their lessons at home in pre-ration for school, and do they help them?* It is a common practice for parents to help their children in the preparation of their lessons.

To these questions I have to answer, that it is an almost universal practice, in my district, for school-asters to give the children "tasks" to prepare at home, and that they (especially the younger ones) e very generally helped by their parents in the preparation of their tasks.

The following is the evidence of a ploughman's wife in the Carse of Gowrie:—

"When they are at school my husband hearkens them their lessons every night to see that they have them. think they would be long in learning if we didn't examine them at home." (Appendix A. 47.)

Again the wife of a hind at Cumledge, Berwickshire, says:—

"They always get their lessons ready over night; if they don't get them overnight there is not much time the morning, and they must have them before they go to school. I help them a little when they need it, and should think all the mothers here help their children with their lessons." (Appendix C. 29.)

See also the evidence of the Rev. Wm. Lee, D.D., minister of Roxburgh, of Mr. Duncan, master of e parochial school, Inchture, and of Mr. Stewart, master of the parochial school at Kinfauns. ppendix C. 81; A. 31 and 46.

88. 2nd. *What sort of books are found in the cottages? Are they numerous or otherwise?*

The following is Dr. Lee's answer to this question:—

"The books to be found in the houses of the agricultural working class are chiefly religious books, very nerally old works of that class, which have descended from a former generation, for newspapers are now ore generally read than books. You will always find bibles in the cottages of our hinds and labourers; the her books are such as Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Boston's Four-fold State, Richard Baxter's Practical Books usually found in cottages.

* There not wanting proofs that elsewhere where evening schools do not exist they would be as much appreciated as in the Carse of owrie, for example:
Mrs. Grace Bell, wife of the steward (foreman), at Kelloe Mains, Berwickshire, says:—
"There is no night school here, but there was where I lived last, and some of the young men attended. If there was one here I would nd the two eldest lads, and I dare say a good many would go."

† Of the ciphering of the elder pupils who attend the evening classes in Errol parish, the teacher reports, "They have many odd ways of their own of doing both simple and compound rules." (See Appendix F. 21.)

S. Treatises, of which there are many popular among this class of people. Some of them take more modern books, published in parts, popular biographical dictionaries or cyclopædias, for instance. Many of them also take in monthly periodicals, of the class of the Leisure Hour, the Sunday Magazine, or Chambers' Information for the People.

There is one book, also a religious one, omitted by Dr. Lee, which I have often seen in cottages, viz., "The Life of Colonel Gardiner." In other respects my experience agrees with Dr. Lee's evidence. The books I saw have evidently been the collection of days gone by, and though very generally to be found on cottagers' shelves, are not so often in their hands as periodicals of the present day. There is a circumstance, however, which I wish to notice, and that is, the total absence of such pictorial horrors, too frequently to be found in England, as the illustrated sheets of such publications as "The Police News." This remark applies equally to bothies. Newspapers or periodicals of the baser sort are not to be found in the cottages of the agricultural labourers in the south-east of Scotland.

Family worship, except on Sundays, not usual in labourers' cottages.

89. 3rd. *Does "family worship" remain a common thing?*

This is a rather difficult subject to obtain evidence upon from labourers themselves. The following is the evidence of persons who ought to know. The Rev. J. H. Walker, minister of Greenlaw, Berwickshire, says:—

"A very considerable number of the hinds' families have family prayers on Sabbath evenings."

The Rev. Walter Hume, minister of Polwarth, Berwickshire, says:—

"There is family worship in some labourers' cottages every evening, but I cannot say this is the rule. There are many difficulties in the way; one obstacle is that a labourer finds difficulty in expressing himself in delivering an extempore prayer. I lately gave each family a copy of family prayers, issued by the General Assembly, and the present was apparently very gratefully received."

Dr. Lee, minister of Roxburgh, says:—

"I am sorry to say that the description of family worship in Burns' "Cottar's Saturday Night" does not find so many illustrations in actual life now as it used to do. A limited number of my own parishioners in the rank of cottars or farm servants have family prayers on Sundays, and sometimes also on week days, but this is the exception, not the rule."

William Beattie, shepherd in Selkirkshire, says:—

"I think family worship every night is not an uncommon thing amongst the shepherds' families, but I can well say."

I have no doubt that, amongst the shepherds of the northern slopes of the Cheviots, family worship is not uncommon. There is in that district some remains of the religious teaching of the Cameronians or Covenanters, but elsewhere my impression is that family worship, except on Sundays, is very unusual in labourers' cottages.

English and Scotch methods of conducting education in elementary schools.

90. There remains only one point referred to in your circular letter, and that is the difference between the English and Scotch methods of conducting education in elementary schools. In illustration of the Scotch system I can do no better than quote Mr. Duncan, of Inchture, who says:—

"There are 10 English reading classes from monosyllables upwards, all of which read daily. The daily lesson is read first simultaneously by each class, then portions of it are read by each scholar selected up and down the class. Whilst the lesson is being read, the meaning of words is asked and explained; then questions are put to the class as to the scope of the lesson, and finally words have to be spelt from it. The classes from the sixth to the tenth inclusive are then deprived of the lesson books and sent to their seats to write out an abstract of their lessons on *slate* or *paper*. The slates or paper are then exchanged and corrected by the scholars, the results examined by the master who assigns places in the class according to the merits of the performances. The classes below the sixth, inclusive, and those above have dictation almost daily. All the classes above that have to parse daily four lines from the lesson and show the parsing written on paper. Besides the above classes there is a class of nine in English literature, of nine in British history, of nine in French, of three in Latin, of 46 in descriptive and physical geography, of 40 in a class book of chemistry of common things, and of 40 in English grammar. The geography and grammar classes are divided into two sections, a junior and a senior. Half an hour each morning is devoted to religious knowledge (not dogmatic) Scripture history, particularly the life of Christ and the Apostles; the juniors being exercised in Brown's catechism and simple Scripture history. When the pupils are engaged in no special exercise as dictation, drawing outline maps, &c., they are all engaged in arithmetic. An hour each day is devoted to systematic arithmetic on the black board and special exercises on slates. Every arithmetical class receives questions for home solution which are examined next morning. They also are required to write at home a story, and bring it for examination and correction next morning. Instead of a story they sometimes write about a beast, a bird, a ship, or something found in a newspaper. The youngest classes instead of this exercise have daily to write on their slates the names of trees, beasts, birds, of articles about a farm, in their own houses, or in a shop, and names of places. There are periodical examinations and competitions in all the subjects in the school, and children passed into higher subjects, as the case may be. Once a week maps to be sketched from memory are given out.

"In all school work care is taken in questioning a class to make a child think and not to cram its mind with disjointed information.

"As to school books, the variety in use at different schools entails great expense on poor parents. Something ought to be done to assist poor parents in this respect, and to secure greater uniformity in the class of books used. I don't think it would be advisable to have one set, as all men's minds would then be cast in one mould, but the present system as to books might be much improved."

Mr. Robert Stewart, parochial schoolmaster, of Kinfauns (Appendix A. 46), also gives valuable evidence on the same subject.

Under the Scotch system, as Mr. Duncan says, "care is taken to make a child think, and not to "cram its mind with disjointed facts." The practice too of giving lessons to be prepared at home has a very happy effect on the parents.

Cottages.

S.

91. Considering the quantity of printed matter that has been produced on the subject it is scarcely necessary to say that cottage accommodation in Scotland was, till a recent date (say 20 years ago), in a disgraceful state.

Cottages formerly very bad, now much improved.

Findlater, writing in 1802, thus describes the ordinary one-roomed cottage in my district:

"Two close beds to form a cross partition divide the space occupied by the family from a space of four feet from the gable, at which you enter, where stands the cow behind one of the beds with her tail to the door."

A similar description is given in a note to the 2nd edition of Dr. Pennecuik's "Description of Tweedale," published in 1815.

At a later date the cow's apartment, somewhat enlarged, was divided from that of the family by a stone partition, and, save that the cow has been banished, some of these cottages, built to afford a common shelter to man and beast, remain to this day.

During the last 20 years a great change for the better has taken place; pressed on, I have no doubt, by the publication of the Rev. Harry Stuart's very interesting pamphlet on the social condition of the agricultural labouring class, as well as by the formation in the same year, 1853, of the 'Association for Promoting Improvement in the Dwellings of Agricultural Labourers."

92. There is probably no district in Scotland where the improvement in cottage accommodation has made so much progress as in the South-eastern counties, an improvement becoming every where more marked as you travel from the north to the south of my district.

Cottage improvement most observable in the southern part of the Assistant Commissioner's district.

As a whole, farm labourers are now better housed in the Lowland part of my district than in any of the south-midland counties of England; and I know no county in England where the average cottage accommodation is so good as in Berwickshire; a remark which would also apply to part of Roxburghshire and East Lothian.

How recent this improvement is may be gathered from a statement given in the census for 1861 of the number of houses in each county in Scotland, having only two or less than two windows, as well as from remarks made in answer to circular questions which will be found in the Appendix.*

93. Notwithstanding, however, all that has been done of recent years, there is still great room for improvement both as to quality and quantity of cottage accommodation. For an increase in the number of cottages there is a very general outcry among farmers, and for an improvement in quality in certain parishes scattered over the whole of my district, occurring more frequently as you move northwards from the Tweed.

Room for improvement, both as to quality and quantity of cottage accommodation.

94. The demand for an increased number of cottages has arisen from an extension of the farm village and family system, rendered necessary, not only by the enlargement of farms, but also by the flight from the rural districts of all persons not absolutely or chiefly depending on farm labour. This demand is greatest in those counties such as Perth, Stirling, and Peebles, where the kitchen and male bothy systems have most prevailed, and least in Fifeshire, where villages are most frequent. The female bothy system of the Lothians owed its origin to the sudden extension of potato culture after the "potato famine" of 1845. It was found that in that year—so disastrous to Ireland—the Lothian potatoes remained sound; a great extension of the potato crop immediately took place, and Lothian farmers not being able to house their labourers in any other way adopted the female bothy. In the same way the lack of cottages is the cause of the worst features of the bondage system of the Border counties.

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* According to the census of 1861 the order of merit of eight counties in my district as possessing the fewest number of houses with only *one window or none* was, Census 1861.

Peebles	with 33	per cent. of such houses.	
Fife	„ 33½	„	„
Edinburgh	„ 35	„	„
Haddington	„ 38	„	„
Selkirk	„ 39	„	„
Roxburgh	„ 39½	„	„
Berwick	„ 41	„	„
Linlithgow	„ 46	„	„

I have by me no statistics showing the number of such houses in the counties of Perth and Stirling, but if I had now to place the 10 counties in order of merit, as to the condition of cottages, I would place them in this order:

Berwick, Roxburgh, East Lothian, Selkirk, Fife, Mid Lothian, Peebles, West Lothian, Stirling, Perth. Order of merit of 10 counties.

The following are samples of evidence as to the time at which cottage improvement established itself as a feature of the day:

Mr. Smythe, landowner, Methven parish, Perthshire, says:—

"The cottages are some of them indifferent, but within the *last two years* have been much improved." (Appendix A. 53.)

Mr. McLagan, landowner, and M.P. for West Lothian, speaking of Mid Calder parish, Mid Lothian, says:—

"About 30 or 40 years ago there were comparatively few cottages in the parish, the men and women employed being unmarried, and living in the farm-house. Such cottages as there were contained only one room. Since then more married men have been employed and more cottages built, generally containing two rooms. *During the last* 10 *years* there has been a more rapid increase in the number of cottages, and these of a superior class, containing a kitchen, with a recess for a bed, two sleeping apartments, a scullery and outhouse." (Appendix B. 40.) Cottage improvement very recent.

Mr. Dove, occupier, Eccles, Berwickshire, says:—

"The majority of the cottages in this parish have been rebuilt or remodelled within the last 20 years." (Appendix C. 32.)

Mr. Thos. Hood, occupier, Fogo, Berwickshire, says:—

"My cottages, which were built 25 years ago, are the oldest in the parish save those on one farm, which are to be renewed this year." (Appendix C. 46.)

The Rev. J. H. Walker, Greenlaw, Berwickshire, says:—

"Within the last 10 *years* all the old cottages on the Marchmost estate have been renewed." (Appendix C. 48.)

Mr. Scott, agent to the Earl of Home for his estates in Berwickshire and Roxburghshire, says:—

"The cottages, not only on the estates under my management, but in the district generally, have been very much improved during the last 15 *years*." (Appendix C. 75.)

You will observe that most of these quotations are from the south of my district, where cottage accommodation is in the best state.

† I shall only quote two farmers on this subject; you will find similar evidence occurring very frequently in the Appendix.

Mr. R. Tod, occupier, Traquair, Peeblesshire, says:—

"From the want of cottages, young men and women are kept in the farm kitchen, the females sleeping in the farmhouse, the males in a small bed room in the stable. This is certainly faulty, there being no control over the young men." (Appendix D. 44.) Want of cottages.

Mr. Buchanan, occupier, St. Ninians, Stirling, says:—

"The cottages which exist are generally good, but they are far from being sufficient in number for the supply of labour required. Some progress is being made towards increasing the deficient cottage accommodation, still it is very slow, and a long time will elapse at the present rate before it is sufficient.

S.

Farm labourers driven into towns from scarcity of cottages.

95. A very apparent evil result of the lack of cottages is the crowding of the poorest dwellings in large towns with the families of farm labourers who have only just ceased to be able-bodied. A man who with the aid of some members of his family, or even without their aid, might support himself in decent comfort, and be at the same time of great use to the farmer, must give up his cottage to some more able man who is necessary to the farmer, and take himself off to the nearest town; the man himself to be replaced by a younger ploughman, and his daughters, if he has any, by Highland or Irish bothy-women. We should have heard a good deal more of this from the ratepayers of towns, if it was not for the difficulty of obtaining and retaining, what in Scotland is called a "residential settlement;" a difficulty which frequently rids the town of the poor's relief very speedily needed by the immigrant from the country.*

Where cottage accommodation is most deficient.

96. As regards the quality of cottage accommodation, the greatest amount of deficiency is to be found on outlying portions of large estates, and on those smaller estates, which have become subject to heavy burdens under the present system of entail.

97. The worst cottages in my district are to be seen in the Highlands of Perthshire. Speaking of that district, Mr. Fletcher N. Menzies, secretary of Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, in his answers to circular questions, says,—

"The cottages are, as a rule, a disgrace to the country; dry-stone huts filled with smoke."

Although I had the pleasure of seeing in the Highland district a few specimens of modern cottages of a very satisfactory character, I can fully attest the general correctness of Mr. Fletcher Menzies' description. The usual form of the Highland cottage is one long room, surrounded by loose rubble walls, and covered with a thatch of heather resting on unsawn timber polished black with peat reek.

98. As to the deficiency in the Lowland districts, I must refer you to the evidence given in the Appendix. To point to this or that instance of a lack of proper cottage accommodation would be, as it were, to gibbet certain members of a class who, as a rule, are striving to do their duty, occasionally under very difficult circumstances.

It would give me great pleasure to mention several estates on which I found the condition of cottages all that could reasonably be desired, but even this I would rather not do, as I must necessarily omit the names of many landowners, equally deserving of praise, whose estates I had not time to visit.

Means of enabling landowners to increase and improve their cottages.

99. Admitted then, that the social condition of the labourer as well as the advancement of agriculture demand an improvement both in the quality and quantity of cottages, what remedy have we to propose where the pecuniary condition of landed estates prevents the owners from carrying out such improvement?

The remedy which I see in the prospective is an Act of Parliament to prevent the entail of burdened estates, and for the present a more rational use of the powers given to the Inclosure Commissioners for sanctioning loans contracted by life tenants for building cottages.

By amending the law of entail.

100. In the last session of Parliament the Lord Advocate for Scotland introduced a Bill entitled "A "Bill to amend the Law of Entail in Scotland," the 10th clause of which says, "*It shall not hereafter be lawful to entail any estate in Scotland.*" If that clause had stood alone it might have become law; but as the Bill included many intricate arrangements for dealing with interests already created under the present law, it failed. I confess I see no prospect of the present life tenants of burdened estates being put in a position to meet any sudden outlay for cottage building or for any other purpose, and the only remedy I can suggest, say for the next 50 years, is an extension of the time over which rentcharges can be granted for loans on cottage building.

By extending the duration of rentcharges on loans for cottage building, sanctioned by Inclosure Commissioners.

101. Amongst your circular questions is the following one:—

By the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. the Enclosure Commissioners are authorised to advance public money for the improvement of land, including the erection of labourers' cottages and improvement of and addition to labourers' cottages. Have you any remarks to make upon this Act in regard to any additional facilities or any reduction of cost that might cause greater progress to be made in supplying the want of good cottages?

A return from the Inclosure Commissioners, of the loans sanctioned by them under the above and kindred Acts, separating the loans for cottage building from other estate improvements, and separating the sums advanced to English and Scotch landowners, shows how small a proportion of the loans so sanctioned has been for building or improving cottages, and how small the proportion of those loans is which has been so expended in Scotland. (See Appendix P. 141.)

In England I received very few answers to this question; in Scotland I received many, generally complaining of the stringency of the Commissioners' rules, and at the same time advocating an extension of the duration of the rentcharge and thereby a reduction of the annual payments.†

Want of cottages.

"The want of sufficient cottage accommodation is a great drawback in agriculture, not only in its effects on profitable culture, but as regards its bearing on the morals and education of those engaged in it, and their prosperity. In the districts where cottage accommodation does not exist, the ploughmen are unmarried and live in "bothies." In the event of their marrying, they know they must either leave their employment and go to towns, or take a house in a neighbouring village, which is not convenient. This prevents them marrying, and has a tendency to increase illegitimacy and improper intercourse, and breeds immorality; whereas, if cottages were sufficient, the above influences would be prevented, and the wives and grown-up youths of the ploughmen would be of great service on the farms in hay time and harvest, earning 1*s.* 3*d.* a day during hay time and 2*s.* 6*d.* during harvest, which would enable the children to be educated, and we should not have to depend on the migratory class now in existence."

Scotch law of settlement.

* In Scotland every man has a natural settlement by birth. He acquires a "residential settlement" by five years continuous residence (while not receiving relief) in any parish, but he loses that settlement by four years absence. Supposing a four years absence from the last parish in which he acquired a residential settlement, there is a year during which, if he falls on the rates, he becomes chargeable to the parish of his birth. Very few decayed farm labourers can support themselves for five years in a town so as to secure a residential settlement, and the chances are that if they can do so, they lose the settlement by change of residence in a large town containing more than one parish. Under the old law, altered by 8 & 9 Vict. c. 83., a man obtained a settlement by a residence of three years.

† Mr. Fletcher N. Menzies, secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, says:—

Loans under sanction of Inclosure Commissioners.

"There is a great desire amongst proprietors and farmers to improve cottages, but there are many hindrances. The interest charged for loans under the Inclosure Commissioners is too high, and they are too particular in details. It will not pay to build cottages under the present system. A labourer cannot afford to pay more than 3*l.* for his cottage, and the present cottages, to pay, must be rented at more than double that sum. If money could be obtained at something under 5 per cent., to be repaid in 40 years, our proprietors and tenants would very quickly arrange to take advantage of it, and our 'black' houses would soon disappear." (Appendix A. 1.)

Sir Robert Menzies, bart., landowner, Perthshire, says:—

"The high rate of interest charged in the form of a rentcharge for money borrowed for cottage building, under sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners, compared with the rent which a labourer can pay, makes the Act referred to useless as intended to confer any benefit on the labouring classes. Any means of reducing the rentcharge and of enabling proprietors to build such cottages as their labourers could live in, would be a great boon." (Appendix A. 2.)

may differ from many landowners in Scotland in my estimate of the prospective advantages of a tailing law, or, as I would rather put it, a law to prevent the entail of burdened estates; but I sure that I state the opinion of most men connected with the management of land when I say that, present circumstances, an extension of the time for the duration of rentcharges on loans for ge building is imperatively called for. 8.

s I have already discussed this question at length in my Report on the counties of Oxford and rs, sections 84 and 85, it may suffice to say here that the extension of the duration of the rent-ge I recommend is to 40 years, which is quite within the natural life of a well-built cottage. Rentcharge should be extended over 40 years.

2. As I have said, there are many complaints of the stringency of the rules of the Inclosure Commissers. These complaints often arise from the differences of opinions as to what constitutes a good ge.

England, not having many cottages to build, the landowner is content to spend a considerable per cottage in obtaining, what he considers, room for a proper separation of the sexes; in Scot-, having many cottages to build, the landowner is often obliged to limit his expenditure to the ands of the labourer, which are principally confined to warmth and bodily comfort. Differences of opinions as to what constitutes a good cottage.

have spoken to the occupants of many cottages consisting of only one long room divided into two es by box beds, the back space being devoted chiefly to the accommodation of coals, potatoes, and l, &c., and except on the score of cold or damp I seldom heard any complaint against such a lling.

or example, five out of a row of six hinds' cottages on Edington Mains farm, in Berwickshire, are he description given above, with the addition of a dairy built against the back of each cottage. aking of these houses, two of the hinds' wives used the same expression: "We're comfortable off ney hooses;" and the other occupants expressed themselves to the same effect. I have cited this

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Elliot, occupier, Clunie, Perthshire, says:—
have always considered the cottages erected by the Commissioners expensive, plans expensive, and the cost of erection expensive also, cannot suggest any method of reducing this cost. There is no greater mistake than that of building too expensive cottages for farm rers; their wages in general are not high, and they cannot furnish or keep them properly; at the same time the interest on the y expended must be taken into account and be considered as part of the wage, and if this be too high in proportion to the wage abourer is injured, discontent arises in consequence, and the increase of cottages is retarded." (Appendix A. 4.) Loans for cottage building sanctioned by Inclosure Commissioners under various Acts of Parliament.

J. Richmond, occupier, Dron, Perthshire, says:—
I think the time over which the rentcharge extends for repaying loans sanctioned by the Inclosure Commissioners should be extended to reduce the annual payment." (Appendix A. 13.)

r. Glendinning, occupier and land agent, Dalmeny, West Lothian, says:—
The only objection to the employment of Government money for building cottages, &c. is the expense and trouble incurred btaining the grant, which is quite 'sickening.' It should be left to the proprietor in possession to spend the money as he thinks binding him to show plans and specifications, with vouchers, that the work has been efficiently done, and the fee given to an ector of the work should be restricted to a moderate sum, say, 3*l.* 3*s.* for each order for inspection. (Appendix B. 3.)

r John Murray, Bart, landowner, Selkirkshire, says:—
The expense of building by means of *loans sanctioned by the Inclosure Commissioners*, is much too great; facility should be given for ining money at a much less cost. The cost of inspection and production of plans, &c. adds fully 15*l.* to the cost of each cottage, a serious addition. As to the actual cost of the buildings, little money, I think, can be saved." (Appendix D. 1.)

r. R. Leitch, land agent, Selkirk, says:—
One great objection to applying to the *Inclosure Commissioners* for money to build cottages is the expense of getting the money; if could be modified, I have no doubt more money would be borrowed for this purpose. If the rentcharge was extended over 40 years ve no doubt farmers, with the permission of their landlords, would build cottages for themselves with borrowed money." pendix D. 4.)

r. A. Campbell, land agent, Stirlingshire, says:—
The Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. has worked well upon the whole, but the heavy rentcharge has prevented thousands of cottages for ghmen being erected, and if, by extending the *duration of the charge*, the interest on loans could be reduced, it would give a wonderful tlse to improved farming. Single ploughmen never settle long on the same farm, and take little interest in their work. Married settle and become, as it were, partners with their masters. Without more cottages we cannot have married men." (Appdix D. 2.)

r. T. Frew, land agent, Stirlingshire, says:—
I am of opinion that an extension of the duration of the rentcharge is necessary to make *the Act* 27 *and* 28 *Vict. c.* 114. of any ctical use for increasing cottage accommodation." (Appendix D. 11.)

conversation on this subject, Mr. A. Young, a well-known land agent in the counties of Perth and Stirling, after saying that an nsion of the duration of the rentcharge, or any other process by which the annual payment on loans for cottage building could be uced to 5 per cent. would be the greatest benefit the Commission could confer on the agricultural community, added, "If loans ould be obtained at 5 per cent. not only would many landowners build cottages who cannot now afford, but the knowledge that loans r cottage building could be obtained on such terms would prevent some landowners, who really can afford to build, sheltering themselves nder the well-known inability of the landowning class generally."
can perfectly endorse this opinion.—G. C.

Ir. John Dickson, landowner and occupier, in Mid Lothian, and late Inspector under the Inclosure Commissioners (to whom Scotch lowners are indebted for several modifications of the Commissioners' plans.—G. C.), says:—
I think that if Government would sanction a loan for cottage building at a rate which would not make the rentcharge exceed five cent., a great encouragement would be given to building, and a great boon conferred on the labouring class." (Appendix B. 26.)

inion of Mr. James Ritchie, C.E., Inspector for the Inclosure Commissioners (Perth district).
The 19th Inquiry, Head III., of your schedule refers to *the erection of labourers' cottages* on advances of public money by the Inclosure mmissioners, under Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. (July 1864).
everal Land Improvement Companies likewise advance money for the erection of labourers' cottages under the supervision of the losure Commissioners.
nder these Acts a great variety of works connected with the improvement of land may be executed, and the yearly rentcharge repays ncipal and interest in 25 years.
onsidering the substantial character of the farm buildings erected under these Acts, with fair usage likely to stand good for 30 or years, and how much more permanent they are as works of land improvement, than for example most works of enclosing, drainage flat lands, irrigation, warping, road-making, &c., I should consider it reasonable and desirable and likely to cause greater progress to made in supplying the want of good cottages, were the outlays upon farm buildings to be made repayable by a rentcharge extending r 35 or 40 years instead of 25 years.
o other way of reducing the cost of such buildings to landowners occurs to me. I would not advise less substantial workmanship, labourers' cottages are now erected with a living room, and one, two, or three bedrooms or closets as desired, and I am glad to say the necessity of providing sleeping places, admitting of a proper separation of the sexes in labourers' cottages is becoming daily e acknowledged."
The following is the opinion of Mr. T. Duncan, landowner and occupier in Fifeshire, as to the expediency of some change in the ure of land, instead of an extension of the Inclosure Commissioners' powers:—
I am decidedly of opinion that all the acts of the Inclosure Commissioners during the last 25 years have been prejudicial to the ntry, and if they were necessary, they were only so because of the existence of laws which should have been swept away. If a rietor cannot accommodate the labourers on his estate decently, either make him sell his land or sweep away the causes that disable . Instead of building more and better houses, there is a desire among many, too many, proprietors to pull down what they have and drive into the towns, to lose all claim on the parochial board, those who have spent their best years in cultivating the land. I confess re seems some reason in this, but unless some great remedy is found out to prevent the catastrophe it looks like the swamping of all tangible and moving wealth of the country to pay *poors' relief*, though it be always as *niggardly* administered as it now is and always been."
It is evident that such a change as Mr. Duncan advocates, however desirable for the future, can scarcely be of a nature to produce a speedy remedy.—G. C.)

S.

example to show how far the labourer's idea of a good cottage has yet advanced, as there are Berwickshire a larger proportion of cottages containing three or four rooms than in any county I ha visited.*

Landowners, therefore, studying only the manners and requirements of the labouring class, mi escape comparatively cheaply in the matter of cottages; they have not, however, been content w this, and for several years past have been endeavouring to educate labourers in the matter of cott accommodation, sometimes wasting their money from not having sufficiently attended to necessities of the case.

Warmth a most important point in Scotland.

103. In Scotland warmth is a much more important thing than in England; and warmth not means good walls, roofs, and floors, but such an arrangement of rooms as will make the one ho hold fire of most avail. Hence the tenacity with which Scotch cottagers cling to the kitchen system, and speak with regret of having to banish the lads or lasses to upstair rooms.

Two-storied cottages.

104. South of the Forth "upstair rooms" are becoming very common in the newer cottages, as will see by my description (in the Appendix) of the cottages attached to several farms in the Loth and Border counties. Such two-storied cottages usually consist of a living room and bedroom, w scullery and dairy on the ground floor, and two rooms (of which, usually, only one is ceiled) ab generally only attic rooms which would be greatly improved by raising the outer walls of house.†

Ground-floor cottages.

105. It is still, however, the fashion on many estates south of the Forth, and on a larger proport north of that river, to confine the accommodation to the ground floor. To obtain three sepa bedrooms or bed closets on the ground floor, the depth of the cottage is increased and the wi of the kitchen decreased. By doing this two bed closets may be obtained opening out of the kitc towards the back, while a third bedroom, also opening out of kitchen, occupies the space between porch and scullery and the back of the cottage.‡

To make a cottage of this description comfortable the inside measurement of the main w must be at least 26 feet by 20. In the best specimens of the kind I saw, the bed closets w 8 by 7½ feet, the larger bedroom (in which is a fireplace) 13 by 8½ feet, and the kitchen 16½ by feet. Several specimens I saw in the Carse of Gowrie were too small.

Fifeshire cottages.

106. Almost all modern farm cottages throughout my district are built of stone and, except in F shire, covered with slate. In Fifeshire the fashion is to stick to pan-tiles manufactured in the coun and there is a greater sameness in the form of the labourer's cottage in this county than in any p of my district. A very large proportion of the cottages in the county consist of a "but and be with a lumber closet between, surrounded by well built stone walls and covered with pan-tiles; usu the living room has a floor of lime and mud, and the "ben room" a floor of wood.§

Blocks of cottages.

107. The long rows of one-storied farm cottages used to be very unsightly, but modern taste greatly improved their appearance. Where a block consists of 8 or 10 cottages they are now usu arranged on three sides of a square, open towards the south, the offices being approached by archway through the centre of the north side of the square. Very good specimens of this arran ment may be seen at East Barns and Thurston Mains, Haddingtonshire, and at Preston and Prim Hill, Berwickshire, on the estates of Mr. Mitchell Innes, Mr. J. W. Hunter, and the Earl of Home. more common arrangement, such as I saw at Billie Mains and Printonan, in Berwickshire, on estates of Mr. Milne Home and Mr. Trotter, is to separate the cottages into blocks of four or A very good elevation may, however, be obtained with a row of 8 or 10 by raising the centre and cottages as at Lufness Mains, Haddingtonshire, on Mr. Henry Hope's estate.

Gardens.

108. Gardens of from 10 to 20 poles are always attached to farm cottages, and it is not unusual to add in front a small plot for flowers: a further development of the latter arrangement is desirable.

Offices.

109. A good dairy, facing the north, and as far as possible from the kitchen fire, forms an indispens adjunct to the hind's cottage in the cow counties. A coal-house, too, should always be provided, habit of keeping the coals in the cottage being an almost necessary cause of untidiness. Pri (much too rare even now), pigstyes, and ashpits are best arranged, when forming one block, at s distance from the cottage.

Kitchen-range for cottages.

110. The only decided want I observed in the modern Scotch cottages is a kitchen range, such common in the North of England, including a boiler and oven. As far as I can call to mind the cottages I saw furnished with such an addition to the comfort of the occupants were on the estate Mr. Nisbet Hamilton, in Haddingtonshire.

In days gone by, a hind on entering his cottage found nothing but the bare walls. He brought him not only his fire-grate, but his door and window. Doors and windows are now always fixtu

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* Curious examples occur in the evidence of differences of opinion as to cottage accommodation. Some landowners, and not landowners but educated persons having no possible interest in cheapening cottage building, contenting themselves with an amou accommodation which sounds strange to English ears.

For example: Mr. James Dundas, landowner and Vice-Lieutenant of Linlithgowshire, says:—

What is a good cottage?

"On my farms the cottages are excellent, almost all have two apartments." (Appendix B. 2.) [Note.—Mr. Dundas is scarcely himself justice, I visited some cottages on his estate, most of which had more than two apartments.—G. C.]

The Rev. D. Runciman, minister of Leslie, Fifeshire, says:—

"I do not see any necessity for a farm labourer's cottage containing more than two apartments, and for perhaps one-third whole number on a farm one room of good size would be sufficient. Where the children are young the parents do not care for than one room, and they can manage to get on in that very well. A large cottage is a misfortune for a working man, it requires furniture and more fuel than a small one, and the wife has not time to keep it clean."

† See description of cottages at Printonan in Berwickshire, and Muirhouselaw, Roxburghshire. (Appendix C. 36, 93.)

Ground floor cottages at Saughton.

‡ Mr. Dickson, of Saughton, Mid Lothian, gave me a plan of four cottages of this description, built on Saughton estate in 1866, sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners. These cottages including an ashpit and privy, grates, iron beds, and carriage of ma cost 120*l.* each, and are the cheapest cottages built under sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners I ever inspected. Previ 1866, the Commissioners would not have passed such plans, and I think it is very desirable that landowners should know that the now do so.

Fifeshire cottages.

§ See my notes on Kemback and Leslie parishes. In the notes on Leslie you will see a description of three new cott Mr. Waldegrave Leslie's estate which are simply an improved construction of the ordinary Fifeshire cottage. Mr. Leslie's cott which add a porch and lean-to at the back to the ordinary type of the county, cost 90*l.* each.

The Fifeshire pan-tiles are the best I have ever seen.

the practice of making the fire-grate also a fixture is extending. In most instances, however, the S.
and swey (from which the kettle and girdle are suspended) belong to the occupant, and it would
to be a point of honour to keep the swey bright.
don't know that we could now truthfully say that "halesome parritch" is "chief of Scotia's food,"
as is evident from the quantity of oatmeal and milk received in part payment of wages, as well as
the evidence of hinds' wives, it forms a very important part of the diet of agricultural labourers.
oaten bread, however, is creeping in, and in the absence of the cottage oven must be purchased
the village baker. The oven, moreover, would enable the "gude wife" to keep something hot for
husband when absent on an errand that prevents his being home at "the dinner time." It is hardly
ssary to dwell on the advantages of a small kitchen boiler. To make the kitchen range a fixture,
supply a boiler and oven, would not add above 35*s.* to the cost of each cottage.

1. I have said that porridge and milk still form an important part of the agricultural labourer's diet. Food of labouring class.
any families the men, especially the elder ones, "sup" their porridge morning and night, but in more,
nk, porridge comes only once a day, and the women are much more given to "scones" or "bannocks"
h baked on the girdle), butter, and tea or coffee. Dinner usually consists of broth made with barley,
etables, and bacon.*
eef rarely finds its way into the hinds' cottage, but whenever a sheep has to be killed in a state
for the ordinary market the mutton, if eatable, is purchased at a low price (say 3*d.* a pound) by
farm servants, and comes in instead of pigs' flesh to help the broth. A good deal of such mutton
ied and salted for winter use by the shepherds in both Highland and Lowland districts.

Bothies.

12. Whatever may have been the condition of male bothies in times past, and according to all accounts Bothies much improved.
read they must have been wretched dwellings indeed. I saw very little to complain of in those I
ed.
n Lord Kinnaird's estate, for instance, in many of the bothies each man has a separate bed closet;
I found the same provision in newly-constructed bothies on several estates. One of the best
ies I saw was on Todhall farm in Fifeshire, the property of Mr. Cheape; this consisted of a large
hen and four bed rooms (two beds in each); water is laid on in the kitchen as well as conveniently
the bedrooms, and in the kitchen near the fire was the only example I saw of a wooden sofa or
ard bed,' a very useful institution for the men to lie down on at their mid-day rest instead of damping
dirtying their beds.
t was only in small bothies, intended for two or three men, that I found the beds in the kitchen, and
his respect they are certainly not worse than many cottages.

13. As the bothy-men live almost entirely on porridge or brose and milk, the cooking and eating Furniture of bothies.
nsils are few. Furniture, too, is scanty, but with the exception of the "guard bed" I have noticed
ve, sufficient for the wants of the men.

14. We have been told that you would find obscene drawings and writings on the walls of bothies; such
gs I could never discover, and whatever may be the rough tastes of the bothy-man I wish to record
fact to his credit; mural adornments or disfigurements there were none in the many bothies I visited.
sical instruments, such as concertinas, fiddles, and bagpipes are common enough, but, save Bibles, I
no books in farm bothies.

15. For myself I think the bothy system is a mistake economically, and that it subjects young men to Conduct of bothymen.
ny unnecessary temptations: I am bound, however, to add, that while the young men appear to like
system, I heard no complaints of misconduct other than those common to young men lodged in
ir parents' houses.

Mr. Elliot, occupier, of Laigwood, in Perthshire, gives the following evidence on this subject:—

"The bothy system exists in this district, in a limited degree, and I have only to remark that when I
ne here from Dumfries-shire I was impressed with the belief that the system was a bad one; I was urged
try it, I did so, with reluctance, but after 14 years' experience I must say I have changed my mind. I
ve had many years' experience of young men getting their food in the farm kitchen along with the female
vants, fully 30 years, and have now for 14 years had experience of the bothy for men (we have no bothy
females here), and I much prefer the bothy for men to the mixed system, when a bothy is attended to
l properly conducted. In days now gone by, when the farmer presided in the kitchen and took his food
th his servants, the establishment was often well conducted. The farmer and his family now live apart
d take their food apart from the servants.
"I much prefer the bothy system to male and female servants living together in a farm kitchen without
y superintending head. In my own bothy, not a large one, four or five young men in it, I have found them
l well conducted, quiet and orderly; they generally read periodicals and newspapers, write their letters
c., and although within 50 yards of my sitting-room window, I never heard any noises or symptoms of

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* Scones are thin girdle cakes made of wheat or barley meal.
Bannocks are thicker girdle cakes made of wheat or barley meal, or a mixture of barley and peas meal. The use of peas meal is rapidly diminishing. Food of Scotch peasantry.
Potatoes also form a considerable item of labourers' food.
The following are examples of evidence on the food of agricultural labourers and their families.
The wife of a hind in Kinfauns parish, Carse of Gowrie, says:—
"Ploughmen have porridge and milk for breakfast; broth made with barley, vegetables, and meat (beef or mutton or bacon) for dinner. Tea and loaf or scone and butter or cold meat or anything that is readiest for supper.
"We use all our oatmeal, and I have to buy some and what wheat bread we want. I bake scones and oatcakes. We get a pint (Scotch) of sweet milk a day, and I buy a 1*d.* worth of skim milk about a mutchkin."
The mother of two hinds, at Swanstone, Mid Lothian, thus described their food:—

Breakfast	-	Porridge and milk.
Dinner	-	Broth, with bacon in it.
Supper	-	Porridge and milk or tea and bread and butter.

A ploughman's wife, at Printonan, Berwickshire, says:—
"We bake barley and peas bannocks, and kill two pigs in the year, and we've a good cow. The father and the two youngest take their porridge night and morning, but the others dinna' care for them," (them meaning the porridge).
Mrs. Bradford, wife of a hind at Kelloe Mains, Berwickshire, says:—
"We use porridge and milk mostly in the morning, broth or pig's meat at dinner, and porridge or tea and bread and butter for supper. Some of them can't take their porridge in the morning now."

S. irregularity proceed from it. To make sure that I was right in that, I put the question to my farm stew and his answer at this moment is, 'I think the bothy for men much better than lodging in the farm kite' 'as they can read and write with nothing to disturb them.' My steward is from Dumfries-shire, and accustomed to farm servants lodging in farm kitchens. Bothies should be properly attended to, A respect female should attend to the charring of the place, to the beds, and general wants of the men." (Appendix A

The last remark of Mr. Elliot, viz., that a respectable woman should attend to the beds and gen comfort of the men is a very rare, but very desirable arrangement.

Female bothies.

116. Female bothies, for instance, as we find them in the Lothians, are much more comfortable look abodes than male bothies. There is about them an air of domestic comfort only a woman's hand give. Those I saw were inhabited by Highland girls, whose modest character is well known, an heard no complaint of the misconduct of farm bothy-women. That it would be far otherwise if bothy-women were natives of the south of Scotland I can well conceive, even without the testimon the keeper of a large female bothy connected with a flax mill in Kemback parish in Fifeshire. (Appendix E. 62.)

Morality of the Labouring Class.

High rate of illegitimacy prevailing in south and north-east of Scotland.

117. This brings me to a subject somewhat difficult to treat of and yet which cannot be passed o in any report on the social condition of agricultural labourers, I mean the high rate of illegitima prevailing amongst the Lowland Scotch.

Before the publication of the Registrar General's Report in 1858, nine Scotchmen out of ten wo have asserted, with perfect belief in the truth of the assertion, that the Lowland Scotch were mo people. Since 1858 not only the Registrar's Annual Reports, but the investigations of such men Dr. Strachan, of Dollar, and others equally anxious to arrive at the truth of the matter, have given rude shock to this belief.*

Taking the annual reports of the Registrar-General and the investigations of Dr. Strachan a basis, we are brought to the irresistible conclusion that amongst the Lowland Scotch of the labouri class, a very small proportion of the women preserve their chastity up to the date of their marriage.†

Here then lies the weight of the whole charge of immorality brought against the labouring populati of the south and north-east of Scotland, that they esteem lightly the purity of unmarried wom Infidelity after marriage is almost unknown, nor is there any interference with nature either before after childbirth productive of crimes, better known in towns than country parishes. There is inde no pressure on the woman to commit any crime in order to conceal her lapse from virtue, as amon her own class there is no feeling of indignation aroused in consequence of what they would call "misfortune."

There is sometimes a good deal in a name, and this very term "misfortune," used by the Lowla Scotch to designate the result of a woman's unchastity, is an index to their feeling on the subject. is "a misfortune," because she is for a time incapacitated from earning her daily bread, and if unab as is too often the case in Scotland, to affiliate the child, she is casting a burden on herself or her pare As an impediment to her after marriage either with the father of her child or some other man, t misfortune is, unhappily, of very little consequence.

Excuses for it.

118. All sorts of excuses are alleged for the impurity of Lowland Scotch labouring women. T difficulty of obtaining cottages and remunerative employment, for instance, in agricultural distric This may account for a lower rate of illegitimacy amongst a manufacturing population, but you women of the middle class, who, as a rule, are perfectly chaste, labour under as great a difficulty this respect as women of the working classes.

Want of separation between the sexes in cottages is another excuse. I would instantly grant th this defect must be remedied before you can effect a cure, but that it is not a sufficient excuse may proved from the comparative chastity of the women bred up in Irish or Highland cabins.

Dr. Strachan while pointing to the purity and good manners of the Celtic population, seems inclin to attribute some part of the difference in conduct to the stronger passions of the Lowlander. It m be a wise provision of nature that the physically stronger race should have more inclination to reprodu itself, but I think we could point to our experiences in Wales to show that the Celt too, under certa circumstances, is open to the charge of impurity.

Night courting as a cause.

119. There is a custom common to the south of Scotland and South Wales leading in both distric to the exaggeration of a common evil, I mean the custom of night courting.‡

Mr. Wilson (Edington, Berwickshire), on causes of illegitimacy.

* The evidence of Mr. Wilson, occupier of Edington Mains, Berwickshire, may be taken as an example of the feeling of many Scot farmers on this point. Mr. Wilson says:—

"There is nothing unfavourable to health or morals in farm work as conducted in this county. As a rule our farm labourers a their families are well fed, well clothed, and well lodged. It is rare to find any of them, either men or women, who cannot read a write. Nearly all of them as they come to manhood or womanhood, become members of one or other of the Presbyterian churche and are regular in their attendance on public worship on the Lord's day. During the past 50 years I cannot remember above tw or three cases of a farm servant in this county being tried for a serious crime. Intemperance is exceedingly rare amongst them Indeed the only blot on the character of the class is that 10 per cent. of the births in Berwickshire are illegitimate. A good de has sometimes been made of this fact in disparagement of the character of our community. Certainly, I have no wish to extenua this offence, which has often caused me much sorrow. But justice demands that certain facts bearing on this question of the mora of our farm people should be known and kept in view by all who would come to a sound conclusion regarding it. 1st, there no prostitution; 2nd, conjugal unfaithfulness is nearly unknown; 3rd, as each farm requires a certain fixed number of families t overtake its labour, for which it has a corresponding number of cottages, and as there are no manufactories or mines to absor the increase of the population, it follows that the young people must either defer marrying until an opening occurs for them leave the district. Various attempts have from time to time been made to account for such an amount of illegitimacy in a com munity so intelligent, so orderly, and in all other respects so well conducted; and various suggestions have been made for it remedy. In my humble opinion the true cause of it is the impediment to early marriage, to which I have now referred. (Appendix C. 20.)

† See Dr. Strachan's articles on this subject, published in "The Scotsman," during May last.

‡ Under this head Dr. Strachan says,—

Dr. Strachan, on system of courting.

"Working men will not believe that it is possible to court a wife without stolen interviews, with the woman sitting on the man's kne or enfolded in his arms for hours in the dark. Among the working classes those who are attached to each other never meet in public in the social circle."

Then after quoting two well known Scottish songs illustrative of courting, "Among the rigs o' barley," and in the girl's bedroom, he continues,—

"The back of a haystack or the barn or the coal house, although not so poetical as 'among the rig's o' barley,' is the more frequen scene of courtship; the most frequent of all, however, in the case of servant-maids is the girl's bedroom. Wherever the place the meet ing is by stealth in the middle of the night in darkness."

S.

don't mean to say that "night courting" is the chief cause of the impurity of women; but rtainly reacts as a continuing cause of a state of things of which it may be only one of the s.

20. To put an end to night courting and at the same time discourage the somewhat coarse tastes ne labouring class, I can do no better than endorse Dr. Strachan's recommendation to all persons ested in the welfare of their poorer brethren, to encourage social gatherings where young men women may meet under more favourable circumstances than in the "barn or coalhouse." To arage, I would add, any refined amusement, bodily or mental, which may tend to raise a manly, st, and God-fearing race to a higher position in the scale of social refinement.*

Social gatherings and refined amusements should be encouraged.

Hiring Markets.

21. The promotion of social gatherings and rational amusements amongst the labouring class seems e, too, the first step towards putting an end to the much complained of nuisance of feeing or hiring kets.

he holidays of a ploughman are few, and his amusements, apart from the abuse of drink or the ety of women, still fewer. How then can you expect him to second any praiseworthy efforts to put nd to his annual spree at the hiring fair. Let him be given more frequent opportunities of diverting self in a decent manner, and then I feel sure he will be content to change his service through the lium of a register, or if he still attends the market he will conduct himself in such a manner as not give offence to his more polished neighbours.

Savings' Banks.

22. Notwithstanding his conduct at the annual hiring fair, the Scotch agricultural labourer is mently a sober man. "It's a great matter no' to be tempted," as the widow of a hind in Berwickshire l to me after explaining that there was not a "public house" in her parish (Bunkle), and under farm village system and payment in kind there is a happy absence of temptation. Be the cause, wever, what it may, the Scotch hind is a sober and perhaps therefore a saving man.

Agricultural labourers in Scotland a sober class, and perhaps therefore a saving class.

In Appendix F., 22, 23, and 24 you will find the evidence I received from three important savings' nks, viz., the County and City of Perth Savings' Bank, the Kelso National Securities Savings' nk, and the Fifeshire National Securities Savings' Bank.

In the last report of the last named bank the following passage occurs:—"Farm servants and female servants never fail to add a little to their accounts. These depositors are the most regular customers of the bank, and by their persevering habits are a pattern to others in easier circumstances of ."

In the Fifeshire Savings' Bank there are 400 deposits held by "ploughmen and labourers" as ainst 550 held by "mechanics, weavers, and spinners," and this in a neighbourhood where there is great deal of manufacturing industry. In the Perth Savings' Bank there are 2,153 deposits longing to "ploughmen, gardeners, foresters, and common labourers chiefly engaged in agriculture," against 2,252 belonging to "mechanics, weavers, and artificers of various kinds."

The following are examples of deposits made by agricultural labourers in the Perthshire Bank, idly given to me by the actuary, Mr. Jamieson:—Twelve depositors opened accounts in November d December 1860 with sums varying from 3*l.* to 18*l.*, the aggregate of the first deposits being 95*l.* nine years the aggregate amount due to these 12 depositors had increased to 665*l.*, showing an erage saving for each depositor of 5*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per annum. In the same way I found that 12 depoors of the same class opening accounts in 1865 had, on an average, saved 5*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per annum. he largest deposit to the credit of any one man of the first list was 158*l.* In all of the three banks, owever, which I have named, there are examples of deposits held by farm labourers which have ached the limit (200*l.*), beyond which the savings' Banks cease to pay interest.

Examples of savings of agricultural labourers.

To trace the deposits of labourers, after they have reached the limit at which they are usually withawn from savings' banks, is a rather difficult operation; there is not, however, wanting reliable idence to show that superior farm labourers, such as shepherds and foremen, have accumulated sums upwards of 500*l.*

123. You will find in the Appendix, not only from the evidence of employers and onlookers but in that iven by labourers themselves, certain indications of a change in the character and habits of Scotch bourers, arising from a demand for the increased luxuries of life, common to all classes of society. here can be no doubt that this change, as far as it militates against the natural inclination to thrift, fostered by the modern poor law system, which seems to tell every man to live and be merry when e can, and trust to national charity as his savings' bank.

Modern poor-law system.

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* The following is the evidence of Mr. George Dickson, sheriff substitute of Berwickshire, on this subject:—
"On the subject of illegitimacy in Scotland generally there were some good articles in the 'Scotsman' about three months ago, ritten by Dr. Strachan, who has devoted much attention to the subject. He lays a good deal of blame upon the women, and I think he right. There seems to be no notion among young women in this county that there is anything improper in receiving men in eir bedrooms at midnight. Dr. Johnson said, 'Where there is shame there may in time be virtue,' but with our rural population ere is not even *shame*. I suspect, however, that there is a deeper question than a mere social one. In former times the influence of e church in such matters was very great and even tyrannical, so oppressive, I fancy, that it overshot the mark; still a great control was xercised and the evil was kept within bounds. Now-a-days the Church has not the slightest influence in the matter, and I think ne breaking loose of the population from ecclesiastical repression has much to do with the present immoral condition of the lower lasses. The disclosures in filiation cases in my court exhibit a condition of unbridled licence as to a large extent the rule of life mong the labouring classes." (Appendix F. 31.)
(The per-centage of illegitimate births is high enough in the northern English counties, and that with a population of the same haracter and habits there is a sudden rise in the rate as soon as you cross the border appears to me to be to some extent attributable to he difference of the English and Scotch law as affecting children born out of wedlock. The legitimising bastard children by an after marriage, for example, seems to me a legal condoning of the offence which gave them birth, and cannot fail to have a bad effect n persons restrained by no social loss of caste. The difficulty too of filiating children, great enough in England, is greater in Scotland.—G.C.)

Mr. G. Dickson, sheriff-substitute of Berwickshire, on causes of immorality.

Legitimising bastard children by an after-marriage.

S. *Crofts and Pendicles.*

124. Crofters and pendiclers, *i.e.*, occupiers of a cottage and small piece of land, have almost disappeared from the arable part of my district.*

And but for the harvest reaped in the shooting season, when "the gentry" pay liberally for the use of man and horse, I think the crofter would have been by this time a much smaller quantity in the Highlands.

Killichounan crofters.

For example, take the crofters of Killichounan, Perthshire, on Sir Robert Menzies' estate. Twenty families hold from Sir Robert a cottage, about four acres of arable land, and right of pasturing on the hill a horse and cow. The men representing these families are by trade blacksmiths, joiners, tailors, weavers, dykers, and labourers.

For the cottage, croft, and right of pasture, each family pays 5*l.* a year. This sounds an absurdly small rent, and is, in fact, only a fair interest on the cost of the cottage, if a decent one. There can be no great wonder then, that crofters cottages are generally very bad, and that landowners under pressure to build better ones are anxious to get rid of the system. It is evident also that no man can in the Highlands expect to keep his family off the produce of his croft, and that it is only injurious to him when it interferes with his ordinary business.

What crofts should and should not be.

Unless then a croft is of such a nature (say for the purpose of keeping a couple of cows to be attended to by the wife) as not to withdraw a man from his ordinary trade, it appears to me only a temptation to idleness. This would, of course, limit not only the nature and extent of crofts, but also the number of persons for whom it might be no disadvantage to provide them. The crofters are at present fast working out this limitation for themselves and happily so I think.

The village blacksmith or tailor may be greatly benefitted by a bit of land, but to encourage a system of crofts for farm servants (other than cow crofts, which are not nearly so good as the hinds' cow system) would be to injure the labourer and tempt the farmer to continue that slovenly management which relies on stray hands to help him through times of pressure.

125. Mr. Fletcher Menzies gives an interesting description of a "suming" farm on the shores of Loch Rannoch.†

A "suming" farm.

A "sume" is the right of grazing a certain head of stock, and a "suming farm" means a joint stock farming company, composed of families, who, besides a cottage and croft, of which they are the sole occupiers, share with others an equal right of stocking a neighbouring hill farm.

The advantage the sumer has over the ordinary crofter lies in the economy of labour arising from a power of combination, his disadvantage as compared with the farmer is that common to all joint stock companies of the want of one responsible head.

In the matter of cottage accommodation the sumer is as badly off as the crofter, and is likely to remain so till landowners build cottages regardless of estate economy.

After expressing my gratitude for the kindly assistance I everywhere received in Scotland, it only remains for me to thank you for having employed me on a mission, the many lessons of which I hope I shall remember all the days of my life.

I have the honour to remain,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. CULLEY.

Fowberry Tower, January 7th, 1871.

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* Pendicle is the term applied in the neighbourhood of the Carse of Gowrie to a small piece of land, generally about a Scotch acre attached to a cottage. Crofts were and are of various extent, commonly from three to five acres.

† Mr. Menzies says:—

Management of suming farm.

"The rent of the farm is 96*l.* 10*s.*; it is divided into 10 cots or crofts. Each holder of a cottage and croft has a right of pasturing on an adjoining moor 35 ewes and their followers, two cows, two stirks and one horse.

The shepherd and cowherd are paid by the "sumers," share and share alike; the shepherd living four days in every house by turn. The cowherd as many days with each family as they possess cows (a sumer may have a cow instead of four sheep, or more in that proportion).

Two men are chosen annually to collect the money and manage the affairs of the community.

The average sale off the farm is 100 two-year-old wethers.

In buying lambs every man must buy as many ewe as wether lambs. All young sheep are sent away for wintering.

The population of the farm is 12 men, 15 women, and 10 children, 37 in all. A considerable number of both the men and women go out as labourers.

EPORT by Mr. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE on DUMFRIES-SHIRE, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE, WIGTOWNSHIRE, and AYRSHIRE.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

T.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I HAVE the honour of presenting to you my Report on Dumfries-shire, the Stewartry f Kirkcudbright, and the counties of Wigtown and Ayr, which, in obedience to your instructions, visited for the purpose of inquiring into the employment of children, young persons, and women n agriculture, for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent, and with what modifications, the principles f the Factory Acts can be adopted for the regulation of such employment, and especially with a iew to the better education of such children.

My attention was also called to the Scotch parochial schools, with a view of noting any peculiarities which distinguished the system adopted in them from the elementary schools of England and Wales. I accordingly made that system the subject of investigation, and the observations which they suggested will be found embodied in the concluding portion of this Report.

2. The counties assigned to me as my district comprised Dumfries-shire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire, and Ayrshire, which I purpose to consider separately. District assigned.

DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

T.

Character of Dumfries-shire.

3. This, one of the largest of the southern counties of Scotland, is almost a purely pastoral and agricultural district, a very small portion of its prosperity being dependent on commerce, mines, or manufactures. Its total area consists of 702,953 imperial acres, of which 84,563 are under permanent pasture, while rather more than half consists of heath and mountain land. It is, therefore, eminently a pastoral district, although such portions of it as are under the plough are unsurpassed in fertility by any part of Scotland. The districts which I selected for my inquiries were Nithsdale, Annandale, and the hill country in the vicinity of Moffat. So large proportion of the county being exclusively pastoral in its character, sheep farming naturally constitutes its staple industry, but the arable farms support a class of tenant farmers noted for their intelligence and success.

Size of farms.

4. The farms, except in the hill districts, are not large. Sheep farms vary in size from 300 to 3,000 acres, and arable farms from 50 to 600 acres, but the average size of the latter is 84 acres. In the purely agricultural districts oats and potatoes are chiefly cultivated. The arable portions of Dumfries-shire are divided into three "straiths" or dales; viz., Nithsdale, Annandale, and Eskdale, and each of these districts contain many fine farms cultivated on the most approved principles. Although there is a considerable number of moderately sized holdings it is rarely that a farm is smaller than is sufficient to employ a pair of horses and a plough, or one of 80*l.* or 100*l.* per annum rent. These small farms are generally cultivated by the tenant himself with the aid of his family, very little, if any, hired labour being employed. The Duke of Buccleuch is the owner of rather more than one-fifth of the county.

Employment of women.

5. The employment of women in agriculture is very general; the comparative cheapness of female labour inducing farmers to take advantage of it whenever it can be procured. The wages earned by women vary from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day; but I was informed that the services of women are not now available to the extent they formerly were. The hours of labour never exceed ten, with an interval of an hour for dinner; and the severest work to which they are exposed is the loading of dung carts, but it is only the most robust who are habitually so employed.

Distribution of labour.

6. The smaller class of Dumfries-shire farmers are generally independent of all extraneous supplies of labour and look to the cottars residing on their farms, and to their families, for performing their ordinary work. The employment of day labourers, except in the vicinity of towns and villages, is rare. The general feeling with regard to such labour is that it is less efficient than that of cottars domiciled on the farm, who take an interest in their work and do it honestly, whereas the casual labourer who comes from the neighbouring village thinks only of sparing himself and of giving a minimum of work for a maximum of wages. The farms in Dumfries-shire are generally provided with cottages sufficient for the labour required for their cultivation. Married men with families are preferred as labourers to young unmarried men who must be lodged and boarded in the farm-houses, and they generally enter into an agreement that their wives shall work out when required and when temporarily incapacitated by pregnancy or any other cause, that one of her daughters if old enough, shall take her place. This arrangement seems to be generally acquiesced in by the cottars, but it is one which necessarily operates to the injury of the children, by depriving the older ones as they grow up of education, for while the mother is in the fields, the eldest boy or girl is obliged to remain at home to look after the younger ones and further attendance at school becomes impossible. On every considerable farm a byre woman is kept, whose duty it is to tend the cattle and clean out the stalls.

Diminished demand for the labour of women.

7. In the parish of Tynwald, near Dumfries, a great many women are regularly hired by the year. They gain their living entirely by agricultural labour, and are chiefly single women and widows. Their rate of wages is 6*s.* a week with a single room cottage rent free, and 2*s.* a day and food during harvest. The supply of female labour, however, is diminishing in Dumfries-shire as in most other parts of the United Kingdom.

Children employed in agriculture.

8. Children are not generally employed in Dumfries-shire in agriculture until they are 12 or 13 years of age, except during the season for thinning turnips, when to enable the work to be quickly got through, children of from 9 to 12 years of age are often employed, the work suitable for a boy of 13 or 14 being divided between two, with wages at 5*d.* or 6*d.* a day each, instead of 10*d.* or 1*s.* for one. Scaring birds also affords occupation to children from an early age for about two months in the year, a boy 8 or 9 years old being often able to earn 10*d.* a day for shouting in a potatoe field from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the mischief done to potatoes at a certain period of their growth by crows being considerable. By this employment a very young child is often able to earn 2*l.* in two months, no inconsiderable addition to a labourer's means of feeding and clothing his family.

Young persons much employed in agriculture.

9. There is a steady demand for the labour of young persons of both sexes over 12 years of age for quite six months in the year, and the wages generally paid are from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day. They are generally the children of cotmen residing on the farms. I did not find that they were exposed to any rough treatment, that labour beyond their strength was ever imposed upon them, or that they were overworked. "They are," said an extensive farmer who employs large numbers of young persons, "masters of the situation, and we have much more need of them than they of us."

Employment of children in barking.

10. In the wooded districts of Dumfries-shire there is a good deal of barking, which gives employment for a month or two in the spring to children of from 9 to 12 years of age. They go into the woods, taking with them their food for the day, in parties of 20 or 30 in company with women, under the charge of a male superintendent who contracts to do a certain quantity of work. This closely resembles the gang system of England, and many of the abuses which were associated with that system would, I believe, be found on a close investigation to be inseparable from such employment.

Effect upon school attendance.

11. This regular demand for the labour of children and young persons in agriculture requires their absence from school for at least six months in the year, leaving the other six for the work of education, which by some is fully taken advantage of, but in most cases the carelessness of parents with regard to regularity of attendance, reduces the amount of school instruction given throughout the year, after the age of 12, to a very small quantity. In the purely pastoral districts of Dumfries-shire there is very

ttle work for children on farms, and they are chiefly employed by their parents in little jobs connected ith the management of the flocks, especially in the lambing and shearing seasons. T.

12. The rate of wages for agricultural labourers I found to be almost uniform throughout Dumfries- ire. The usual mode of payment is partly by money and partly in kind, with certain perquisites. n the nearest estimate I could make, I found that the wages of a first class ploughman living on the farm a cottage rent-free amounted to 35*l.* a year. The proportion which oatmeal and perquisites bear to e money wage is generally about a third. Oatmeal is the general form in which this proportion is ceived, but its quantity differs according to the value of the perquisites which the labourer enjoys. en bolls of meal, worth at its present price about 10*l.*, I found to be generally given. Sometimes a n of potatoes is added, or the use of ground to grow them, the labourer finding the manure. Coal peat is also occasionally given, but more frequently the labourer buys fuel, and it is carted free. these advantages may be added food in harvest equivalent to 30*s.*, and a cottage, with a small rden rent free. The meal and perquisites above referred to constitute what is termed the labourer's benefit," and the men so paid are called benefit men. Rate of wages.

The system of paying wages partly in money and partly in food and perquisites is not universal in umfries-shire. Many farmers pay the wages of their ploughmen in money alone, which generally nounts to 32*l.* a year, with a cottage and garden rent free. I endeavoured to elicit the opinions of the en as to the comparative advantages of the two systems, and I found the preponderance of opinion to in favour of the mixed system. It saves a great deal of time which would be otherwise expended shopping, the labourer has his principal store of food always at hand, and he is not affected by casional fluctuations in the price of, to him, the chief necessary of life.

13. The privilege of keeping a cow, with pasture for grazing it, one of the greatest boons which can conferred on a labouring man and his family, is comparatively rare, and even the keeping a g is often prohibited on the ground that it affords inducements to little acts of peculation of which the rmer is very jealous. Where, however, a pig is permitted to be kept it affords a considerable addi- on to a labourer's means of support, and the manure is applied to as much ground as it will serve in anting potatoes, and is carted on the land at the farmer's expense. The practice of selling the pig, or e greater part of it when fat is general; but some farmers stipulate as the condition of being allowed keep one, that the cottar shall not sell it, but that the whole shall be consumed as bacon by himself d his family, thus insuring for them a certain quantity of animal food which they probably would not herwise obtain. Neither cows nor pigs generally kept by labourers.

14. The custom of lodging and boarding labourers in farmhouses is much less general than it was, r in Dumfries-shire married labourers are more generally employed than single men, and they are uch preferred. When young unmarried men are employed their wages range from 18*l.* to 20*l.* a year ith board in the farmhouse. Married labourers generally employed on farms.

15. Shepherds occupy an important place in the rural economy of Dumfries-shire. Their occupation ay be almost said to be hereditary. They are possessed of great intelligence and are thoroughly ustworthy. Living in almost total solitude among the hills, they have few opportunities or induce- ents to spend money, and their wives are generally as frugal as themselves. A shepherd has two reat objects in life,—to save and to give his children a good education, for which he is willing to ake any sacrifice, and being often deprived of the benefit of the parochial school by reason of its stance, shepherds combine to provide a schoolmaster for their children, boarding and lodging him by rns and paying his stipulated fees. The Dumfries-shire shepherds.

16. The ordinary mode of remunerating a shepherd is by what is termed a "pack," *i.e.*, the privilege f grazing on his master's land from 42 to 45 sheep which he purchases on entering upon his place, or if e should not possess sufficient money for the purpose, he receives them on credit from his employer nd pays for them by instalments. The sheep are distinctively marked and graze with the master's ocks, and the shepherd derives the benefit of their increase and of the annual clip of their wool. he interest of the shepherd in the preservation and health of the sheep, is thus identical with at of his master, and his risks are the same. Should the flock get out of condition and, as is not nfrequently the case, cast their fleeces, the shepherd suffers with his master, and a severe winter r bad lambing season may subject him to serious loss. On the whole, however, the chances of making oney are greater than of losing it. Modes of paying them.

The are two classes of shepherds,—those whose duties compel them to reside on the upper hill ranges nd those who are confined to the lower. Of the former class the wages are usually made up in the llowing manner:—

A pack of 45 sheep,
Pasture and hay for a cow.
An acre of land rent free.
60 stones of oatmeal.
Cottage rent free.

It would be impossible to state the exact amount which these privileges and payments represent, ut the average may be estimated at from 45*l.* to 50*l.* a year.

On the lower ranges the shepherds are somewhat differently paid, the principal portion of their wages onsisting of money. A shepherd of this class generally receives 20*l.* in money, together with 65 stones f oatmeal per annum, and he has the privilege of pasturing two or three sheep and a cow.

The shepherds of the upper hill ranges are not unfrequently very successful. Beginning, perhaps, ith only just sufficient capital to pay for a small flock, they are often able to retire with a comfortable ndependence. As an instance of this, I may mention a fact stated to me by one of the largest sheep armers in Dumfries-shire. His chief shepherd had purchased 15 acres of land for 500*l.* A few months fterwards his master, thinking that the land would be an acquisition to his own property, offered 800*l.* or it, but the offer was declined.

17. The abodes of these mountain shepherds are often in the most desolate and dreary situations hat can be conceived. For weeks together they do not see their employer's face or hear anything of he outer world. Generally well educated themselves, they devote their evenings to reading and to the ducation of their children. Their secluded lives.

T.

Gradual discontinuance of paying them by packs.

18. I heard with regret that the long established practice of paying this valuable class of servant by means of a pack, in other words of admitting them into a quasi-partnership with their employers was gradually falling into disuse; a change which I cannot but think will prove equally disadvantageous to both parties. It must inevitably destroy that community of interest between the employer and employed which is one of the best securities for faithful service, and deprive a most deserving class of men of the means of bettering their position and of raising themselves above the average condition of a married ploughmen, whose only object is to live from day to day, leaving to his children nothing but the same prospect of hopeless toil which has marked his own career in life.

Married ploughmen can seldom save.

19. Among unmarried labourers, living in the farmhouses, and who have little or no occasion to spend any portion of their wages except in clothes, saving money is not uncommon, but the prevailing inclination is said to be rather to spend it.

Statement of savings.

20. I am enabled, through the courtesy of the secretaries of the Thornhill and Sanquhar district savings banks, to give statements of the deposits made by the farm servants, ploughmen and shepherds of those districts. The one from Thornhill specifies the sex of the depositor as well as the period of saving. The great predominance of females will be noticed, a corroboration of the impression which I received that saving among young unmarried men is comparatively rare.

I should observe, however, that any inquiry of this nature must necessarily be incomplete, unless all banks in a district are included in it. The private banks in Scotland afford great facilities to the working population by receiving their savings and allowing them interest, and there must be a considerable number of depositors in their books who belong to the class to which the following returns refer.

Returns from the Thornhill and Sanquhar savings banks.

21. Return from the Savings Bank of Thornhill, Nithsdale.

Servants living in Farmhouses.	Sex.	Period of Accumulation.	Amount.
			£ s. d.
No. 1	F.	9	19 14 11
„ 2	F.	8	50 4 7
„ 3	F.	7	49 14 9
„ 4	F.	7	37 12 10
„ 5	F.	7	10 12 0
„ 6	F.	6	56 19 8
„ 7	F.	6	26 18 4
„ 8	F.	6	11 9 9
„ 9	F.	19	17 17 4
„ 10	F.	15	60 4 7
„ 11	F.	30	35 15 3
„ 12	F.	13	77 6 0
„ 13	F.	12	65 10 8
„ 14	F.	22	50 19 10
„ 15	M.	10	22 17 3
„ 16	M.	10	60 19 8
„ 17	F.	6	13 5 0
„ 18	M.	6	45 0 0
„ 19	M.	5	15 16 1
„ 20	M.	4	8 16 9

Ploughmen in Cottages.	Period.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
No. 1	19	60 3 8
„ 2	16	90 12 5
„ 3	25	8 0 0
„ 4	30	137 16 10
„ 5	20	104 0 0
„ 6	11	16 0 0
„ 7	10	13 0 0

Shepherds.	Period.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
No. 1	9	127 3 1
„ 2	15	25 3 11
„ 3	30	117 4 5
„ 4	15	15 0 0
„ 5	5	8 10 11
„ 6	3	20 17 9

STATEMENT showing sums deposited in Sanquhar District Savings Bank, and at the credit of Shepherds and Agricultural Labourers in the Locality. T.

	£	s.	d.
No. 1	1	11	6
„ 2	10	15	2
„ 3	0	3	10
„ 4	2	0	0
„ 5	0	4	5
„ 6	1	6	10
„ 7	6	0	4
„ 8	49	8	7
„ 9	*133	19	5
„ 10	20	0	0
„ 11	17	5	9
„ 12	*159	0	0
„ 13	31	0	6
„ 14	6	0	0
„ 15	114	0	0
No. 16	50	6	11
„ 17	74	0	5
„ 18	*527	3	6
„ 19	10	9	5
„ 20	6	0	11
„ 21	9	3	0
„ 22	15	8	3
„ 23	7	0	0
„ 24	1	0	0
„ 25	2	5	0
„ 26	4	0	0
Total	£1,259	13	9

Rise of wages.

2. A very considerable rise of wages has taken place in Dumfries-shire within the last 30 years, as be seen by the following table, for which I am indebted to Mr. Charles Stewart, Hillside, Lockebie, many years factor to Mr. Hope Johnstone of Annandale.

—	1840.	1870.
ughman's half-yearly wage, with food	5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*	10*l.* to 11*l.*
o's wage during harvest, with food	2*l.* 2*s.*	4*l.* 4*s.*
ourer's wage per day work, without food	1*s.* 9*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*
man's half-yearly wage, with food	2*l.* 10*s.*	6*l.*
man's wage during harvest, with food	1*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 5*s.*
man's wage per day, without food	9*d.*	1*s.* 3*d.*

Modes of hiring labourers.

3. Farm servants are hired at "feeing fairs," held half-yearly in the principal towns, married ourers being engaged by the year, and unmarried labourers and women by the half-year. These fairs attended with those evils which are everywhere incidental to such a system, offering inducements lissipation and extravagance which act perniciously on both sexes. Farmers in general are quite e to the disadvantages of this mode of obtaining servants, and in some parts of the country it has n abandoned. The plan adopted instead possesses the advantage of affording a more effectual rantee for character than hiring in the open market. Under the new mode of hiring vants apply direct to the employer five weeks before the Whitsunday term for engagements, and eements are made with married men, as the head of the family, that the younger members shall paid the same rate of wages, when employed, as those of similar age and ability in the neighbourhood.

Diet of farm servants.

4. There has been a considerable change in the diet of farm servants within the last fifty years. rmerly very little butcher's meat was consumed in the farmhouses, the food generally consisting of ridge, oat-cake and cheese, and occasionally broth; now it is rare for farm servants not to have for ner butcher's meat or bacon, with vegetables, four days a week and broth the other three. The ied diet of the Cumberland and Westmorland farm servants, however, is unknown in Dumfries-shire; I heard no discontent expressed in reference either to the quantity or quality of the food provided.

Inferior mode of living of cotmen.

5. The Dumfries-shire cotmen and day labourers are not so favourably circumstanced as farm vants. They rarely taste meat, their dinner generally consisting of bread and cheese and tea, and ir supper of porridge or potatoes and milk.

State of education among the agricultural population.

6. The state of the agricultural labouring population with respect to education leaves little to be ired. It is rare to meet with an adult who is unable to read and write. The disposition to seek provement in reading is shown by the little collection of books which is to be seen in almost every tage. Many labourers take in a weekly provincial paper and interest themselves not merely in al but in general politics.

Deterioration of character in the agricultural labouring class

7. Notwithstanding these proofs of general education, I am compelled to state that I heard numerous nplaints that a sensible deterioration of character has taken place among the agricultural labouring pulation, and that it has been in progress for the last twenty-five years. This falling off is attributed the fact of farm servants frequently changing their places and the substitution of a mere commercial ationship between employer and employed for the kindly and paternal communion which formerly sted between a farmer and his labourers, the consequence being, as I was told by an eminent member the Dumfries Presbytery, that there is now scarcely an example to be found of what was not frequent in former days, viz., a farmer gathering his ploughmen together on the Sabbath evening for ercises of religious devotion.

To these causes I must add the discontinuance of the old practice in farmhouses of farmers and ir labourers taking their meals in common. In the smaller class of holdings the custom still vails; but in the larger, no doubt with some exceptions, an employer sees little of his workpeople cept when engaged in their occupations, and is indifferent to the mode in which they pass their ne after they have been released from the labours of the day.

* Shepherd.

T.

Cottages.

Cottages in Dumfries-shire.

28. Dumfries-shire is fortunate in possessing several great landed proprietors who have long directe their attention to the notoriously great insufficiency in the cottage accommodation of the rural distric of Scotland, and who have spent large sums of money supplying a want which has long been one the great evils of the country. As first in rank and in his munificent expenditure for the benefit the labouring class, I mention the Duke of Buccleuch, who within the last ten years, as I was informe by his Grace's architect and surveyor, has expended no less a sum than 50,000*l.* in the building a improvement of labourers' cottages.* I must also mention Mr. Hope Johnstone, of Annandale, th originator of a plan, to which I shall hereafter have to refer in detail, for granting building leases very favourable terms, and which has been the means of attaching the labouring class to the estates which they work and of checking those migratory propensities which are often as injurious to themselv as to their employers.

Habits of cottars.

29. It is but justice, however, to the landed proprietors of Dumfries-shire to state that great the desire of many may be to improve the dwellings of the labouring class, the difficulties they have encounter in the habits of the people are considerable. Whatever may be the amount of accommodati provided it is the universal practice for the whole family, if possible, to sleep in the kitchen, and t put as many beds there as it can hold. They are usually arranged opposite the fireplace, and th process of dressing and undressing is performed by the whole family, old and young, in the presence each other. The reasons generally assigned for this arrangement were the climate and the gener dampness of the sleeping apartment. A large proportion of the cottages, however, have only one roo

Amount of accommodation desired.

30. In considering the amount of accommodation which it is desirable that an agricultural labour should possess, his means of furnishing a cottage should be taken into account. It is not alwa without difficulty that he can manage to furnish in a decent manner even one room, but if they a three the difficulty is almost insurmountable; and inasmuch as his pride naturally revolts from keepi a room open which he has been unable to furnish, he either locks it up or makes use of it only as lumber room or as a store for keeping his potatoes and meal.

Effect of the poor law in diminishing the number of cottages.

31. The disproportion between the number of cottages and the requirements of the agricultur population has been further increased by the adoption of a poor law in Scotland, for the examp of England before the introduction of the union system has been closely followed, and vast numbe of cottages have been pulled down simply to prevent families gaining a settlement who migh become chargeable to the poor rates. The plan which has checked the progress of this depopulati system in England seems to be equally applicable to Scotland.

Greatest number have only one room.

32. That so large a proportion of cottages have only one room is, however, in some measure th fault of the tenant farmers, who to save expense have converted many two-roomed cottages into tw separate dwellings with a door in common.

Cottages on the Marquis of Queensbury's property.

33. Some of the worst cottages I have met with in the course of this inquiry either in Englan Wales, or Scotland, are those on the estates of the Marquis of Queensberry. I counted more than dozen in the parish of Tynwald, a few miles from the town of Dumfries, with only one room, and th room crammed with box beds in which families of eight or nine persons live and sleep. The thatche roofs were in a state of mouldering decay, the mud floors worn into holes, and the walls, even in th month of June, were saturated with moisture. The cottage occupied by the grieve of one of th principal farmers in the parish, paying a rent of 1,200*l.* a year, was little better than a hovel; th kitchen floor was not even flagged; the roof was of thatch and the paper of the only bedroom w hanging in strips from the damp wall. On another large estate belonging to the same nobleman, was informed by the tenant that on entering upon the farm he had found it necessary to expend 300*l.* put the few cottages on it in a condition fit for human habitation.

Difficulties attending cottage improvement.

34. Landed proprietors, however, are not always to be blamed for the paucity and bad condition of th cottages on their estates. Their means of effecting even the most necessary improvements are ofte crippled by heavy incumbrances, and the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. by which the Inclosure Commissione are authorised to advance public money for land improvements, including the erection and improveme

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* The Duke of Buccleuch was one of the first proprietors to recognise the great want of Scotland, as he has been the m persevering in his efforts to supply it. The following extract from a speech as President of the Association for Promoti Improvement in the Dwellings and Domestic Condition of Agricultural Labourers in Scotland, delivered in 1855, will show the de and practical interest taken by his Grace on the subject:—

"The Duke of Buccleuch, in putting the resolution to the meeting, observed that the report was a most valuable one, and show that great progress had already been made. The very circumstance that the attention of the country had been drawn to the subj was a great matter. It had been too much the custom in regard to labourers' cottages to say that it was not necessary to impro them, as the labourer only inhabited them for six months or a year and then left. This was a very narrow view of the subject; b it was unfortunately a very common one. He himself pleaded guilty to a great many charges of faults of omission as well as commission. It was too often the case that persons would not grudge spending from 10*l.* to 50*l.* in giving additional accomm dation for animals, because it was well known that in a badly-ventilated byre or a badly-constructed stable the animals wo become diseased and be lost. This loss went right to the pocket, and was grudged; fresh animals had to be bought, and perha these also would die off. But if a labourer, owing to the faulty construction of his house, became rheumatic or ill, and obliged leave his work, there might be a temporary inconvenience caused, but no money was taken out of the farmer's pocket, and plen of other labourers were to be found to take the man's place. This might be an extreme case, but such cases frequently occurr He had heard it often said by tenants that there was no use of giving their men better houses, because they were always removi and because if they had a good house in one place, they would be discontented if they got a worse one in another. This view the subject was, however, also rapidly disappearing, and he knew that, though some tenants might be apathetic, very many othe had remonstrated with him as to the condition of the labourers' dwellings. He had no doubt that what had happened to him h happened to many others. He might state that he had always found that where the houses were improved there had also been improvement in the habits of the people. Where separation of the sexes had taken place there had been a great improvement morality. There was no use in concealing the fact that the morality of their countrymen was not so high as it used to be; a he attributed this in some measure to their 'pigging' together in such a manner that neither decency nor feminine delicacy co be expected. He regretted that, from different avocations, he had not been able to pay that attention to the business of the Soci which he felt he ought to have done. He had, however, been endeavouring practically to carry out its views. He confessed th he had made some grievous blunders in the construction of houses, and there were various points on which the suggestions of Society could not fail to be useful."

labourers' cottages, exacts a higher rate of interest than is compatible with much advantage being T.
en of it. If the Commissioners would be satisfied with less expensive plans for labourers' cottages
ny more would probably be built under the provisions of this Act than there have hitherto been.
nother obstacle to the successful working of the Act consists is the too common practice of landed
prietors making their tenants pay the interest of the money advanced for building cottages on their
ms. Most tenants will rather put up with bad cottages than do that.

The Duke of Buccleuch's cottages.

35. I have already referred to the cottage improvements effected by the Duke of Buccleuch. I had
pleasure of examining many both new and improved cottages on his Grace's property, and their
angement and accommodation leave nothing to be desired. They seldom, however, consist of more
an two rooms, with outhouses, and there are many with only one room which are intended for elderly
rsons and widows. Most of these cottages have been built upon a new plan with slated instead of
tched roofs, and every precaution has been taken to keep them dry by asphalte or concrete founda-
ns. The common plan is to have the bedroom above stairs, and a condition is generally imposed
on the tenant that it shall be used as such.

Farm-houses deficient in accommoda tion.

36. Many of the smaller of farm houses are still very defective in proper sleeping accommodation for
rvants, and to this deficiencicy the high rate of illegitimacy in Dumfries-shire is generally attributed;
t this evil I found to have much diminished of late and to be gradually on the decrease. The
gregation of small farms into larger holdings has been long proceeding, and many of the old farm
uses have been converted into labourers' dwellings. There has also been a marked improvement
the larger class of farm houses.

The Duke of Buccleuch's system in regard to cottages.

37. One of the greatest improvements effected by the Duke of Buccleuch in the condition of cottagers
the plan which he has adopted, whenever he lets a farm, of keeping the cottages on it in his own
nds, thus preventing the tenant from sub-letting them. This arrangement places the labourer in a
uch more independent position than if he were liable to be turned out of his home at a moment's
tice; he is able to make better terms with his employer; and it is equally the tenant's interest that
e labourer should feel assured of the possession of his cottage as long as he may desire to retain it.

More cottages required.

38. Much, however, remains to be done before the state of cottage accommodation in Dumfries-shire
worthy of its high position in comparison with some other Scotch counties.

A great desideratum seems to be to increase the number of cottages available for men who
ve passed the prime of life and who are no longer equal to the continuous work. This class of men,
rmed job or day labourers, are often engaged by farmers at busy times, if they are to be had at a
asonable distance from the farm, but the greatest number are driven for want of accommodation
to towns, where they pick up as they best can a miserable subsistence.

Rev. H. Stuart's suggestions.

39. On this subject I beg to make a brief quotation from a tract published a few years ago by the
ev. Harry Stuart, a gentleman known throughout Scotland for his efforts to improve the condition of
e agricultural labourer:—

"Whenever I have been making inquiries," he says, "about the condition of the agricultural population,
e uniform remark made by all parties was, '*landlords must build more.*' All suggestions and plans for
proving it were always wound up with this emphatic and practical remark."

"If a farm labourer could look forward to his retiring to a jobbing-house in the country, with a certainty
his getting one at a reasonable rent, and convenient for jobs among the farms, it would be attended with
any beneficial effects on his character. First, it would make him more stationary with the same master, to
rn his good will and his good word for such a house. Why, just the other day, a man to whom I made an
fer of a good place, declined it, on the ground, that although better than what he had just now, yet he had
e prospect of a house, as a jobber in a few years, from a farmer he now serves. And I find that the few
bbers who have now got houses, were generally servants that had remained long with the same master.
hen it would immensely brighten the servant's prospects, and remove the horror of the town that always
aunts him as his last end; and it would raise his mind above the Parochial Board for relief, as he would
el that he could end the winter of his days among those with whom he had spent the sunshine of them;
hose eye would still be upon him, whose respect he would still desire to have, and on whose sympathy and
lp he might to the last rely, and which, with his own long-continued little jobbings, and old savings and
lps from his children serving at his door, would enable him to die an independent man, and his children to
ury him as not a pauper, and them to feel and to say, our parents never either sought or needed parochial
elief, neither shall we so degrade ourselves as their children, by accepting it.

"This was once the feeling and practice among the jobbers and jobbers' children, and I am old enough to
ave heard it expressed by them a thousand times over. But what have the married men now-a-days to
nable them to keep up their hearts and their heads? They must just retire to a town when unfit for heavy
bour, whether they get jobbing houses or not, such houses being too rare to allow any to have them longer
han they are fit for such labour. And then what is there in a town to encourage them to struggle on to
eep a name clear of the poor's roll, when their name now is never mentioned by friends and acquaintances?
They care for no one's respect there, for no one hardly knows them, except fellow paupers, and few or none
nquire after them from the country, except it may be their own children, whom they left there behind them.
No place, no work, can they get congenial to their feelings or their habits, and even their new kind of
ietary sickens them. A garret or a cellar, a dusty pirn wheel, and foul air, either soon end their days, or
nake them reckless of what may befal them;—yes, and their children reckless too, if they can still be touched
if divine grace prevent it not) with what has befallen their parents. Now this is no uncommon or
overcharged picture, either as to facts or as to feeling and effects.

"If jobbing-houses were much more numerous, it would enable many a poor ailing farm servant, still in the
prime of life, to retire from the constant heavy toil of following the horses, and go 'upon the spade,' so as to
have a few days' rest to occasionally reinvigorate his frame.

"I have often been sorry for some men in such a state of temporary bad health, but under constant heavy
work, and yet there was no help for it, but either to fag on uphill till it should come to a final break-down, or
give up the plough, and go at once to a town. Now, such men, if they could but have got but a year or two
of jobbing, might have still been saved for many years in full efficiency both to their families and to their
country."*

* "Agricultural labourers as they were, are, and should be," by the Rev. Harry Stuart, A.M., minister of Oathlaw, Edinburgh, 1854.

T. Another suggestion of the same gentleman appears worthy of consideration. "With an annual return of the crops," he says, "Government might insist on having accurate statistics of the numbers "of agricultural labourers and of the manner in which they are lodged and paid, and to ascertain "whether they exist in sufficient number in those districts where the land is able to support them, "and whether they are too numerous in others."

Mr. Hope Johnstone's system of granting building leases.

40. I have adverted to the system adopted by Mr. Hope Johnstone, of Annandale, of granting building leases to agricultural labourers of good character, and I conclude my observations on the cottage accommodation in Dumfries-shire by a short account of this system.

The district in which it has been principally adopted consists of the two parishes of Johnstone and Kirkpatrick Juxta, forming a portion of the Annandale estate which stretches for eight or nine miles along the west side of the river Annan, and comprehends 44 farms, chiefly arable, and from 12,000 to 14,000 acres. Fifty years ago labourers generally held their cottages under the tenant farmers, but being old and thatched they had become uncomfortable, if not uninhabitable, and many had to be taken down. A new system was then adopted. A lease of 21 years was given of the site or house-stead, with a large garden, at a rent of 5*s.* yearly. The tenant erected the house at his own expense, excepting the cost of the timber, which was supplied gratuitously from the estate, together with hewn stone for chimney heads, door and window joists, jambs, ridge-stone, &c., which cost the proprietor from 5*l.* to 6*l.* The landlord reserved the right to resume possession on giving six months' notice at any Whitsunday, paying the proportion of the tenant's outlay for the unexpired remainder of the lease the outlay being fixed at from 35*l.* to 40*l.* The smaller cottages were generally 30 feet long by 19 feet wide over the walls; they were all covered with Welsh slate, and lofted with Scotch fir, the room floor was also boarded, and the kitchen either boarded or flagged.

Size and cost of cottages.

The cost to the tenant is thus stated:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Welsh slates - - - -	4	16	0
Mason and slater - - - -	5	10	0
Joiners and windows, two in front, and one or two small ones in gable - - -	7	0	0
Lime and other outlays - - -	4	0	0
	£21	0	0

The materials and paid labour for cottages of this character would now probably cost the tenant from 45*l.* to 50*l.*

The remaining cost consisted of the tenant's own labour in raising and finding stones, which are abundant in the neighbourhood, assisting masons, and in the hire of carts, which they paid for in occasional work for their neighbours.

41. The erection of cottages on these terms has been proceeding for the last half century, and they now amount to nearly 200. They are in different parishes of the Annandale estate, but chiefly in the parish of Johnstone, where from the extensive plantations and other circumstances, there is the greatest amount of employment for labourers. To two-thirds or perhaps three-fourths of these cottars have been granted on lease from year to year, fields of two, three, or four acres of coarse land, worth about 20*s.* per acre, for summering and wintering a cow; they generally cultivate small portions of this land, thus securing potatoes enough for the family consumption and for one or two pigs.

Only persons of good character, and generally natives of the estate, are accepted as tenants. Most are ploughmen who have saved a little money, with the object of marrying and settling in a home of their own, and the encouragement which such a prospect affords to industry and economy among young labourers has the best influence upon their habits and character. Care is taken not to grant leases to any who have not a certain prospect of future work, and with this object the population of the parish is kept strictly in view. In some cases where a steady and deserving man is unable to pay for all the work required by the agreement, assistance is given by the landlord, who charges interest upon his additional outlay.

When the leases have expired they are renewed at moderate rents, the tenants generally making further improvements. It is a paramount object with the tenants to obtain a renewal of their leases and thus to secure for themselves and families a position in which so much comfort and independence are found. It is obvious how strong a motive this prospect affords for good conduct, for in no instance has a deserving tenant been deprived of his cottage when its lease has expired, but a new one has been invariably granted either to himself or, in the event of his death, to his widow or son, on the most reasonable terms.

The houses are built on the sides of turnpike or other roads, or on the boundaries of farms, and not formed into hamlets or villages, but detached from each other. Being generally in public view the occupants have a strong inducement to keep them in good order, and they are readily distinguishable from the ordinary cottar habitations by the respectability of their appearance. The interior of these cottages is in keeping with their exterior; a general neatness prevails, presenting a marked contrast to cottages occupied by merely transitory tenants.

Advantages of the system.

42. From long experience it has been found that this system is most conducive to the comfort, independence, and good conduct of the labouring classes, and the proprietor reaps no inconsiderable benefit in having around him a fixed resident cottar tenantry bound to him by the strongest ties of gratitude and self-interest.

These holdings much sought after.

43. The desire to possess these small holdings, I learn from Mr. Charles Stewart, who as factor to Mr. Hope Johnstone, was for many years instrumental in carrying out the system, has been steadily increasing, and from two to five or six acres are now frequently leased as "pendicles." The land being generally coarse, the proprietor gives assistance in liming and draining. It is then quickly improved and soon affords not only summer grazing for a cow or two, but is made to produce meadow hay, a green crop, or oats. The amount of labour required for managing a small holding of this description while affording scope for industry and intelligence, has not been found to encroach upon the time required for earning regular wages, and the rents are paid with promptitude and regularity.

T.

1. The estates of Mr. Hope Johnstone afford peculiar facilities for the adoption of this system in abundance of timber and stone ready at hand for building purposes, and the existence of saw ls on the property. Much may be done by other proprietors, however, on the principle of giving cottar an interest in his house by contributing to the cost of its erection. No plan could be ised, especially with the addition of an acre or two of improveable land, better adapted to counteract great evil of a continually fluctuating labouring population.*

Peculiar facilities for this system on Mr. Hope Johnstone's property.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

5. The county, or, as it is generally termed, the Stewartry, of Kirkcudbright, is bounded on the th by Dumfries-shire and Ayrshire, on the east and south by the Solway Frith and the Irish Sea, on the west by the county of Wigtown. It extends from east to west about 40 miles, and its adth varies from 17 to 20 miles. It contains 882 square miles, and two-thirds of its surface mountainous. The county, except in those districts which have an alluvial formation, as in the eys of the Nith, the Dee, and the sea coast, has an exceedingly broken and uneven surface, and e is a large extent of bleak and barren moorland. Almost every field in the higher lands has more or of waste in it, but the richness of soil in the hollows and the shelter afforded by knolls, frequently ered with furze, are advantages which make up in some degree for the limited quantity of good ble land. Of the total area of the county (610,313 statute acres), there were in 1869 under grain ps, 35,691 acres, 18,527 acres under green crops, 46,843 acres under rotation grasses, and 68,000 es under permanent pasture, exclusive of heath and mountain land. From the large area of hill l mountain, Kirkcudbrightshire, although it possesses some land of eminent fertility, is a pastoral nty, and its chief sources of prosperity lie in its dairy produce, and in the rearing of cattle and ep. The farms are of moderate size; the largest rarely exceeding 500*l.* a year rent, and there are ne as low as 40*l.*

Its area and cultivation.

16. I visited four different districts in the county, each possessing some special characteristic, viz., eral parishes on the left bank of the Nith bordering on Dumfries-shire; the country in the vicinity Dalbeattie and the flourishing market town of Castle Douglas; the county town of Kirkcudbright, l the vicinity of Gatehouse towards the western boundary. From these districts I was enabled gain sufficient information to enable me to form a correct opinion on the general condition of the al population.

Districts visited.

17. Women are extensively employed on all the arable farms at wages varying from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a y, a higher rate than prevails for similar labour in Dumfries-shire. This comparatively high rate of ges for such labour arises, I was told, from the diminished supply; women looking more to in-door vice or factory employment, and showing an increasing aversion to field-work. Large numbers of men, however, are still hired as farm servants, and their employment consists not only of the ordinary rk of the house and the homestead, but in such outdoor labour as spreading manure, hoeing and eding turnips, lifting grain in harvest, and raising potatoes.

Employment of women in agriculture.

18. The same custom prevails in Kirkcudbrightshire which I found in Dumfries-shire, viz., that of the mer stipulating with cottars that their wives should work out when required, a stipulation that does not m to be regarded as a hardship, although the absence of the wife from home for the whole day must anything but conducive to the comfort of her husband or to the training and well being of his children. males who are regularly employed in field-work certainly make bad wives for labouring men, from ir ignorance of household duties. The food is often wasted because the wife does not know how to k it, and even when the amount of wages earned by a family is considerable there is little comfort ing to the want of good domestic arrangements.

Wives of cottars bound to work out.

19. The effect of field-work upon the character of women was variously stated. Some denied that had any influence whatever upon morals; others, although employing large numbers of women, were nstrained to admit that the evil effects of a congregation of females and young lads without any effectual perintendence are considerable. A farmer who employed at times as many as 50 women admitted at many of them were of very indifferent character, that the field was a bad school of morals, and that correct as much as possible the evils incidental to it he was obliged to insist that all work should be rried on in silence, and any woman who did not conform to such regulations would be immediately -charged.

Effect on character.

50. The agricultural gang system is in activity in several parts of Kirkcudbrightshire, viz., at irkcudbright and Gatehouse, and in the parishes of Kirkchrist and Borgue. The gangs consist between 30 and 40 women, boys, and girls collected by a gangmaster, who works himself, but is id extra wages for his trouble in hiring and superintending the people.

Agricultural gangs in Kirkcudbrightshire.

51. Barking as carried on in the county was represented as a very demoralizing employment for ildren and young persons, and it was suggested that the men and elder women should be kept parate from the boys and girls, who hear and learn from them nothing but evil. The conduct of the men thus employed was said to be peculiarly coarse and corrupting. The same abuses which ndered necessary the Act for the regulation of agricultural gangs in England are doubtless as preva- nt wherever the gang system prevails. Whether the practice is sufficiently general to make it sirable to recommend that the above Act should be extended to Scotland, you will be able to judge om the reports of my colleagues relating to other portions of that country.

Barking a demoralizing employment.

52. The employment in agriculture of boys and girls, many under 10 years of age, is very general this county. For thinning turnips, weeding, and bird tenting, the labour of children from 9 to 10 ars of age is almost as useful as that of those of more advanced age. They are too young to use e hoe, but after a little practice they thin turnips with the hand very quickly and dexterously. The riod during which they are thus employed seldom exceeds two months, and on some farms even ie youngest children are able to make by piece-work 10*d.* a day.

Employment of children in agriculture.

* See in the Appendix a paper by the Rev. Peter Hope, late Free Church minister of Johnstone and Wamphray, on is subject; also the evidence of Mr. C. Stewart.

T.

Difficulties in fixing an age before which children shall not be permitted to work.

53. An opinion was generally expressed that the land could not be cultivated without largely employing children and young persons, nor do I think that an agricultural labourer whose family are able to earn wages can generally afford to dispense with them. Supposing he has two children between 8 and 10 years of age, who can earn wages for two months in turnip thinning and weeding, it is possible that he may have four more under that age, or six children, himself and wife to feed and clothe and the two elder children to educate. The difficulty in fixing upon a precise age before which children should not be permitted to work is, it appears to me, great, and any specified limit to that age might produce greater evils than it was intended to cure; but a boy who has attended school with regularity from the age of 5 may, if ordinarily intelligent, acquire a sufficient amount of elementary knowledge to pass a reasonable educational test at a comparatively early age, and he may then contribute to the family earnings without the injury to his intellectual nature, which early labour combined with irregular school attendance, cannot fail to produce.

Rate of wages of agricultural labourers.

54. The rates of wages in Kirkcudbrightshire is slightly higher than in Dumfries-shire. The average earnings of a cottar were stated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money wages - - -	32	0	0
Cottage and garden free - -	2	0	0
Potato ground - - -	2	0	0
Food in harvest - - -	1	15	0
	£37	15	0

This is, however, I think too high for an average, for in other cases the remuneration of a ploughman was stated thus: money wages, 16*l.*, 120 stones of oatmeal, the privilege of keeping a pig, ground for planting potatoes, and a cottage and garden rent free, the whole of which was estimated as equivalent to about 32*l.* in money. I should be inclined to place the average wages of a married plough man in this county at 34*l.* a year. It is not the custom to grant pasture for a cow, but a pig is generally allowed to be kept. Wages are, however, often paid wholly in money. Unmarried labourers are paid from 18*l.* to 20*l.* a year, with their lodging and food. Wages have risen within the last 30 years as much as 100 per cent. A considerable farmer stated that when he first came into the county 20 years ago, he could have hired any number of labourers he required for 1*s.* 6*d.* a day whereas now he cannot get them for less than 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*

Diet of agricultural labourers.

55. The condition of the agricultural labourer ought to be much improved by this increase in his remuneration, particularly as the chief rise in the price of provisions is in butchers' meat, which has never been consumed to any extent by the Scotch peasantry. I heard nevertheless complaints among this class of the insufficiency of their wages to meet their necessary expenditure. The substitution of wheaten bread, cheese, butter, and tea, for porridge, which has become very general, in some measure accounts for this and it is believed to have acted unfavourably upon the physical condition of agricultural labourers. They are said not to weigh so heavily as when milk, oatmeal porridge, and potatoes were their chief support, and to have lost in working power. Farm servants who have porridge for breakfast and supper and meat at least three times a week, are, as a rule, more efficient labourers than married cottars. The hiring of farm servants and labourers in this county is in the open markets in "feeing" fairs, which are held twice a year in the principal towns. The system is much complained of, but I did not hear that any measures had been taken to dispense with it. It is undoubtedly the cause of a great amount of immorality and misconduct. A magistrate informed me that the scenes on these occasions were as bad as anything that he had seen in the most depraved parts of London or Liverpool, and that he had often seen on these occasions boys and girls from 14 to 15 years of age drunk before noon in the streets of Castle Douglas.

Cottages.

Proper proportion of cottages to a farm.

56. I am glad to be able to state, that a gradual improvement is being effected in the cottages of this county. Landed proprietors have begun to recognise the necessity both on moral and economical grounds of providing sufficient accommodation for the people who cultivate their estates.

Mr. Murray Stewart's cottages.

57. As to the proper proportion of cottages to a farm it was stated by an experienced factor who had been permitted to carry out his own views on the subject that every farm which gives employment to a pair of horses should have at least one good cottage, and so on at the rate of every pair of horses kept on the farm.

58. Mr. Murray Stewart, of Cally, the proprietor of the whole of the extensive parish of Girthorn, has for some time acted on this rule, and makes such additions to the number of cottages from year to year as may be required. All his cottages are built with three bedrooms, a kitchen, and scullery; the roofs are thatched, and every care is taken to make the walls and foundations perfectly dry. The cost of a pair of cottages built on this plan is 120*l.* Care is also taken that the sleeping rooms shall be used as such. I found, however, the same propensity in other parts of this county, as in Dumfries-shire, to crowd as many beds as possible into the kitchen, four persons often sleeping together in the same bed. The Earl of Selkirk is also building cottages on an improved plan on his extensive estates.

Gradual improvement in cottages.

59. The answers to the circular of questions which I distributed throughout the county give the following replies on this subject:—1. Old cottages bad; new ones satisfactory. 2. Cottages good and sufficient. 3. Cottages fair; but insufficient sleeping accommodation. 4. New cottages good; but old ones bad. 5. Some cottages very good; some bad. 6. Cottages considerably improved of late years but still a deficiency. 7. Some of the cottages very good; but more capable of improvement. 8. New cottages are being built when required. 9. Some cottages very good; but many indifferent and over crowded. 10. Farms ill provided with cottages, and the population are driven too much into villages but there is some improvement. 11. Cottages tolerable; but not enough of them. 12. Cottages much improved of late. 13. Cottages comfortable; but want of proper sleeping accommodation.

T.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

Description of Wigtownshire.

). This county is of small extent compared with Kirkcudbrightshire or Dumfries-shire. It is nded on every side but the north by the sea, from which no part of it is distant more than 13 miles, is divided into three districts—Rhynns, a peninsula, which lies west of a line drawn between e Bay and Locheryan; the Machers, a flat country lying between Wigtown and Luce Bay, and the rs which constitute more than a third of the whole county. The soil of the two first districts is a loam, well adapted for turnip husbandry: but in the parish of Kirkinnear and along the course of the e for several miles between Newton Stewart and Wigtown there is a considerable extent of rich alluvial

Out of 288,960 English acres which the county contains, 101,136, or about 35 per cent. are under ivation, and 187,824 acres or about 65 per cent. are in pasture. A large portion of Wigtownshire nsuitable for agriculture, being far better adapted for the rearing of stock and for dairy purposes. land is generally let in farms of moderate size, and although the aggregation of small holdings large has made considerable progress in this, as in other counties, the number of tenant-farmers ccupiers of land in the county amounted in 1869 to 1,356, with an average holding of 96 acres each.

The farms chiefly dairy farms.

1. A large proportion of the farms are grazing farms, and the staple industry of the county, partirly in the Rhynns district, is the production of cheese, considered equal in quality to Cheddar.

Districts visited.

2. The districts I selected for my inquiries were Newton Stewart, the market town of the county, the east; and the parishes of Kirkcolm, Leswalt, Inch, Stoneykirk, and Stranraer, on the west.

Employment of women in agriculture.

3. The farms in the vicinity of Newton Stewart, an exclusively arable district, range from 150 to acres. Young women are much employed in field labour on these farms, but generally live with ir parents in comfortable cottages; while those who live in villages can always find employment if y desire it on farms close at hand.

Wages of women.

4. The ordinary wages of women employed in agriculture are rather lower in this county than in rkcudbrightshire, seldom on ordinary occasions exceeding 1*s.* a day. Dairymaids are paid high ges, the occupation requiring a peculiar skill in cheese-making. Their employment is purely nestic, and for an experienced dairymaid as much as from 18*l.* to 20*l.* with food is often given. The lkers on these farms are a distinct class and are often the wives of cottars, receiving for wages about a year. A woman thus hired is expected to milk 10 cows twice a day.

Employment of children in agriculture.

5. The employment of children in agriculture under 12 years of age is exceptional in this county; t after that age they are found useful in weeding growing crops, picking stones, shaving peat, and ving the harrow. Much of the work in which children are employed being done by the piece, no essure is put upon them, and they are allowed to take their own time. Boys of from 13 to 15 can rn from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and there is employment for them for several months.

Wages of agricultural labourers.

6. The wages of agricultural labourers are slightly lower than in Dumfries-shire and Kirkcudbrightire. This arises from the comparative density of the population and the effect of Irish immigration. somewhat lower standard of living and comfort prevails than I have met with elsewhere in Scotland, d the competition for employment has necessarily a tendency to depress wages.

Modes of paying wages.

7. The practice of paying labourers partly in produce generally prevails, and I did not find the tal wages of a cottar, everything included, put higher than 32*l.* a year. This amount is made up in fferent ways, according to the wishes or requirements of the labourers. On one farm the annual ages were thus stated—

	£
Wages in money	14
48 cwt. of potatoes 80 stones of oatmeal 2 stones of barley 2 pints of sweet milk daily 1 lb. of butter weekly Peat for firing, ad libitum	18
	£32

In another, the annual payment to a first-class ploughmen was thus made up:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	14	0	0
20 stones of meal Land for planting potatoes Cottage and garden rent free	16	0	0
	£30	0	0

The amount of wages paid in money is in some cases raised to 16*l.* with a proportionate reduction in he amount of provisions, &c., but I am inclined to think that the average wages of a Wigtownshire cottar, everything included, do not exceed 30*l.* a year. Day-labourers, if only occasionally employed, are paid 2*s.* 3*d.* a day; if regularly employed throughout the year, 2*s.*

No agricultural gangs.

8. Agricultural gangs are not employed in this county. The only gang of which I heard consisted of he boys belonging to the reformatory and industrial school of Stranraer, and as this utilization of the ndustry of the boys in question has produced the best effect upon themselves and is of the greatest utility o the farmers who are in a position to take advantage of it, I hope that it will not be considered out of place in this report if I enter into a few particulars relating to it.

T.

The Stranraer school gang.

69. The school consists of 75 boys of from 11 to 16 years of age,* and in addition to the trade usually taught in such establishments, agricultural labour forms an important part of the employment. For about two months in the year, but chiefly during the period of turnip thinning, the school is formed into three squads or gangs each under the direction of a boy chosen for his steadiness and good conduct, and the whole are under the supervision of an under-master. The squads are taken at the expense of the person requiring their services to the farm on which they are to work. The rate of payment for each boy is 1*s.* per day, which is added to the school fund. The boys take with them their blankets and pillows, and dormitories with fresh hay, are fitted up for them in barns or outhouses, and they have three substantial meals a day. They have acquired so good a character for expertness in work and steadiness of conduct, that the desire to obtain their services is general, and they are not unfrequently conveyed by rail at the farmer's expense a distance of 40 miles.

Effect upon the boys.

70. The effect of this variety of occupation upon the health of the boys is very marked. They are passed from farm to farm as their services are required and return to the establishment at Stranraer after an absence of two months equally benefited in body and in mind. The pay which the leaders of the squads receive, vary from ½*d.* to 1*d.* and 1½*d.* per day, is carried to their separate accounts and they receive the benefit of it in some form of amusement or indulgence, such as an occasional picnic or a trip to Glasgow by sea, and on being discharged from the school it has accumulated into a small sum to assist them in establishing themselves in life.

Cottages.

State of cottages in Wigtownshire.

71. A considerable improvement has been gradually taking place in the cottages of this county. The old one-roomed hovel is gradually disappearing and is being replaced by comfortable cottages containing two or three rooms.

Effect of a good cottage upon labourers.

72. An instance of the effect of a good cottage in improving the character of the lowest class of labourers was mentioned to me by Mr. Alexander Guthrie, factor to the Earl of Stair. An Irish drainer, who had long occupied a mere hovel which he kept in a filthy condition, was placed in a good two-roomed cottage. He no sooner became the occupant of a respectable dwelling than a marked change took place in his habits and appearance; not only was his new abode kept scrupulously clean, but the man himself was transformed from the lowest type of an Irish cottar into a decent and well-conducted agricultural labourer.

Cottage improvements.

73. The chief improvers of cottages in Wigtownshire are the Earl of Galloway, the Earl of Stair and Sir John Hay, Bart. The Earl of Galloway has for many years expended considerable sums in providing superior accommodation for his tenants and their labourers, and the cottages on his estates are models of comfort and convenience. This is especially noticeable on the extensive estates between Newton Stewart and Garlieston, where there is a number of excellent ploughmen's cottages containing three or four apartments with pantries, scullery, &c. Lady Galloway takes a lively personal interest in the condition of these cottages, the gardens attached to which are cultivated with taste and intelligence under her occasional superintendence. The Earl of Stair has also built some very good cottages, several of which I inspected with pleasure in the neighbourhood of Inch Castle; but other portions of his Lordship's property, I was given to understand, are not yet so well cared for in this respect. The cottages on Sir John Hay's property leave little to be desired.

AYRSHIRE.

Description of Ayrshire.

74. Ayrshire is divided into three districts,—Carrick, Kyle, and Cunningham. The county embraces 735,262 imperial acres, of which the permanent pastures amount to 140,534 acres, and land appropriated to clover and grasses under rotation 67,091 acres, leaving 293,859 acres under different kinds of crops, and 441,403 acres for moors, mountains, and plantations. The grass-producing lands of Ayrshire, it will be seen, are nearly four times the extent of soil under grain crops; the county, therefore, is rather pastoral than agricultural in its character, and the production of butter and cheese forms its principal source of wealth. The agricultural capabilities of the county, however, are also considerable. Along the coast, and extending inwards for several miles, is a belt of light and very productive soil peculiarly adapted for the growth of potatoes. Cereals and turnips are raised in the interior, while on the hills and uplands, which characterise the eastern portion of the county, large numbers of sheep are reared,† and the whole county presents a pleasing picture of fertility and cultivation. Proofs of superior farming meet the eye in every direction; agricultural societies or farmers' clubs are established in almost every town; the rate of wages is higher than in most Scotch counties, and iron mines, collieries, and smelting works, the greater number of which have been brought into existence within the last 25 years add materially to the importance and prosperity of the county.

Influence of mines and iron works.

75. These great industrial undertakings, combined with the high rate of agricultural wages, have attracted a large Irish immigration, the influence of which it was impossible to overlook in this inquiry, and the effect of which upon the native Scotch population I shall have occasion to comment upon in the course of this Report.

Extent of inquiry.

76. I deemed it desirable not to confine my visit to any single district which might be regarded as typical of the whole county, but to extend my inquiries into the purely agricultural, the purely pastoral, the mixed pastoral and agricultural, and the mining portions of the county; and the evidence which I have to submit for your consideration will, I think, be found to represent faithfully the social condition of an interesting and important part of Scotland.

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* There are also a few girls, but this part of the establishment is to be discontinued.

† Ayrshire ranks eighth in importance as a sheep county in Scotland.

. The arable farms in Ayrshire are not large, neither can the county be said to be a district of farms; the average size of the holdings is about 87 acres, few exceed 400 acres, and the desirable um appeared to be attained of farms sufficiently large to require some capital for their cultivation, not small enough to attract a poor class of tenants who can with difficulty manage just to live and heir rent. There is a strong tendency to the aggregation of farms in Ayrshire, as in other parts e kingdom, and this disposition to convert a number of small farms into one is only checked by ical considerations, landlords not wishing to lose the influence which the existence of a numerous ntry implies. It is one of the most satisfactory results of this state of things in Ayrshire that are few instances in which a farmer is exclusively dependent upon the labour of his family for ultivation of his farm, and consequently he is not under the necessity of keeping his children from ol. The attendance of the children of even the smallest class of farmers at the parochial schools nd to be invariably good, and much more regular than that of mechanics and artizans residing illages. There are a few arable farms of from 40 to 50 acres of which the whole work is by the tenants and their families, but by taking advantage of the winter season and of other s when work is slack, even these contrive to give their children a fair amount of education.

T. Size of farms, not too small to be prejudicial to the education of the occupiers' children.

. The employment of women in agriculture is general in Ayrshire, and the cultivation of the potato icularly in the coast district, extending from north to south for nearly 80 miles, has given rise to extensive employment in gangs. The women thus employed are chiefly the wives and daughters of men who have settled in Ayrshire. The gangs, provincially called "squads," are composed of about omen and young persons of various ages, but few under 13, and three of these gangs or squads may be seen working in one field. They are generally got together by some superannuated labourer, has passed the age of regular work. These men are the gang-masters, and their business is to hire organise the "squads," which are composed of diggers and gatherers, each digger being required ring a boy or a girl as a gatherer, who is generally paid 1*s.* a day by the digger, the digger re- ng 3*s.* 6*d.* Gang-masters are paid from 18*s.* to 1*l.* a week for their trouble in hiring and superinten- e. The potato crops are in most cases sold in the field to dealers, the farmer being at no further ble than carting the produce to the nearest railway station, and the dealers not unfrequently bring own gangs with them from Glasgow, and they are lodged during their period of employment in the bouring villages. This occupation for large numbers of women and young persons extends from time when the early potatoes are ready for the market until the end of October or November, when latest crops are taken out of the ground.

The employment of women in agricultural gangs.

. There can be no doubt that these gangs have a very demoralizing tendency, and their character, lieve, does not differ materially from those which have been the subject of recent legislation in gland. All with whom I conferred on the subject agreed that the language and conduct of the r women thus employed is most revolting, and in the highest degree injurious to the young persons whom they are associated.

Their demoralizing character.

. It was suggested that if any action should be taken on the subject it would be desirable to compel ales to work together and the men and boys in separate squads, and that no young person should employed under 13 years of age.

Suggestion.

. Women, paid by the day, are also extensively employed in ordinary farm work, and female farm- ants are expected to work out whenever their services are required. Many of the day workers the wives of miners who, although in the receipt of high wages, find it necessary in order to ble them to meet the cost of their extravagant mode of living to supplement their own earnings by e of their wives.

Female farm servants work out.

he hardest work required of female farm servants is cleaning out byres, but they have never n known to object to it, and that class of females are said to prefer such employment, or any other nected with the care of animals, to domestic occupations.

he supply of female day labourers varies in different parts of the county; in districts where the h population predominates it is abundant; but in those chiefly inhabited by natives it is not so lily obtained, and the disinclination to work out, excepting in hay time and harvest, is yearly oming stronger, and on some farms the want of such labour is felt as a serious inconvenience.

Supply of female labour diminishing.

. One of the subjects suggested by you for inquiry is the mode of hiring farm servants.

Hiring fairs; their abuses.

iring or "feeing" fairs are still general in Ayrshire, and are held in most of the principal towns, they are gradually falling into disuse, and the best ploughman are not in the habit of frequenting m. Farmers generally dislike the system, and have for some time been endeavouring to organize lan of registration which they hope will eventually put an end to it. These fairs have, moreover, en rise to frauds of which farmers have been more or less the occasional victims. It is the tom when a hiring has been effected in the open market, for the employer to give to the person d a small gratuity, generally half-a-crown, which is called "arles," and by which the bargain is posed to be completed, but cases occasionally occur in which the supposed servant pockets the rles," and the farmer never sees or hears anything more of him, and he may possibly practise the ne imposition at every fair which he attends, and several times at the same fair.

. The disadvantages of hiring fairs are well exposed in a paper recently read before the Ayr- re Farmers' Club, and from which I quote the following paragraph:—

Disliked by farmers.

"The system of hiring fairs has nothing to recommend, it and there is much in it to condemn. In its social ects, what are its effects? I think I may safely say that on no occasion will you see a greater display of effects of intoxicating drink than at our country hiring fairs. Is this because those attending fairs are ticularly addicted to the use of strong drink? I say No. It is because of the peculiar temptations they exposed to at those fairs. You have a large concourse of people assembled, who are seldom in public; l when congregated in the streets on fair days, they have little to engage their attention, nothing to entertain

T. them, and no place open to them but the public house. Consequently, at the end of a fair you generally see a striking demonstration of the effects of the public house. Another serious matter with regard to servants is the injustice that this exhibition does to their character. A fair is perhaps the only occasion in the year on which servants as a class are congregated in town, and many people take their appearance on that occasion as indicative of their general character. I believe there is no class in the community that consumes less spirits than our domestic and rural servants; and yet many, judging from our fairs, believe them to be the most intemperate. Some urge that if you abolish fairs you deprive servants of a holiday; but better far, for the interest of all concerned, that servants should have holidays with some rational entertainment than that they should be exposed to the demoralizing influences of a hiring fair. Then look at hiring fairs in a business point of view, and it will be seen that they have nothing to recommend them. Servants seldom carry a written character with them, and it is rarely in engaging them that there is any time in a fair to search out and make inquiry at any of their previous employers; so that in practice, servants at a fair are not expected to impart any knowledge of their character. The good and the bad, the moral and the immoral, stand in the same position, and also stand an equal chance of gaining a high wage. Such a system is an encouragement to the bad and a discouragement to the good servant. What is wanted, is more discrimination on the part of employers, and appreciation and paying servants according to their merit; and teaching them to realise that it is upon their character they have to depend for finding respectable and profitable employment. Hiring fairs do not tend to this; and whether judged of from their social effects, or looked at from the utility point of view, I have no hesitation in saying it would be well for the country that they were numbered among the things that were."—Ayrshire Herald, 14 July 1869.

Register offices, with paid registrars, where servants may enter their names without paying a fee and give references as to character, seem to be the most generally approved substitution for hiring fairs.

Children not generally employed under 12 years of age.

84. It is not the practice in Ayrshire to employ children under 12 years of age in field labour unless the supply of other labour at particularly busy seasons of the year, such as turnip thinning, should be very short. In such cases children are occasionally employed at 10 years of age or younger, but the period during which their services are wanted does not exceed six weeks or two months, and two children of 9 or 10 years of age are put to do the work of an older boy or girl, and are paid 6*d.* a day each. Speaking generally, farmers are averse, except in cases of absolute necessity, to employing very young children, and they consider that their labour is the most expensive of the farm, as they require constant watching and are apt to interrupt the other workers.

Herding or bird-tenting.

85. The practice of herding and bird tenting affords occasional employment to young children of from 8 to 2 years of age, and it is an occupation which is thought to have a very bad effect, as it encourages habits of laziness and listlessness and fosters a disposition to idleness. One young boy is considered sufficient for a moderate sized farm, therefore the number thus employed cannot be large; but it is to be wished that farmers would choose some old worn-out labourer, who could perform the office more effectually than a child of tender years, and who would require only a slightly higher payment for his pains.

Boys and girls employed on farms from 12 to 15.

Boys and girls are employed on most of the arable farms, from 11 or 12 to 15 years of age, in weeding potatoes and in singling and cleaning turnips, the strongest boys are also employed in hay-making and in harvest they lift grain after the machine and put it into sheaf, and at the season for taking up potatoes they are also extensively employed.

Insufficient supply of juvenile labour.

86. The supply of children and young persons for the light work of farms in Ayrshire is, however, not equal to the demand, and farmers complain that they are obliged to employ men to do work that could be as well, if not better done, by boys. This is doubtless felt as an inconvenience; but it is creditable to the native cottars of Ayrshire, many of whom readily forego the earnings which might be obtained from their children's labour for the sake of giving them a good education.

Rate of wages.

87. The wages of ordinary able-bodied day labourers vary from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week; but the work on farms is chiefly done either by unmarried farm servants lodged and boarded in the houses, or by married labourers living in cottages on the farms.

Wages of farm servants.

88. The wages of farm servants living in the house vary from 18*l.* to 24*l.* a year, according to age and capability. Boys taken into farm service at 13 or 14 are paid at first about 4*l.* a year, but their wages advance regularly until they become adults. Girls receive about the same wages as boys for the first year or two of their service, but their wages seldom rise beyond 12*l.*, unless they become dairy maids, when they are paid from 15*l.* to 18*l.* or 20*l.* a year.

Wages of married ploughmen.

89. The wages of married ploughmen are paid partly in money and partly in provisions, in the proportion of about one third. This practice is in favour both with employers and employed. It originated doubtless at a period when there were few towns and villages, and those very remote to which a cottar could resort for the purchase of his necessary supplies, and it has been continued to the mutual advantage of master and servant. It economises the time of the servant by rendering unnecessary long journeys even to the market, and insures to the master the full benefit of the unexhausted strength of his labourers; having less money at his command, the labourer is under less temptation to squander it, and it also acts as a wholesome check upon the extravagant propensities of wives, to whom the possession of money too often signifies only the power of self-indulgence.

Their often improvident wives.

90. Married cottars are generally unfortunate in their wives who are not generally economical, and do not make the most of their husbands' means. An ignorant or a thoughtless wife makes all the difference possible to a labouring man, and he too often selects for a wife a girl who proves anything but a helpmate; taken perhaps from the field, she thinks when married she has done with work, and has only to enjoy herself for the rest of her life; she has no idea of making money go as far as it might, is unable often even to sew a button on a shirt, and is ignorant of the simplest matters of housekeeping. Several farmers told me that they had been obliged to part with excellent workmen owing to their wives getting them into difficulties. Nothing would eventually conduce more to the comfort and respectability of a labouring man and to the welfare of his children, than a systematic industrial training

irls in the elementary schools, a part of education which has not hitherto received that attention T.
:h it deserves.*

.. Nor, I regret to state, is the moral condition of the Ayrshire farm servants and cottars what Deterioration of the character in the Ayrshire peasantry.
nce was. It was impressed upon me, not only by farmers, but by persons who could not be
:ected of having any interests opposed to those of the labouring classes, that a sensible deterioration
taken place within the last 50 years in the character of the peasantry. James Hogg, the "Ettrick
pherd," made it the subject of an article in the Scotch Journal of Agriculture, from which an
act is given below.†

. The influence which the large number of Irish immigrants who have settled in Ayrshire, Influence of the Irish on the Scotch population.
townshire, and Kirkcudbrightshire has had upon the native Scotch population is not favourable.
ead of the Irish having been elevated in the social scale by communication with the Scotch, the
ch have lost something of their moral and intellectual characteristics by intermixture with the
. This is especially observable in the matter of education, for wherever a large Irish population
settled that indifference to the education of their children for which the Irish are everywhere
ceable has in too many instances extended to the Scotch.

. The mode of living, too, has changed even within the last 20 years. Formerly the cottar was Change in the manner of living.
ent with oatmeal porridge and potatoes and milk as his daily food. Now tea and wheaten
d form the principal part of his diet, and add considerably to his annual expenditure; and
ough wages have risen within the last 30 years 100 per cent., it may be doubted whether the
urer is practically in a better position than he was when wages were low. I have the authority
many trustworthy farmers for stating that half the money wages of cottars is now spent in super-
ies, and that if they could be content with the simple and nutritious diet of former days, they
it educate their children with ease, save a considerable part of their wages, and would be stronger
more vigorous men. Tea, tobacco, and whisky run away with a great deal of a labourer's money,
as a rule it must be said that the cottar now generally lives fully up to his wages, and looks to the
rate as a final resource.

. Servants residing in the farm-houses are well fed. Fresh meat or broth with potatoes is Farm servants well fed.
n every day for dinner, milk porridge and tea for breakfast, and bread and cheese and milk
supper. The use of butchers' meat in the farm-houses is an innovation on primitive Scotch
ts, and the general mode of living has become assimilated to that of the northern counties of
land.

I beg to quote on this subject from the pamphlet before referred to by the Rev. Harry Stuart :—"There is, indeed, no lack of
s for labourers; but then of what kind in general are they? I know that there are very many of them nice, clean, sensible,
trained, active women: but this is not the rule, now that they are so much employed either in field labour or on the loom,
his too from their very childhood. I am not blaming these poor women for their 'shiftless' managing; I say it is not
fault that they are so. The time allowed for the schooling of even a labourer's boys, is very short, and very broken;
m more, at an average, than three months a year in winter, and this but for a very few years only (it was different last
ıry, when they lived on with their fathers till they were grown-up lads); but the time allowed for the schooling of a labourer's
is still more shortened and broken in upon by a thousand house 'jottings' that cast up every other day to keep them from
ol. I need not particularise to you the many chances that the daughters of a labourer run, of just getting no education at
nless their mother be a superior minded or educated woman herself, and can teach and train her daughters herself. But
robable and melancholy fate of girls of this station, has been so often commented on, and to such good purpose, by so many
nd practical writers, that I need not now say more to attract attention to it. There is a first-rate little work on this very
et, by a very distinguished labourer's daughter, and who is indeed an honour to this, I believe, her native country; I mean
uthoress of the 'Pearl of Days,' and which cannot be too widely circulated and studied by all classes. 'The health and
ity of the social system are placed under the immediate guardianship of women,' says this practical and pious writer; and
reat Fénélon supports this proposition well, when he says :—'The education of women is more important than that of men,
e the improvement of men is always their work.' Now, has it been ever made important with us, the schooling and
ng of our working females for social duties; has this ever been made important in our land? Let the miserably small
er of female schools, and the miserable provision that these few generally have to maintain them, answer this most impor-
question. I have been for many years deeply impressed with the great loss that arises to the social condition of people in
le life, for want of female training schools—liberally and plentifully established, in every parish and in every district—
f the great moral power of well trained females on the conduct of men; so I take leave to maintain, that until properly
ped girls' schools are established in every district, so as to be convenient to the daughters of your labourers and ordinary
ers,—all schemes for raising your labourers to the social condition they *should be in*, will be in a great measure defeated.
have, it is true, a set of as able and useful male teachers, both parochial and non-parochial, as I could well wish to see for
nd of work they have to do in the country; still there is a schooling and a training needful for girls in their peculiar
l condition, which no male teacher, however excellent, can impart. In visiting the labourers' houses over the country, of
and inquiring at the labourers' wives about their early training, when I would ask them how they would have got on had
not been at a sewing school, or how they would have got on if they had, those who had been at one uniformly said, they
could not have got on at all with so many 'bairns' to clothe; and those who had not been, as uniformly expressed their
regret that they never had enjoyed such an early privilege."

"The diet of the menials and workmen is uniformly much better than it was when I first went to service, half a century ago.
tasks for labour are not more severe, but better proportioned, and more regular, and in general less oppressive. But with
rd to the intercourse between master and servant, there is a mighty change indeed, and to this I am disposed principally to
ute the manifest change in the buoyant spirit and gaiety of our peasantry. Formerly every master sat at the head of his
en table, and shared the meal with his servants. The mistress, if there was one, did not sit down at all, but stood at the
er behind, and assisted each his portion, or otherwise overlooked the board, and saw that every one got justice. The master
a blessing, and returned thanks. There was no badinage or idle language in the farmer's hall in those days, but all was
y and order. Every night the master performed family worship, at which every member of the family was bound to be
nt, and the oldest male servant, in his absence took that duty upon him, and every individual family formed a little community
own, of which each member was anxious of bearing an important part."

"At meal times, and within hours of relaxation, there are now no restraints on servants as formerly, consequently their jokes
coarser, and one profligate servant may sometimes affect the probity and virtuous feelings not of one family of servants, but of
y. Formerly a master and his servants rarely parted, now there is a constant circulation from one family to another throughout
whole country. At one period every farmer held only one farm, and his family were his principal servants; now for the most
every farmer has three, four, or ten of these farms, which make the distance between master and servant wider and wider.
mmmal advancement of the aristocracy of farming, if I may be allowed the expression, district after district being thrown
large farms, has placed such a distance between servants and masters, that in fact they have no communication what-
and very little interest in common. The master's eye is never upon them, and of course they have no opportunities of
ating themselves with him or with his family, but are subjected to all the caprices of a menial like themselves. The ancient
of vassalage was a delightful bond compared with this. It is a state of absolute slavery, with only one amelioration, namely, the
y at each term of selling themselves to the highest bidder. This last, with its concomitant evils already stated, I consider the
pal cause of the radical change which has taken place in the character of our peasantry."—*Scotch Quarterly Journal of
ulture*, 1832, vol. iii., p. 257.

T.

Wages of ploughmen.

95. The wages of an efficient ploughman in Ayrshire amount to about 38*l.* a year, everything included, and are thus generally made up:—

	£
Money - - - -	24
10 bolls of meal - - -	10
Potatoes planted - - -	2
Cottage and garden - - -	2
	£38

To this may be added the profit of a pig, if one is allowed to be kept. Some farmers object to the labourers keeping pigs, under the impression that a pig cannot be made a source of profit to a cott unless he pilfers food for it, and many labourers have given up the practice rather than subject themselves to the suspicion of dishonesty.

Ayrshire shepherds, and mode of paying them.

96. Ayrshire does not possess such extensive sheep pastures as Dumfries-shire and Kirkcudbrightshire, but the hills of the southern and eastern parts of the county support considerable flocks. Shepherds are not paid as in Dumfries-shire by "packs," but receive generally from 16*l.* to 18*l.* a year, and in addition they have pasture and hay for two cows, 10 bolls of meal, a cartload of potatoes, fuel carted, and a cottage and garden rent free. These payments and privileges make a shepherd's wages considerably higher than those of a married ploughman. The profit from two cows cannot be estimated as less than from 16*l.* to 18*l.* a year. This class of men maintain the same high character in Ayrshire as in other parts of Scotland, being noted for their intelligence, honesty, and frugality, and for the sacrifices which they make for the education of their children.

Education of cottars and farm servants.

97. The cottars and farm servants of Ayrshire have generally received a fair amount of education. I did not meet with any instances either of farm servants or married labourers being unable to read and write, some perhaps imperfectly and awkwardly, but sufficiently well to read a newspaper without difficulty and to pen an intelligible letter to their friends. The Irish population are generally speaking both ignorant and demoralized, and utterly indifferent to the education of their children.

Cottages.

Condition of cottages.

98. The inadequate supply of cottages for the agricultural labouring class and their deplorable condition present a marked contrast to the high cultivation and general prosperity which are everywhere conspicuous in Ayrshire; and in no county in Scotland can the wants and comfort of the rural population in that respect be more disregarded. Not only are cottages not built, but the old ones are permitted to fall into decay and ruin, and no disposition is shown to replace them. In some extensive parishes the cottages are not sufficient for a tenth of the labouring population, and many there are no cottages at all.

Inconvenience to the farmers of a deficiency of cottages.

99. This great deficiency in one of the first requisites for the comfort and respectability of the labouring classes, is a subject of just and frequent complaint by tenant farmers, who are under the necessity in consequence of employing unmarried men and of lodging and boarding them in their house. So strongly are the inconveniences of this deficiency felt by the farming community in Ayrshire that it was suggested by more than one large occupier, that every landed proprietor should be compelled to build and keep in repair a number of cottages on every arable farm proportioned to its acreage rent.

Its effect upon morals.

100. Nor does this want of sufficient cottage accommodation affect only the interest of farmers. It has a most injurious influence upon the morals of the young adult population of a district thus circumstanced. They cannot marry unless they settle in some village or town, perhaps miles distant from their employer's farm, and so extensive are many of the parishes that even that resource would seldom be available. The natural result is an amount of immorality and illegitimacy, which, under different economic arrangements, might probably be altogether avoided.

Description of the cottages in Ayrshire.

101. I proceed to describe the character of the cottage accommodation in those parts of Ayrshire which I visited, and which, I believe, may be considered, with few and unimportant exceptions, as typical of the whole county.

The cottages have seldom more than one room, in which a man, his wife, and seven or eight children are often herded together, the younger children with the father and mother occupying one bed and the elder children sleeping promiscuously in the other.

Some of the smaller farmhouses, where several farms have been thrown into one, have been converted into labourers' cottages, but instead of being arranged for the comfortable accommodation of a married man and his family, they have generally been divided into two miserable dwellings with only one room in each.

Improvements in cottages on the Duke of Portland's estates.

102. Very little has been done in Ayrshire by the landed proprietors, to supply the great want of proper accommodation for married labourers; but on some of the farms of the Duke of Portland good cottages, consisting of two rooms and a kitchen, have recently been built, and each dwelling is provided with a scullery, pighouse, and dry soil closet; others have one room and a kitchen, but it is made a condition where the cottage contains two rooms that only one bed shall be placed in the kitchen, and if the cottage contains three apartments that no bed shall be placed in the one where food is cooked and eaten. The late Earl of Eglinton also erected a few good cottages on his estates in the Cunningham division of Ayrshire, but as the farms are generally small in that district, cottages are not so much needed as where the holdings are more extensive.

Cottages on the Marquis of Ailsa's property.

103. Between Ayr and Girvan is the extensive property of the Marquis of Ailsa, which is laid out in large farms generally within a short distance of or contiguous to, the sea. The ploughmen's cottages on this noble domain are lamentably defective. Stables, byres, cart-sheds, dilapidated farmhouses,

sed dog kennels have been converted into abodes for the people who live on the estates. In some T.
ese wretched places, consisting only of one room, as many as 10 or 11 persons are living. The
p broken clay floors are covered with beds, the decaying thatch roof is pervious to rain, which
me cottages is kept out by guano bags stretched across the rafters. A considerable farmer, who
s one of the largest estates on this property, assured me that it was always with a feeling of
e and humiliation that he introduced a newly hired ploughman to one of these hovels as his future
e.

General insensibility to the wants of the population in respect of cottages.

04. The characteristics of this rich district are fine farms, commodious farm-houses, and hovels such bove described. The late Marquis of Ailsa erected a few good cottages near his castle, Culzean, the great body of landed proprietors in this county have not yet realised the importance to their interests of providing suitable residences for the people by whom they are surrounded.

Ayrshire farm-houses.

05. The Ayrshire farm-houses vary very much in the character and amount of their accommodation. y even of the smaller farms are provided with good houses, while tenants of double the number of s are obliged to put up with very indifferent ones. Single ploughmen are generally lodged in cs which are often badly lighted and deficient in ventilation. In some steadings the ploughmen in harness or store rooms, or in lofts above the milk houses. In others the stable loft is the only ping apartment for the men. In general a desire is shown to effect as much as possible a separa- of the sexes; there is, nevertheless, great room for improvement in that respect in the arrange- ts of many of the small farm-houses. It is not uncommon for the kitchen to open direct into byre, an arrangement which, however convenient, cannot be compatible either with comfort or lth.

No taste for cottage gardening.

06. Very little attention is bestowed on cottage gardening in any of the counties which I visited: atoes and a few cabbages being the only vegetable cultivated: a taste for flowers seems to be ost unknown, and the few societies which have been formed for its cultivation have met with le success. The miserable character of the cottages generally, more especially in Ayrshire, is icient to account for this indifference, and the habit of frequently changing places would alone vent any interest being taken in a plot of ground of which the occupation rarely extends beyond a ar.

The bothy system unknown.

07. The bothy system does not exist in any of the counties which I visited, I have therefore no arks to make on that mode of lodging agricultural labourers. The nearest resemblance to it of ich I heard is the practice of lodging gardeners, where many are employed, in a cottage appropriated the purpose. The evils inseparable from the bothy system are, however, obviated by an arrange- nt which provides for the comfort of the men being carefully attended to by a respectable female perintendent.

Education.

108. The Report of the Commissioners who were appointed to inquire into the state of educa- n in the country districts of Scotland, which was presented to Parliament in 1866, rendered unnecessary to enter upon a minute investigation of the deficiencies in Scotch elementary education, ich are foreign to the objects of this Commission: but conformably to your instructions, and as in ne measure inseparable from the objects sought to be attained by this inquiry, I devoted some ention to the effect which the system of parochial schools has had upon the education of the agri- ltural labouring class in the district which was assigned to me. The opinion of farmers was invited to the probable effect upon their interests of a compulsory system of education, or of the appli- ion of some educational test before children should be permitted to work, or fixing an age before the tainment of which any such employment should be declared illegal. I proceed therefore to state e results of my inquiries on these points in the counties on which I have the honour to report.

General education of the native Scotch rural population.

109. It is stated in the Report of the Scotch Schools Commissioners, to which I have referred, at in the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigtown, and Ayr, the native population can read th ease, and the majority can write, but that the Irish settlers and their descendants can, generally eaking, neither read nor write.* The general diffusion of education among the adult native popula- n of these counties is manifested in an intelligence much above the average of agricultural labourers England, with the exception perhaps of some of the northern counties, where education has received much attention and produced much the same result as in Scotland.

Parochial school system.

110. The Scotch parochial school system, which has been in existence for many generations, was sed upon the principle of providing for the children of the labouring classes an education far more mplete and comprehensive than has ever been contemplated for the same class in England. The ek and Latin languages, and more recently French, German, and Italian, form portions of the rriculum of almost every parochial school in Scotland. Arithmetic, geometry, and algebra, form equally portant branches of tuition, and although the simplest elements of education receive their full share attention, and the greater number of pupils do not advance beyond them, the means exist, under mpetent masters, for giving such an amount of instruction as may enable any boy willing to take vantage of it to pass at once from the parochial school to one of the universities, or to commence his ecial education for one of the liberal professions.

Demand for the higher branches of instruction fallen off.

111. The demand for the higher education provided by the parochial and endowed schools of otland has, however, been gradually on the decline. The master of the endowed parochial school of astle Douglas for example stated to me, that a few years ago he had from 40 to 50 classical scholars n his register, but that at the present time he had not one.

Preference given to modern over ancient languages.

112. Whenever a desire exists for an education above the average of that now given in the arochial schools it is shown in the preference of some modern foreign language to Latin or Greek. Thus in the parochial school of Dalbeattie in Kirkcudbrightshire, only one boy was learning Latin hile ten were acquiring French. In the parochial school of Dalry, Ayrshire, 37 boys were learning

* Report, p. 5.

T. Latin, and 59 French. At Kilwinning parochial school, in Ayrshire, 11 boys were learning Frenc but not one Latin. The proportion which the higher now bears to the lower branches of tuit in the elementary schools of Scotland is, I think, fairly indicated in the following return, by t master of the large parochial school of Dryfesdale, Dumfries-shire:

Number of scholars attending the Parochial School of Dryfesdale - 316	
English reading - - - - - -	316
Do. do. and writing - - - - -	56
Do. do. do. and arithmetic - - -	199
English grammar - - - - - -	140
Geography - - - - - -	85
Latin - - - - - - -	17
French - - - - - - -	21
Mathematics - - - - - -	2
Practical mathematics - - - - -	8

Effect of the parochial schools in stimulating enterprise.

113. The parochial schools have always possessed the advantage of affording to clever boys an educ tion which serves as an admirable vantage-ground for their advancement in life, and many enterprisi Scotchmen have laid the foundation of their success in these schools. Some have begun their pro perous career by carrying a pack, and thus acquired a knowledge of business and of the world, whi speedily led to more important occupations. Many instances are recorded of boys who left their villag without a shilling in their pockets returning to their native county as capitalists and becoming lar landed proprietors.

Boys seldom remain at school after 13 or 14.

114. In every part of my district I found that the superior education which the parochial scho still offer are rarely taken advantage of. It is unusual for boys to remain at school after 13, a the standard of education has therefore generally fallen. In the parochial school of Newton Stewa Wigtownshire, the master informed me that the great majority of the children leave school having on passed the 3rd Standard. In the large school at Maxwelltown, Dumfries-shire, out of 200 schola only 15 were classed, preparatory to the approaching inspection, for examination in the 6th Standar and at the parochial school of Holywood, Dumfries-shire few boys of 14 get beyond the 3rd Standard.

Night schools rare.

115. Night schools are rare, and in places where they have been established they have general fallen into disuse; this is easily accounted for by the fact that the average size of Scotch parish is 24,191 acres, whereas that of English parishes is only 2,310 acres. The distance which you labourers would have to walk to a night school after their day's work must prove an insuperab obstacle to the success of such schools unless under exceptionally favourable circumstances. T remedy as much as possible the consequences of so many boys leaving the parochial schools at a early age without having mastered even the rudiments of education, inducements have in son places been held out to them to return for the winter months, but it has generally been found th they had lost so much of what they had previously acquired that the work of teaching them furth was hopeless. It is found very difficult to manage boys who have once been emancipated from th restraints of school; they are impatient of discipline, and feel humiliated if they are placed, as generally necessary, in a class lower than the one they had previously occupied, they become sull and intractable, and leave the school.

Irregularity in attendance the great evil.

116. The desire to give to their children the advantages of a fair education is a marked characteris of the Scotch peasantry, but there are several causes which prevent the parochial schools from bearin the fruits which might be expected from them. The chief of these is the extreme irregularity the attendance, of which schoolmasters uniformly complain. A certain amount of absence during th busy seasons of the year is perhaps inevitable, but for six months there ought to be no absentees under except from illness or some other unavoidable cause; but after 10 years of age the attendance of mo children becomes very uncertain even in the winter months, and the imperfect education of many w have quitted the parochial schools arises not so much from their leaving them too young, as from the long breaks in school attendance which are so injurious to progress, and as a necessary consequen of this irregularity large numbers of children annually leave without being able to read intelligently to write correctly.

Unfavourable influence of the Irish settlers on education.

117. I found the education of the children of the agricultural labouring population most neglect in those portions of my district which are chiefly peopled by the descendants of Irish settlers, or l more recent immigrants, who have within the last 30 years been attracted to the south-western counti of Scotland by the high wages of the coal and iron mines. These people, wholly uneducated the selves, care nothing for the education of their children. I was assured by the minister of one the parishes that although abundant means of education and of excellent quality exist in th parish, and although the fees are trifling, and the children whose parents are too poor to pay the would be gratuitously taught, very few take advantage of them, and I invariably found that regularity attendance is in an inverse ratio to the assistance afforded; thus in the parochial school of Cast Douglas, forty children who were receiving their education gratuitously, I was assured by the mast were of all his scholars the most irregular.

General feeling in favour of compulsion.

118. I found a general wish expressed not only by schoolmasters but by ministers of all denom nations, and even by farmers, that compulsion in some form should be applied to bring neglect children into the schools which have been so liberally provided for them. There, however, appea to be a general desire that the attendance of children at the parochial schools should be enforc only for a portion of the year, as from November till the beginning of May. There would probably no practical difficulty in enforcing this attendance as there are no Christmas holidays in Scotland, a it would include the period during which children are but little employed, but the great cause absenteeism and of that total neglect of education which prevails in some places is not so much t need of the children's earnings as the absolute insensibility of parents to its value.

Effect of requiring a certificate of education.

119. The plan which has been suggested of requiring a certificate of a certain amount of educati before a child can be permanently employed in agriculture appeared, with a few exceptions, to me with concurrence. In many of the schools which I visited, the 3rd Standard was the highe

oficiency attained by the majority of the children. Apprehensions have been expressed that by T.
ing Standard IV. as an educational test previous to employment the general standard of education
ght be lowered, but the adoption of that standard as a test would be in many schools to raise it.*
120. The opinions which I heard expressed by all classes in favour of compulsion either direct
indirect, in the matter of elementary education, was remarkable, and certainly public opinion is ripe
a change in this direction in all the counties which I visited. Among farmers generally, I found the
st enlightened sentiments on this subject. Compulsion would not, they thought, materially
ect their interests, children seldom being employed, except for short periods, earlier than 12 years
age, and many have given substantial proofs of their interest in education by not only insisting upon
eir labourers sending their children regularly to school, but by paying the school fees. "Let the
children," said one of the most practical and intelligent of farmers, "be sent to school early,
and kept in constant attendance until they can read, write, and work accounts well, and then send
them forth to labour. Let there be periodical tests of their progress, and by the time their bodies
are strong enough their minds will be sufficiently developed for their station in life." Mr. George
wen, of Glenluce, one of the most extensive farmers in Wigtownshire, was in favour of enforcing
gular attendance at school for eight months, from the age of 6 until 12 or 13, the remaining portion
the year being, in his opinion, quite sufficient for the work which can rightly be expected from them,
d this compulsory attendance would, he was convinced, not only better their condition in life, but
ake them more valuable servants to their employers.

Any opposition on the part, even of the most indifferent parents, would, I am persuaded, be only
ort-lived, for I heard of several cases in which a mere intimation of the probability of compulsion
ing resorted to had produced the requisite effect.

In a paper which was recently read at a meeting of the Ayrshire Farmers' Club by Mr. Lindsay of
e firm of Gordon & Co., agricultural engineers, the following passage occurs which I believe correctly
presents the prevailing feeling on the subject of education in Ayrshire:—

"We think that compulsion is necessary, but we can recognise great difficulties in the operation of such a
easure. Let it become the interest of the parent to educate the child, and it will be done. If a degree of
ucation were to precede the possibility of employment, the parents who at present manifest a proper regard
r their child's education would not be affected, while the careless and selfish would be most powerfully
erated on to advance the child's progress."

The chairman on this remarked, that—

"He did not know what was the cause, or what the causes, but they must all have found in their com-
unications with farm servants, labourers, and others employed by farmers, that their education was very
uch neglected. He was rather of opinion that for the last 15 or 20 years education had been retrogressive
ong that class. Perhaps that might be owing to the influx of Irish amongst them, whose influence had
id against the education of the working-classes in the agricultural profession. He knew for himself that
herever any of these parties of Irish mingled with the Scotch peasantry they had rather tended as it were
influence them against education. He had a family in his mind's eye at that moment; the father was an
le-bodied active man, a man who could do any kind of farm work; he had brought up a large family, but
had not educated one of them. In fact, the whole family had grown up in ignorance, excepting those
mbers of it who had been so fortunate as to have been engaged by persons who took an interest in them in the
y of learning them to read and write. He knew some of his neighbours who had done that. It was certainly
ry improper that any man should have the liberty of being allowed to bring up a family of heathen in the
dst of a Christian people, because such a proceeding if tolerated was calculated to drag down others, and keep
wn others who were anxious to rise. It was calculated indeed to keep down the community, because it in-
eased pauperism, vice, intemperance, and many other evils. The only cure he could discover for that would be
mpulsory education. He for one went in for that. He saw no reason why any one should be allowed to
ing up children to be pests to society; to be in fact a dead weight on society. As had been well remarked
other speakers, now when farmers were under the necessity of using complicated machinery and implements
n their farms, they must have a class of servants who could learn and manage these implements in the best
anner possible. The prevailing ignorance of farm labourers operated against the labours and success of
ventors, who devoted time and means to the invention and manufacture of implements and machines, which
rmers could not well do without; and it was therefore of the utmost importance that the agricultural
opulation and he included farmers in the number—all, in fact, depending on agriculture—should have a
etter education than they had hitherto received."

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* One of a series of questions submitted in 1864 by the Commissioners for inquiry into the state of elementary education in the ural districts of Scotland was, "Can the attendance at the parochial schools be increased by the enforcement of an education test efore children under 10 can be employed?" The replies of the most important witnesses were as follows:—

The Rev. John Black, H.M. inspector of Schools, "Most decidedly."

Mr. John Brown, schoolmaster, Girthorn, Kirkcudbright, "Yes, emphatically; in reading, writing, and general arithmetic. All ractical men with whom I have considered the questions are agreed on this. It is the duty of the State to protect itself by otecting the children from the selfishness and apathy of parents. Necessity has not so much to do with it as is commonly pposed."

Mr. John Cruikshank, Aberdeen:—"I have long thought that an education test is most desirable and the only effectual remedy or a prevalent and growing evil. It ought to affect the parents indirectly through the hirers of their children's labour. The est should comprehend reading, writing, and arithmetic, and if applied before 12 years of age it should be repeated at 14 years, ise the learning may be forgotten."

Rev. John Adam Macfarlane, Urray, Rosshire:—"Undoubtedly, I think there could be no better measure to secure the attendance f the children at school."

Mr. James McLachlan, parochial teacher, Inch, Aberdeen:—"Most decidedly, for if children were not allowed to be employed efore 12, they would generally continue at school as long as possible."

W. H. Maxwell, Esq., Munches, Kirkcudbright:—"Probably."

A. Middleton, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools:—"Yes, probably; but the enforcement would be beset by prevalent difficulties nd would tread on dangerous ground."

Rev. James Moir, minister of Free Church, Maybole:—"Yes."

Rev. McPhun, Olrig, Caithness:—"I have had no experience of the working of such a test, but I should like to see it employed n this parish. The sensible part of the community would agree to it. The provident part of the community see the use of it, and o not send their children out to work very young."

Mr. Theophilus Smith, Temple, Edinburgh:—"It might do good."

Rev. Robert Stevenson, minister of Dalry, Ayrshire:—"Yes, if the test were faithfully enforced."

T. I have now to make a few observations on the subject suggested in your instructions, namely, how far, in what respect, and with what results, the system of instruction in the parochial schools differs from that generally pursued in the elementary schools of England.

School books paid for by the parents.

121. It is the invariable practice for the school books to be provided at the expense of the parents, and the effect of this arrangement is said to induce habits of carefulness on the part of the children. The purchase of books may occasionally bear hard upon the parents, but they are always sold at the wholesale price, and if the parents are believed to be too poor to be able to pay for them they are generally given gratuitously, and are paid for out of a fund provided for the purpose.

Lessons prepared at home.

122. The practice of requiring the pupils to prepare their lessons at home is universal, and is considered a very important part of the school arrangements; it saves time, affords the parents an opportunity of taking an interest in their children's education, and is the means of forming in the children themselves habits of industry and self-reliance. The lessons required to be prepared generally consist of sums in arithmetic, preparations for writing from dictation, grammar, geography, the meaning and derivation of words, learning pieces of poetry and prose by heart, general repetitions at certain intervals and the shorter catechism. The school books in general use are those published by the Scottish School Book Association. The practice of getting selected pieces of prose and poetry by heart is especially worthy of approval, giving, as it does, with proper explanations by the teachers, an enlarged range of thought and possibly some refinement of feeling. I found the master of one school reading Gray's Elegy to his pupils, preparatory to their learning it by heart, accompanying the reading of each stanza with an appropriate commentary on its beauties and allusions.

123. There is one description of lesson given in some of the parochial schools, as in the best English schools, namely, the practice of requiring terms of similar signification to be substituted for those of the text, in other words the practice of synonyms. Nothing can be better adapted to inculcate the meaning of words and to promote the acquirement of fluency in speech. The art of composition also receives attention by requiring a short essay on some didactic or descriptive subject. These exercises are much liked by the more advanced scholars, and are of considerable use in training the young mind to think for itself and in accustoming it to habits of observation. It was a subject of frequent regret by the masters of the Government-inspected schools that the labour exacted of them by the Revised Code did not permit them to give that amount of attention to examinations and repetitions which they formerly had it in their power to do.

Conclusions.

124. The conclusions at which I arrived, after a careful investigation of the subjects suggested by your instructions of inquiry are,—

1. That in the counties of Dumfries, Wigtown, Kirkcudbright, and Ayr legislation is not required for fixing the age below which children should not be allowed to be employed in agriculture, it not being the practice to employ children in field labour, with trifling exceptions, under 11 or 12 years of age.

2. That the hours of work for children and young persons do not require any legislative regulation, and that no labour of an oppressive or injurious character is required of them.

3. That it is unnecessary to provide, by legislation that females should be protected from unhealthy or unsuitable employment in agriculture, as no labour felt to be of that character would be submitted to, and no complaints have ever been made by women so employed that the nature of their work is in any respect injurious to them.

4. That there is a considerable number of children, chiefly Irish, employed in agriculture, whose education is wholly neglected, and that the parents of such children, while deriving considerable pecuniary advantages from their labour for several months in the year, suffer them to pass the remaining months in total idleness.

5. That compulsion, either direct or indirect, is required to induce such parents to send their children to school and for enforcing regularity of attendance; and that public opinion is favourable to the adoption of compulsion in some form adapted to the exigencies of agriculture.

6. That an educational test as a condition of juvenile labour would be willingly accepted by the employers of such labour as a satisfactory solution of the problem how best to reconcile the interests of agriculture with the promotion of education.

125. In conclusion, I beg to return my best thanks to the ministers of the established church, magistrates, and other public functionaries for the assistance they have rendered me in my inquiries, and to the farmers for the readiness with which they entered into the subjects of this inquiry.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your very obedient servant,

Craigside, Grasmere,
30th December 1870.

J. HENRY TREMENHEERE,
Assistant Commissioner.

REPORT by Mr. R. F. BOYLE on the Counties of LANARK, RENFREW, and ARGYLL.

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To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

1. I venture to lay before you a Report, founded on the evidence which under your directions I collected in the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Argyll during the late spring and summer. The circumstances of Argyllshire differ so much from those of the two other counties, that it seemed at first sight that it would be more convenient to draw up two separate reports; but I found that owing to the increased facilities of travelling in the more distant parts of the Highlands, and the manner in which the islands and peninsulas have been brought near by steam to the principal centres of commerce on the west coast of Scotland, the distinction between Highlands and Lowlands has of late years been sensibly diminished; and while the highland labourer is migrating southwards in search of higher wages, the lowland system of farming, and with it the circumstances attending the condition of the lowland labouring class, are being pushed rapidly into every corner of the Highlands where a strip of level ground will afford space for the growth of oats and turnips. R.

System of farming in Lanarkshire,

2. Almost the whole of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire and almost all the low ground in Argyllshire is devoted to dairy farming; the land is under a four, five, or six course shift, the first and third year being under corn, the second under green crop, the remaining one, two, or three years, as the case may be, under grass. The first year's crop of grass is generally mown, and after that the land is under grass for summer pasture. During the six winter months the cattle are kept within doors. This description will apply, with some exceptions, to all Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire; in the southern part of the former county, however, there are large tracts of highland devoted to sheep farming, and in the neighbourhood of Glasgow there extends for a circle of some 10 miles a district very highly farmed, where land lets at an enormous rent, a circumstance due naturally to the neighbourhood of a large town, which always gives a ready market, and whence an unlimited quantity of manure can be brought out by the return carts. To such an extent is manuring carried in this district, that one farm of little more than 100 acres will contract for the dung of several hundred horses. Through the low centre

in Renfrewshire.

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of Renfrewshire along the line of the railway, there lies a similar district where cropping is carried on to as great an extent, a district that depends for its manure and market partly on Paisley, partly also on Glasgow. The rest of the county depends on its dairies, and is in fact a continuation of Ayrshire northward; farmers from the southern end of this county will drive their carts every morning into Glasgow, and retail the milk in the streets, whilst from the parishes of Kilmalcolm and Innerkip further west a similar system is carried on as regards Greenock. The whole of Argyllshire till within a very few years was devoted to the breeding of sheep and cattle; on the low grounds limited in extent as they were, pastured large herds of highland cattle, while flocks of sheep roamed over the mountains. As regards the latter no change has taken place and probably never will; but wherever there is any lowland, farmers from Ayrshire and Dumfries-shire are driving out the old Highlander, and Ayrshire cattle take the place of the highland stock.* Even the sheep-farmers in Argyll and Lorn have a few Ayrshires now for milking purposes. These remarks will apply principally to Cantyre and Islay, and to such places generally in which, though there is less level ground, a stream running down to the sea follows the windings of a valley, as at Carradale, or a strip of lowland stretches along the sea as in Cowall, Skipness, and Kilberry. Further north in Mull nearly all is highland stock still; in Ardgour and Ardnamurchan an Ayrshire will hardly be found at all. In this county there exist besides the immigrant from the lowlands, two very distinct classes of farmers; the crofter, who is poorer than the southern labourer, and the stock farmer who pays his 1,000*l.* or 1,500*l.* a year rent. Besides these there was another class of farmer who have now almost entirely disappeared with the exception of one or two in Islay—the gentlemen farmers, men who could not afford to live as they used of old and pay the high rents that the money-making propensities of the age require, and consequently have had to make way for men in a humbler class of life, whose wants are fewer, who make more of the land, and who can consequently afford to pay a higher rent. The Lowland dairy-farmer is, as a rule, little removed above his labourer; in many cases he eats at the same table, his wife makes the cheese, his daughters milk with the farm-servants, his sons plough; the farm-servant often rises to be a farmer, sometimes a farmer's son becomes a farm-servant. It is no wonder then that in tendering for a farm the Lowland farmer outbids the Highlander;† still I am assured by Highland farmers that many of those who have come north have been bitterly disappointed: they do not allow for the great waste of life among the sheep on the moors. One Highlander assured me that he lost half his lambs annually by braxy‡ (Arg. 53). In a minor degree the same thing is going on in Lanarkshire; the better class of farmers about Biggar are becoming driven out by men from the west of the county who have fewer wants and so can afford higher rents (Lk. 34). They live hard, and often put by money, their great ambition being to go to the Lothians. On the other hand, the Lanarkshire sheep-farmer is a very different man, he keeps his 2,000 to 3,000 sheep, brings his daughters up as ladies, and keeps his close carriage.

in Argyllshire.

Stock farms.

Gentlemen-farmers.

Dairy farmers in the Lowlands.

I.—Farm-servants.

3. The Lowland farm-servant is generally a native of the county; the extra hands are, as a rule, Highlanders or Irish, both of whom are extremely numerous in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire. It is natural that a Scotchman should prefer his own countrymen; some with more liberal ideas find little difference; but the general idea seems to be that the Scotch are more faithful than the Irish, and will work better with less looking after. One farmer assured me that he had to speak to the Scotch and Irish in quite a different manner; to the Scotch you must be careful what you say, they are more independent. About harvest-time the country is full of Irish, who come principally for a few months from Donegal to make enough money to pay their rent, and beginning in Berwick and Peebleshire work round to Lanarkshire, where the harvest is later, and then home (Lk. 32). In the west of Renfrewshire the bulk of the farm-servants are Irish, but as soon as they have made a little money most of them emigrate. The Scotch go away to the east country, where they get higher wages (R. 3, 12.). As a rule the farm-servant is an unmarried man, and lives in the farm-house, but as more cottages are being built, there is a leaning towards employing married men. It is a great misfortune for a farmer who has no cottages, as is the case with most of those even about Glasgow, when one of his best hands marries, for he generally has to part with him. It is a misfortune for the farmer more than for the labourer; the labourer is always sure of employment in Lanarkshire, for, if he cannot get work at his old occupation, he has always the mines to fall back upon, where, though the work is not so much to his taste, the wages are better. Still there is a great difference of opinion among farmers as to whether married or single servants are to be preferred. Mr. Wylie, in Cantyre (Arg. 4), says that married men "are a deal steadier, and make a deal less noise with the girls." A farmer in Cowall (Arg. 3.) does not care much which he has, "it just depends on the mistress, which she likes." Another, near Poltalloch (Arg. 55) prefers married men decidedly, for two reasons, they stay with you, whereas the unmarried men shift nearly every half year, and the wife, if able-bodied, will come out to work too. On the other hand, Mr. Scott, of Rhindmuir (Lk. 10) says that married men will hurry on with their work to get home sooner, and so are less attentive to their horses; whereas unmarried men, having no duties elsewhere, and living in the stable or harness-room, are always at hand if wanted, see their horses the last thing at night, and give them their feed directly they rise in the morning. A circumstance that struck me about the Lanarkshire farm-servant was his extreme devotion to his horses; instead of,

Irish in Lanarkshire.

Married and unmarried farm servants.

* To account for this there are two causes: highland cows calve a year later than Ayrshire; they calve at four year old, Ayrshires at three; and the highland cows are bad milkers, consequently can give no return till sold off as young cattle, whereas the Ayreshires will be giving milk for butter and cheese, and can be sold off afterwards (Arg. 22).

† The Lanarkshire farmer divides the proceeds of his farm into five parts, two for the working of the land, two for the rent, and one for the profit.

‡ Braxy is inflammation of the lungs; it comes on on rich pasture from excess of eating, and kills in a few hours (Arg. 10). Braxy, as a sheep who has died of the disease is called, is much eaten by the Highlanders; some farmers give it all to their shepherds.

is often the case in England, the ploughman taking whatever horses it may chance every morning, ch ploughman has his own special pair, which is under his particular charge, and which he always es: and farmer and servant alike are very proud of their fine breed of Clydesdale horses. Of course o, if a farmer has a family, he would prefer married men. Not having to provide the servant with food n additional reason for preferring married men, for the farm-servant, who boards in the kitchen, will en give trouble and be quarrelsome about his diet, whether with or without cause, as the case may ; whereas the married man of course keeps house for himself. The fact is that the unmarried man really far better off than the married man. On the whole this rule may be laid down, that if a farmer s cottages within half a mile of his farm, and has a grown-up family, he prefers married men, under her circumstances unmarried (Lk. 62). V.

4. Too little attention is still given to the comfort of farm-servants. In Lanarkshire, especially, me of the sleeping-places which were shown to me were wretched. In this respect, however, eat progress is at present being made; and whereas it was nearly always the custom for the en to lodge in a loft over the horses in the stable, it is becoming more usual to put beds for em in the harness-room, or in some other room adjoining, or at any rate to make the loft, which s partly open to the stable, into a comfortable room in the roof. Bothies are very rare; such as exist e generally on the home-farm of some proprietor, or on the premises of some large farmer, cases which none of the evils are to be found attending the system as known in other counties. Thus, ol. Buchanan, on his home-farm at Drumpellier, has two capital rooms for his men attached to the rm; and Mr. Stewart, of Coll, showed me at a new farm, which he has been reclaiming for the Duke Argyll, near Campbelltown, a bothy built on to the cottage of the grieve who has charge of the orks. It consists of a large kitchen, with little rooms partitioned off for each servant with a boarding bout six feet high; the grieve's wife keeps it in order for them. Mr. Marr (Arg. 38), a Low-country rmer established in Islay, has a bothy of much the same description; it consists of two rooms one oove the other, the lower being a paved sitting-room with a fireplace; a wooden ladder leads up into e bedroom above, a room of the same size as the kitchen, with sloping roof, and containing three beds. ol. Gardyne (Arg. 73), also mentions the existence of bothies in the island of Mull, but says that here they exist "there is an old woman to cook and clean, so that it is much better than the bothy system n the Lowlands." I found, however, that in all cases the women-servants sleep in the house, either in e kitchen or in a room over it, and never in a bothy outside adjoining that of the men. As, however, is very much the custom for men to sleep in the harness-room, it is very difficult to decide what is a othy; some farmers even call that a bothy. In Stonehouse and Avondale parishes again the kitchen ystem is most common, that is the men sleep in the kitchen, and the women over it, and this, of ourse, leads to results as bad as could be expected. This was of old especially the case in Cantyre and Knapdale. In the latter district an old man, well acquainted with the social condition of the people, entioned that he had seen cases, and there are some now, where the men and women servants sleep n the same room. The entrance comes in the middle, and there is a close-bed on each side, one for the en and the other for the women. These close-beds are recesses in the wall, and the servants can ress and undress in them; "some have shutters that you can close, but people who have them would be ounted to have means above the commonalty" (Arg. 22). A similar case was mentioned in a farm of our rooms, in which the family occupied three, and the female-servant the fourth; but if any stranger ame he was put in the room with the servant (Arg. 19).

Mode of lodging farm-servants.

Scarcity of bothies.

Harness-rooms

Kitchen system.

5. The men themselves prefer a bothy, as they have more liberty; they can get away when they like, nd are not liable to have lights put out at any fixed hour, as is the case when they live in the kitchen. The general custom in Lanarkshire is that if there is only one man employed he lives in the house; f more than one, they live over the stable or in the harness-room, in each case sitting in the kitchen by lay; female servants have a room over or beside the kitchen, and in farms in which men live in the tables, sometimes sleep in the kitchen (R. 4.). I visited several farms in order to see the men's accommodation; in some instances, all the newest farms, the accommodation was fair; but in the older arms it was wretched; so bad that it astonished one to hear that men living at the rate of 15*s.* or 16*s.* a week could endure to live in such places. In one of the farms near Biggar, Mr. Chancellor showed me a sleeping place now disused, made of boards placed along the cross-pieces that join the stable-walls: it was open to the thatched roof above, and quite open to the stable all round, so that the smell of the dung must have circulated all round the bed. But I saw a similar sleeping-place in Lesmahagow parish, still occupied, "where a bed and a sheet are put on a few boards laid across to make a floor on the rafters, and open to the stable all round. It is ascended by a ladder." I was told that this is still a very general system; to me it looked quite dangerous to ascend with such a dim light or no light at all, as men must do when they go to bed, for there was no partition of any kind to prevent their falling down upon the horses (Ch. 28, 41, 43). There being no bothy to sit in, the kitchen becomes the sitting-room for both men and women servants; they take their meals together, and the work done, all sit together in the evening.

Rooms over the loft.

6. As regards the habits of male servants (to the women I shall recur presently), in the counties of Lanark and Renfrew, they are as a rule much of the same class as the farmers themselves; in the smaller farms they eat at the same table as the master and mistress; in the larger a separate table is laid, at which the men-servants and women-servants dine, usually at the same time as the farmer and his family. Generally they are thrifty; there are exceptions of course, but the fact is that they have few opportunities of spending their money; they are at work all day, and have but two holidays in the year, the two fair-days; they are lodged and boarded by their masters, consequently the only necessary expense that they have is clothes,* and they can put by all the rest of their money. A Renfrewshire

Thriftiness of farm servants in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

* The fondness for dress being the only expense in which servants can well indulge, has increased to a great extent, especially in the Highlands. Some large sheep-farmers told me that the men who a few years ago went out on the hill barefooted, now all wear coats and knickerbockers. The women also on Sunday are often far better dressed than their mistresses (Arg. 64, 65.)

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farmer mentioned the case of one of his own men who has 17*s.* a week, and always leaves 5*s.*, which is put in the bank for him; and similar cases came under my notice. Thus a ploughman or grieve will often put by money, and marry, and take a small farm. Of course he has no capital, but if he is a man of good character his former master will perhaps stand security for him, and he will buy much of his stock on credit. One farmer, who had been a servant himself for 11 years, said that at the end of that time his brother had put him into a farm and stocked it. He assured me that as a servant he had been much better off than he is now, had always more ready money, and that one of the men he at present employs makes more money than himself. Mr. Smith, Lord Home's agent, mentioned a case of a woodman at Blackwood, who had only 13*s.* a week, putting by enough money to start a farm which he had just given up to his son, and had taken a new and larger farm for himself. Such men must work their way up very gradually; the master will handle the plough himself, and the mistress do the milking, and perhaps knit stockings; they will have no servant except perhaps one woman. One Renfrewshire farmer, who came from a small beginning, told me that he and his mistress "wrought "among 20 cows for some time all alone; it is the only way to make something;" in time, if they prosper, they will take another farm, and hire servants if they have no children of their own; but of course it is several years before the debt is worked off. If he succeeds, his children will be farmers after him; if he fails, they will return to be ploughmen. But in nearly every case, even in large farms, the farmer's son will plough, and the wife make the cheese, and milk, and both will work far harder than any servant to save a servant's wage (Lk. 49, 57, 62, Rw. 8.). On the other hand the Lowlander has attained a reputation for care and saving habits that is not always deserved; many of the girls get into debt to the merchants, and have to pay most of their wages when they receive it. Drinking is one of the great misfortunes too, especially at the hiring fairs; but whiskey is not given by the masters, except on special occasions, such as perhaps after a hard day's work at harvest. The usual drink is tea, milk is often hard to get, being mostly sent into the large cities. In this respect Argyllshire has an immense advantage—the keep of a cow being usually given, and all the labourer's family having as much milk as they require. Married men are far worse fed than unmarried men, who live as well as their employers, for they seldom get butcher's meat. Breakfast will consist of porridge, milk, and perhaps a little bit of cheese; dinner of oatcake or bread, with butter and cheese, and supper of the same, or if they have any potatoes, they will often make a supper of potatoes and salt (Lk. 41). In the islands the principal fare is still potatoes; till the famine little else was eaten at all; now, however, oatcake and Indian meal have very much taken the place, but potatoes are still very popular. Farm-servants boarding in the kitchen are much better off; Mr. Bryce, near Paisley, gives his men bacon at breakfast, and mutton or beef at dinner; at breakfast they have milk to drink, tea only on Sundays: at dinner only water, no whiskey (Rw. 6).

Servants rise to be farmers.

Food of labourers.

Female farm servants.

7. The women-servants employed in farms are for the most part unmarried in the dairy districts of all these three counties; they are seldom taken in till 15 or 16 years of age, up to which time since leaving school they have done a little work in the fields, or perhaps taken a small place to mind a child. A large dairy-farm employs three or four women, big girls, and perhaps a "bit lassie" about the house, but this is modified by the number of daughters in the family, and if the wife is able-bodied. A farmer in Shotts parish, Lanarkshire, for instance, mentioned that he works the farm entirely with his brother, two sisters, and a small herd-boy. The wife, sister, or daughter makes the cheese and milk, but seldom cleans out the byre, unless in the very smallest farms, and in Argyllshire. In a large farm, where the wife is above active work, there is a dairymaid, with high wages; but these cases are not numerous, and generally the mistress will be found taking out her pail with the servant. When busy times come on, extra hands are required (see below), and in the mining districts easy to procure; but in Argyllshire and up the country in Lanarkshire, there is a scarcity of labour, and a farm-servant is generally taken on extra for the six summer months, and discharged again at the autumn hiring. For potato hoeing, turnip singling, and such employments, this extra hand goes out; so too do the regular hands after the milking is done, and the byre cleaned out, in company with the men, the herd-boy, and perhaps a widow living near, or a labourer's wife, or if the village is close at hand, one or two women living there, and one or two girls or boys of 13 or 14; and as the cropping land is not extensive, such hands will amply suffice. Farmers' daughters go out sometimes to field-work, but not the better class. A young woman can milk 8 to 10 cows morning and evening—it is wonderful how early they begin; a little girl of 13 will milk her cow when she comes home from school; in like manner in the parish of Lesmahagow, where the neighbours were "giving a day" * to an incoming tenant, I saw a boy of 12 ploughing quite well in land where turnips had been.

Advantages of female labour.

8. As to the question of how far field-labour is suited for women, any doubts entertained on the subject in England would in no case apply to it as carried out in the lowlands of Scotland. Most people who know that country will agree with me in stating that nowhere else have they ever seen such big women, or women who seemed to enjoy better health; and this although the climate in which they work is one of exceptional dampness. I learnt to attribute this circumstance to their diet of milk, porridge, and meal cake, and among the farm-servants meat given to an extent unknown in the counties which under your directions I visited in England and Wales; whilst at the same time indoor work is generally found for them in wet weather, and the outdoor work is for the most part only summer work. On this milk diet many of my informants laid a great stress. Mr. Stewart, of Coll, stipulates in every lease given on the estate of the Duke of Argyll, to whom he is agent, that a cow's grass shall be given to each labourer with a family in part payment of wages (Arg. 1). As an instance of how farm-work agreed with women directions were given on one estate that I should be taken to a particular farm, to see a family that had been reared on outdoor and dairy-work. There remained only one daughter at home, who formerly had done field-work, but when her sister married had been taken into the dairy.

* It is the custom when a new tenant enters for all the farmers in the neighbourhood to lend him a pair of horses and a plough for one day's work; this is called, "giving a day." On one farm near Lesmahagow, I saw no less than 55 ploughs working at once on one of these occasions.

he and a servant milk all the cows between them, 20 in number, and certainly she seemed fully U.
able, as far as strength was concerned, for even harder work (Arg. 5).

Hours of work. "Farm-servants," writes Mr. Smith, Lord Home's agent (Lk. 62), "have no stated time for working; as the weather is very changeable, they remain within doors on a stormy day, and when the weather is fine they cheerfully work an hour or two extra, especially in busy seasons." For a farmer the ordinary hours are about 10, *i.e.*, from 7 a.m. to noon, and again from 1 p.m. to 6, the interval of an hour at mid-day for meals; sometimes they come out at 6 a.m., and take two hours in the middle of the day. In winter they work less by two hours,—from daylight to dark. Women in most cases come out a little later than men, after they have done some household work: but household work naturally often neglected, and this was almost the only ground on which I heard any complaints against female labour. It is the farm women servants who are hard worked, however: "the men will be sitting down to their porridge with all their work done, while the women have to hurry up and milk." Far away in the island of Coll, where dairy-farming has been extensively introduced, I came across a crofter's daughter, who works on the croft, or for a farmer for a day's wage, from 9 till 6, and milks also for a dairyman for an hour and a half in the morning, coming back to get her breakfast before her day's work, and milks again in the evening, not returning home till 8 o'clock (Arg. 84). No farmer's wife, however, expects the servants to work harder than herself: "a thrifty farmer's wife never finishes her work all day:" "many of the labourers' wives are ladies to the farmers wives" (Lk. 49).

Hard-worked farm servants.

Dairymen. 10. The system of dairymen or boors is very usual in Renfrewshire, and up the country in Lanarkshire it is gaining ground, especially in the larger farms. Mr. Thoms, at Kilmalcolm (Rw. 9), who has 27 cows, lets them all to the "boor" at 14*l.* a piece; 13*l.* he thinks would be nearer the average price. For this he feeds the cows and a horse to take the milk to Greenock, and drives the turnips for winter-keep. The "boor" employs two maid-servants of his own, quite independent of Mr. Thoms: they sleep in his kitchen, and with his wife do all the milking, while he himself drives the cart to Greenock, and retails the milk there. If the farmer's wife is above superintending the dairy herself, this system is almost necessary, and consequently as the farms are enlarged and the farmer becomes wealthier it becomes more common. The boor has a cottage little superior to a labourer's, and is in fact little better off.

Distance. 11. I found no remarkable instances of women or children going far to their work: generally, where so many of the hands live in the farmhouse or its outbuildings it would not be conspicuous, and where many extra hands are employed it is usually where towns and villages are close at hand. In the Highlands, too, where we should fancy distances would be greater, day-labourers and extra hands hardly exist except on gentlemen's farms, and some few large farms adjoining, where cottages have been put up. Such day-labourers, however, as do not come under this category have sometimes to go considerable distances, 5 or 6 miles, to work (Arg. 72); but in these cases the women seldom go out, being principally employed at home on their own small crofts.

Mode of hiring 12. The custom of hiring at fairs prevails in all these counties almost universally, and I did not hear from any employer of labour a word in its favour. "It is very degrading to the "women," says Mr. Forrest (Lk. 17); "one does not think of asking for a character, only "looking if she is a good working girl, and if you ask for a character you will perhaps get a rude "answer." Those even who do not want to change their place expect leave to go out and take their holiday; if 100 come, not 60 want a new place; but it is looked forward to twice a year as the regular holiday. It makes the servant too more independent, for if offended he can go off to the fair, and at once get another place. I had expected to be told that hiring fairs were an old custom; but I was frequently informed that they were quite a new thing. Mr. Fleming, at Carstairs (Lk. 37) could recollect 20 years ago that they hardly existed; and one has only lately been started in the town of Lanark. Mr. Fleming also thought that most of the farmers would be in favour of abolishing them; a good servant even now, generally gets hired privately before the fair; but all take their holiday. I had the good fortune to fall in with one of these fairs at Carnwath, and was taken over it by the Rev. Mr. McLean, minister of the parish. It was a snowy day, and consequently there was no very large attendance, and it bore much resemblance to an ordinary fair as far as booths were concerned. Boys and girls from 12 upwards come to be hired, the younger ones generally with a parent or relation, and it is a strange sight to one unaccustomed to it to see all the girls standing up in a row, and the employer going round to hire a likely servant. The drinking begins the moment they are hired, and as they seldom get whiskey at other times, the public houses drive a great trade. Mr. McLean told me that the scenes used to be very bad, but that the railway has done good now by taking off the people who live at any distance. Those, however, who live near too often get tipsy, and the men and women pair off together, frequently not returning to their places till next morning. On the mainland of Argyllshire fairs are equally prevalent; in the smaller islands, where the population is so scanty, the name and character of every good servant is generally known, and fairs are unnecessary. A system of registration offices was suggested by various persons in Lanarkshire, who with good reason desire to see hiring-fairs put down (Lk. 47, 58).

II.—Employment of Women in Agriculture.

Great employment of women in agriculture in mining districts. 13. In the great coal-bed of Lanarkshire, down which the river Clyde runs, I was prepared to find, from the circumstances which had come under my notice in the mining districts of Wales, that there would be little employment in agriculture for women and children. In Wales it was generally the case that the large wages given to the men obviated all necessity for women to work out: but in Lanarkshire, though the men's wages are higher even than in Wales, there is an enormous employment of women in the large cropping districts about Glasgow, so too in a minor degree in Renfrewshire, about the neighbourhood of Paisley (Rw. 4). These farms, with the exception of the ploughmen and an occasional extra hand, are worked almost entirely by women, taken on as extra hands—an entirely different class

U. from the farm-servants, who are usually daughters of agricultural labourers. This extra labour prevails chiefly in the summer months; few extra hands are kept in the winter; but it is a curious fact that wives and daughters of miners, earning 2*l.* to 3*l.* a week, should be content to work at hoeing turnips or spreading manure at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. I was assured that the reason is that miners' wives, as a rule, are such bad economists, and that there is no other work for them, so that the money earned in the fields is really an object; some few make a little money by sewing, but the greater part are too improvident and do not think of it (Lk. 8, 21, Rw. 4). About Motherwell there is tambouring; but the girls evidently prefer out-door work, for directly the summer comes all who are old enough turn out into the fields (Lk. 4). The miners too are too often a reckless set; there is much drinking, and little of the money finds its way home, so that the wife's pittance earned in the fields becomes a great boon to the family.

Women employed on a large cropping farm.

14. Mr. Scott, of Rhindmuir, who owns one of the largest cropping farms near Glasgow, employs as regular hands, a foreman, four ploughmen, and two women-servants; in the summer he takes on two or three extra men, and the number of extra women employed varies according to the work required; in the winter there will only be a few about the thrashing machine, or perhaps putting the potatoes in sacks; but for turnip-pulling in the spring or potato-digging in the autumn, he sometimes has as many as 80 out. These are mostly miners' wives and daughters, the married women preponderating; sometimes a labourer's wife or widow, and sometimes in harvest even the wife or daughter of a small tradesman. Mr. Scott and his neighbour, Mr. Wilson, of Glendufhill, both consider that the mineral class make the best workers. The following is a brief statement of the work done by women, compiled chiefly from the evidence of these two gentlemen:—the first spring work is the potato-planting in April, which employs about 20 or 25 women; for this purpose the manure-cart is usually filled by men in the yard, but sometimes the women do it if men are scarce; they seem to prefer it to the spreading, as not being such constant work. In the field two men usually go with the cart, the foreman and one other man, the rest of the work being done by women. The foreman throws the manure out into the centre drill, and one woman divides it out into three drills; three other women break it out and spread it, and three more follow with the seed. "Sometimes a woman goes with the cart, a strong girl of 25 or so; a young woman will lead a horse as well as a lad; they like doing it." The next work consists in stone-picking, turnip-planting, and weeding rough land: for stone-picking the hands take baskets, and a cart goes with them; each fills her basket, and empties it into the cart, but if the ground is soft, the cart goes down the side of the field, and two of the workers carry the baskets to it. Hoeing potatoes begins about the end of May. This work employs 40 to 50 hands, and the same are generally kept on for the turnip-singling which immediately follows. For these employments the women are put to work in a row, the foreman accompanying them; he generally puts one of the best workers among the women at the end of the line, and a few other good workers next to her; the foreman helps on those who fall behind, for those who fall behind easily get disheartened, so a great deal depends on having a good foreman, who can humour them. In the smaller farms in such parishes as Avondale, the farmer often goes and works himself with them. "As a rule," says Mr. Scott, "the hoeing is easy work, "and we never let one go too fast in front, so as to get it well done." An Avondale farmer told me that at hoeing a woman can do fully as much as a man. Turnip-singling follows, and this is generally done with the hand, for the soil is cloddy, and a hoe is liable to bring up the manure or the wrong plant with the clod; some farmers allow them to hoe, if they like, and they generally prefer it. This turnip-singling is the work that is generally considered the hardest. In Renfrewshire I saw rows of women all down on their knees working away with their hands. "They try all ways of working," says Mr. Wilson, "when the back gets tired with stooping; it is not hard work, but sometimes one hand is down, sometimes both, sometimes they stoop." They have to go down on their knees to ease their backs. But the difficulty of the work is naturally much greater in a wet season than in a dry. The long hoe too undoubtedly makes the work much easier; the short hoe is as bad as none at all. Mr. Wilson's foreman once attempted to introduce short hoes, but all the hands threatened to go. A girl can use a long hoe very fairly well at 15 or 16 years of age. Most of the large farmers expect them when they come to know how to work, and they usually learn on some smaller farm; but the learning does not take long, if the hands be willing.

Potato-planting.

Stone-picking.

Potato-hoeing.

Turnip-singling.

Harvest-shearing.

15. Though machines are now much coming into use a great quantity of the corn is still reaped with the sickle. The reason of this seems to be that female labour is so abundant, and while shearing is done almost entirely by women a certain number of men are required to work the machine; but further up the country, where female labour is scarcer, machines are more common. On Mr. Drew's farm, near Hamilton, the weavers' come out for harvest, as well as miners, and labourers' wives—it is a sort of holiday to them after their in-door work. A great deal of the shearing is let entirely to women; for outlying fields Mr. Wilson pays so much an acre to one woman and she brings others. Sometimes he has as many as 50 or 60 shearers, all women; but a man will sometimes come out to "bind and stook" to four or five women; it is work at which, like the hoeing, a woman can do as much as a man, and does it too for half the wages.

Turnip-pulling and potato-digging.

16. The last summer or autumn employments are the turnip-pulling and potato-digging. Turnips are not very plentiful in this district; Mr. Wilson has but two or three acres of turnips to 55 of potatoes. Mr. Drew, of Merryton, considers that it employs only eight women. "They pull up the turnip with "the left hand," says Mr. Forrest, "and cut off the tail with one blow, and the turnip with another, "and it falls into a line. No very young girl would come out; generally about 15, or later." The cart comes up the drills and men throw the turnips into it. At the potato-digging all work in a row in the same manner as in the singling; on some farms the digging-machine is used, but the usual thing is for the woman to dig them up with the grape; the same woman digs and picks up, and throws the potato into a basket, with which each is provided. Sometimes a few children will come out to pick up after school "for diversion." Mr. Scott has had nearly 100 women out; so many came last year that he had to send many of them away (Lk. 9, 10, 17, 18, 58, 59, Arg. 3).

Potato-gangs.

17. This system, however, of digging potatoes can only be carried out where there is an abundance of labour. In most districts of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire the potatoes are sold to "potato-merchants"

ground, and they bring down their own people to dig them. The potato-merchant is often a general dealer in the village, in which case he sometimes brings out the gang himself; some, er, are bigger men, living at Glasgow, or even Liverpool, and send down a foreman, or pick up labourer in the village, who brings others. The farmer ploughs them up and then takes no more e about them. There are often as many as 60 diggers out, just the people who are picked up the village, and a good many Irish who have come over for the harvest. If the people he has d in one village please him he will take them on to the next, and in that case they lodge in out- s on the farm. Many are collected in this manner from the mining districts, and come up to the ry about Carnwath and Biggar, but those who are within reach of home go back at night, if it is within four or five miles distance. Of the rest, those who do not put up in an out-house on the lodge about the village, sometimes eight or ten together. They come from 10 years old upwards, and women, boys and girls, and all work together. The principal part are women and boys in teens, some of them even not as old as that, some of them little things of 8 or 9, two doing the work e. Mr. Murdoch, who lives near Lesmahagow here testifies against juvenile labour, "It weakens ir body and mind; ought to wait till a bit older." As to the moral effect of this modified gang n it cannot be said that it has any worse effect on language and character than any other system llecting a number of both sexes to work together. Perhaps as the wages given are generally r than those given by the farmers, the class employed are at least as good as those in more ar work. But the harm is done by collecting a number of strangers to lodge in barns, and the towns and villages with lodgers, who are ready to pack into any place, however wretched 29, 34, 41, 49, 50). U.

. The last subject in this branch of my report to which I shall have to allude is the work done by ers' wives and families on their own holdings in the Highlands. The race of old crofters is now ly disappearing, partly by their holdings being annexed to neighbouring farms when the present nts die, too often by taking away the piece of ground and turning the crofter into a mere cotter, or holesale evictions. The extent to which the latter system has been carried in the Argyllshire lands would make the flesh of an Irish farmer creep. But there are properties still remaining h maintain a laudable distinction for never turning out a tenant; still where these clusters of ers are found the poverty is dreadful, for unable to put by money for their old age the old people st invariably come on the rates, the young people having seldom money to support a rising family ell as their parents. All along the seaboard of Argyllshire the rates are enormous; in one parish, e island of Mull, one person in 11 being at one time in receipt of parish relief. Crofters and their wives.

). There are parishes in which the population consists of some few large farmers, and perhaps 60 or rofters' families: thus all the rates are naturally paid by the farmers and their landlords for the benefit e rest of the population, and they have a most just cause of complaint. It was interesting to find in this ty a great discussion going on on the subject of the workhouse system. The parishes around Oban lately combined to erect a poor-house at that town, and there is one at Tobermory for "the Mull com- nation." As to the manner in which the poor-house should be used, a party among the guardians is vour of carrying the test to the extreme logical limit, and giving no relief, even to old people, except e poor-house. A gentleman who, from his official position, is conversant with the state of the poor in eat part of the Highlands, considers that out-door relief should be given to old people only, and the khouse used in two senses, as a penitentiary and as a hospital. But it is very hard to know how to age when the young people know that if they do not support their elders the rates must. He ibutes the high rates to the excessive migration from this district, the young people going away to vide for themselves; but he does not consider it as any excuse for parents receiving relief that he sons and daughters have emigrated; under the present facilities for communication, emigration ht to be no obstacle to the sending money home, and if parents do not neglect their children when ng their children will never neglect them in old age. Since the poor-house has been built at Oban rates have diminished considerably, in spite of the charges for its maintenance. In the parish of n itself the test is carried to such an extent that no out-door relief is given at all. "In that of Kilbrandon," says Mr. Bett, Lord Breadalbane's agent, "the same rule is followed to some ex- ent, but exception is made in favour of old people, who are thought deserving, for it is a far greater low to the country people to be taken away from the bit of land to which they have been accustomed ll their lives than to the towns-people at Oban. Pauperism," he continues "had grown to such an xtent that some test was needed, and now there are many people doing well on their own earnings who had applied for out-door relief. In cases where it is thought necessary the workhouse test s applied, but in most cases the claimant will refuse it, and so all other claim is barred; most of the people who are refused if they cannot obtain work here will go south"* (Arg. 59). Poor rates in Argyllshire. Mr. Bett on poor rates at Oban.

.0. Were it not, however, for this system of emigration and going south to farm-service the crofters ld not exist on their bits of holdings at all. In former days, when they never moved from their nd or parish, subdivision of holdings was carried to an alarming extent (Arg. 28.) If a married, his parents would put him up a cottage and part off a little bit of the farm. Of rse the landlords will not allow this now, and when sons or daughters come to be 15 or 16 rs of age, if they cannot find work at home they go south, perhaps for good and all, perhaps to take ix months' wage, or go out as day's wagers in the southern counties, and return home with the money y have earned. There is less work for women than for men, for except just about harvest nost the only field-work to be done is done on their own holdings, and industrial labour hardly sts; they knit a few stockings perhaps, and needlework is beginning to be taught in schools rg. 27, 28). Highlanders going south.

.1. It is a very general custom too, especially in the extensive parish of Ardnamurchan, which is nost more out of the way than any of the Argyllshire Hebrides, for the head of the family to go south Parish of Ardnamurchan.

* Partly owing to the extreme cheapness of meal, milk, and potatoes, and partly owing to the thriftiness of the management Argyllshire poor-houses are maintained at a much less cost than those in English counties. Mr. Bett informed me that value of out-door relief given in the Oban combination ranged from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; in English counties we often find one ily in receipt of 5*s.* or 6*s.* weekly.

U. for six months, leaving the wife and family to get in the "bit crop" of oats and potatoes at home. was told by one of themselves that crofters could not get on in this district without some one s earning wages (Arg. 72). The fact is that the holdings are too small to be self-supporting, for the usual custom for some 20 or 30 families to live together, each owning a little patch of culti ground, and sharing a piece of rough land on which the highland cattle are pastured; comb together to employ perhaps one or two herd-boys, or, as is more common, employing their

Dalmally. children for the purpose, to the great detriment of school attendance. Close to Dalmally the high passes by a farm divided between 28 small tenants; they have a common between them, on which run their cows, and each of them also has a small patch of richer grass close to the house, where he g his beasts a bite morning and evening (Arg. 65.)

Women working on the crofts. 22. The husband being often away all the summer, or perhaps working for some richer neighb most of the home-work devolves on the wife and children; they are poorer far than a lowland labo and though they would consider themselves in superior position, owing to the bit of land they rent they attach all the same value as an Irishman to the holding of land, they all come out and help another, weeding the potatoes, and getting in the oats. Many of the large farmers, especially in islands, are also little removed above their servants and shepherds; their servants eat, as in Lanarksl at the same table. In Jura the largest tenant has two sons working for him as shepherds, and

Island farmers. daughters work about the farm. Yet he must be a man of capital to hold such a farm. At pre prices each sheep is worth to him at least 30*s.*, so that with 5,000 sheep he must have embarked

Mainland farmers. at least 7,500*l.* On the mainland the case is different—I except of course the districts into which lowland farmers have spread—but in Argyll and Lorn we find a class of farmers of superior man and intelligence, whose sons take other farms or set up in business in towns, whose daughters g school and play the piano.

Excessive enlargement of farms. 23. One thing that rather surprised me in this county is a certain reaction that seems settir against the excessive enlargement of farms; in Mull there is one farm employing as many as 11 shephe each shepherd having care of perhaps 800 sheep. To account for this reaction there seemed to be prominent reasons, the difficulty of finding a tenant of sufficient means, and the scarcity of lal When we consider the value of stock, it requires a man of large capital to take one of the great sl farms, and such men, unless they have a special taste for breeding stock, prefer a holding in Lowlands. One large proprietor in Invernesshire had the other day to pay an out-going te 30,000*l.* for his stock. Again, when all the crofters are sent away a useful part of the populatic lost. The crofter would often come and do a week's labour for his richer neighbour, and his wife always at hand for the same purpose: besides which she had learnt on her own plot of land, and always a good worker. Now the farmer has to depend on his own servants, and the few cotters he find in the neighbourhood. Economical ideas of this sort will probably save the country from almost complete depopulation, with which it is threatened.

III.—Wages.

Wages about the large towns. 24. In the neighbourhood of the large towns, such as Glasgow, Greenock, and Paisley, wages almost entirely paid in money; but as we get further up the country there is more payment in kind the Lowland parts of Argyllshire more still, and in some parts of the Highlands little money passes between the employer and employed. Mr. Wilson, eight miles east of Glasgow, whose men live in

Wages of married men in Lanarkshire. tages, gives to his first ploughman 18*s.*, his second 17*s.*, his third 16*s.*, weekly; his labourer gets also 1 week. Besides this, each ploughman has a cottage free of rent, which is calculated by various emplc as averaging from 3*l.* to 5*l.* annually in value, but generally contains only one room, at most two, seems to me as calculated at much above its value. It is also the custom for the employer to the coal. Mr. Hozier gives 15*s.* a week, a free house, and six tons of coal; this he reckons rather a the average for men employed all the year round. Labourers on odd jobs get more, but are often of work. 15*s.* a week and a free cottage seems the ordinary wage in Clydesdale. Higher up country, where the district is purely agricultural, less money is given, and an equivalent in me potatoes. Thus Mr. Fleming, at Carnwath, gives his two ploughmen, one 27*l.* the other 26*l.* annu (10*s.* a week), free cottage and garden, 6½ bolls of meal, 3 bolls of potatoes, and drives the Mr. Tweedie, in the highland part of Lanarkshire, gives 18*l.* (about 8*s.* a week), keep of a liberty to keep a pig, 65 stones of oatmeal, and 16 cwt. of potatoes. If no cow is kept an allowan milk with the value of the cow made up in cash. He places the total value at from 35*l.* to 40*l.* annu

Renfrewshire. In Renfrewshire, which is all, more or less, in the neighbourhood of large towns, Mr. Brown, at Bis town, gives his ploughman 17*s.* a week and a free house; and his labourers 15*s.* a week. B Kilmalcolm Mr. Thoms gives less money and perquisites. He gives to two men 22*l.* and 24*l.* a respectively, a free house, potato-ground, 6½ bolls of meal, and a pint of milk a day; but h the only employer of married men in that neighbourhood. A boll of meal is valued at 17 20*s.* Mr. Rowan, close to Paisley gives 16*s.* a week, house and garden, and coals driven.

Argyllshire. best wages in Argyllshire are somewhat similar to those given up the country in Lanarks Mr. Wylie's ploughmen in Cantyre get respectively 24*l.* and 23*l.* the year in money, free house, coals driven, 10 bolls of meal, and 4 bags of potatoes. A large farmer in Knapdale states that the w of a married farm-servant vary from 10*l.* to 14*l.* in money, a free cottage, and half an acre of gard cow's keep, "which is worth 7*l.*," four bolls of potatoes, a stone of meal weekly, fuel cut and ca and time given for the purpose. Some have only 10*l.*, but the same allowances are given to all w family. A boll is 140 lbs. In Islay Mr. Colin Hay gives his ploughman 10*s.* a week, and house and and the planting of a barrel of potatoes; extra men, living in the village, get 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week no extras, some only 1*s.* a day, but these are old people returned to the island when past workir the south. Mr. Campbell, of Jura, gives 15*l.* in money, free house, 6½ bolls of meal, a bit of ga and two pints of milk. In Argyll and Lorn the money wages given to a ploughman are gen from 15*l.* to 18*l.* (=6*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a week) and perquisites, such as those named above, a free house cottage, 6½ bolls of meal, potatoes, keep of a cow, &c.

U.
Wages of unmarried farm-servants.

The following table exhibits the half-yearly money wages given to unmarried farm-servants on ... specimen farms in these counties (besides the money payment the servants are boarded and ...):—

...ty.	Name of Employer.	Parish.	District.	Man.	Woman or Girl.	Boy.	Little Girl.
	Baird	New Monklands	- - -	14*l.*	7*l.*	—	—
	- - -	Shotts	- - -	12*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* to 7*l.*	1*l.* 5*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	—
	Paterson	Carmichael	- - -	- - -	8*l.* summer, 7*l.* winter	2*l.*	—
	Fleming	Avondale	- - -	11*l.* 10*s.*	6*l.* 10*s.* and 4*l.* 10*s.*	- - -	1*l.* 5*s.*
	Tweedie	Crawford	- - -	9*l.* to 10*l.* 10*s.*	5*l.* to 8*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
	Walker	Kilmalcolm	- - -	12*l.*	5*l.*	—	—
	Findlay	Ardgowan	- - -	13*l.*	4*l.* to 5*l.*	—	—
	Taylor	- - -	Knapdale	12*l.*	4*l.* to 7*l.*	—	—
	Clark	- - -	Cowall	9*l.*	4*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.*	—
	McDonald	- - -	Argyll	9*l.* 10*s.*	5*l.*	- - -	2*l.*
	Grieve	- - -	Lorn	9*l.*	4*l.* 10*s.* and 5*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.*	—
	McLean	- - -	I. of Coll	9*l.*	4*l.* and 4*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.*	—

...—In the above statistics from Lanarkshire there is apparently a great variety in the wage of dairymaids, to be accounted ... the general fact that a girl on arriving at her place probably has little more than half what she will earn in a few years. ...rate dairymaid sometimes has 8*l.* or 9*l.* half-yearly.

Shepherds.

... The wages of a shepherd are generally rather higher than those of a farm-servant; he is ... position of greater responsibility, and the life is harder. He is usually now paid in much the same ...ner, the old system of paying by "a pack" having almost entirely gone out, owing to the natural ...icion, whether founded or not, that the shepherd would take more care of his own sheep than of ...naster's. Mr. Gillespie, one of the only farmers in Lanarkshire who maintains the old system, ...med me that he gives no money wages at all, but gives the feed of 40 or 50 sheep and one or two ... to each of his shepherds. They feed with his (Mr. Gillespie's) sheep, and the shepherd gets the ...uce. Besides this they have a quarter to half an acre of potato-ground, and a house, 60 to 80 stones ...eal, and may cut their peat, but out of it they have to keep a boy to assist them, generally their ..., but if they have none, a hired boy. A shepherd of Mr. Tweedie's, in the same county, has also ...heep, and informed me that for their produce he has had as high as 48*l.*, and as low as 23*l.* He ... the system fully as well as money; generally it seems more popular among the shepherds, who ...feel they are themselves farmers on a small scale. But another shepherd of Mr. Tweedie's asked ...ave money instead of his sheep. He has 30*l.* annually, given as an equivalent for the sheep, besides ...quisites, which I give as a very fair sample of a Lanarkshire shepherd's wages: 30*l.* in money, ... of a cow, free house and garden, 65 stone of meal, and 5 bushels of potatoes planted and ...ured. He also has a boy of 17 boarded and lodged with him, who gets 12*l.* in money, and for ...m the shepherd is allowed the keep of another cow, 4 cwt. of potatoes, and 65 stone of meal. The ...pherd is nearly always married, and lives at distances from the farm-house according to the extent ...he farm. One shepherd is supposed to take care of about 800 sheep (Lk. 59, 67, 55).

Argyllshire shepherds.

... A Cantyre shepherd put his wages down at 20*l.* in money; grass for two cows and a calf; 9 bolls ...neal; potato-ground planted; free house and garden (just a few greens); sheep who die of braxy; ...skey at clippings. Most shepherds also have one or two fat sheep (Arg. 11). It is not the custom ...much for him to have an assistant in this county; perhaps he will be allowed one at lambing or ...ing time, or if he has more than 500 or 600 sheep under his charge, will have a boy for six months, ...*l.*, including board. An old man, who was well acquainted with the "pack" system, said that it was ...usual thing in former times, but does not now think there is one shepherd so paid from Campbelltown ...nveraray. Food for two cows and a stirk, *i.e.*, pasture in summer, and winter keep, is nearly always ...en. The keep of a cow may be set down in value at about 3*l.*, but it of course varies much ...ording to the richness of the pasture; in some places where the land is very rough it is worth very ...le. Some farmers give their shepherds or farm-servants an allowance of milk instead but they ...fer giving the cow's grass, as by this means they run no risk—the risk is the labourer's—whereas ...hey give the milk the risk is their own. The calf or stirk is only allowed for on the hill-farms, and ...remote districts. I could not but agree with Mr. Stewart, of Coll, in attributing the strong and ...lthy appearance of the people to the great amount of milk diet which this system always places ...hin their reach. The cow of course they purchase themselves, but they have generally put by a ...le money in service before they marry.

Cow's grass.

Shepherds in Lorn and Argyll.

...8. Mr. Turner, of Maam, gives his shepherd less money but more perquisites. The following table ...ibits a comparison of his ploughman's and shepherd's wages:—

Shepherd - 12*l.*; 2 cows' grass; 2 stirks' grass; 7 bolls meal: potato-land; house and garden; braxy.
Ploughman - 15*l.*: 1 cow's grass; 1 stirk's grass; 6½ bolls meal; house and garden; dinner in house.

In Lorn a shepherd residing with the farmer gets 16*l.* to 18*l.*, and board and lodging; about the ...e as a ploughman. Mr. Grieve, of Castles Farm, gives 18*l.* to his ploughman and 16*l.* to his ...pherd, but the former are harder to get in his locality.

In Knapdale.

29. The following is a calculation of the money value of a shepherd's wages on the Poltalloch estate ...napdale):—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - - - - -	12	0	0
Grazing of 3 cows and 4 stirks - - -	10	0	0
„ 5 sheep - - - -	1	5	0
All the braxy - - - - -	2	0	0
6 barrels of potatoes (produces 30 bushels) -	10	0	0
	£35	0	0

30. It will be seen that it is still often the custom to allow a few sheep. Mr. Grieve, mentioned ...ove, allows an old servant 12, but rather as a favour. Mr. Campbell, of Jura, allows his shepherd 15,

I. Jura. and this is found more the case where money, as in that island, is not very plentiful. Mr. Campbell shepherd has only 4*l.* in money; he had originally 7*l.*, but asked to have another cow's grass instead the other 3*l.* Mr. Campbell, who was good enough to let me fully investigate his wage-book, p down his shepherd's wages at 31*l.* 10*s.*, divided as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	4	0	0
2 cows and a heifer	14	0	0
15 sheep	3	15	0
Meal	6	10	0
Hide to make shoes	0	15	0
Cottage	1	10	0
	£31	10	0

Day's wages. 31. Day's wages as earned by women vary from 1*s.* 6*d.* in some parts of Lanarkshire, to 8*d.* parts of Argyllshire. Of course in this statement I except harvest, in which, especially at shear time, a woman can earn about as much as a man. The following table briefly exhibits the vari of wages in different districts of these three counties as paid to extra hands (women):—

County.	Name of employer.	Parish.	District.	Ordinary work.	Harvest.	Potato-diggi
Lanark	Wilson	Barony	-	1*s.* 4*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.*
	Drew	Hamilton	-	1*s.* 3*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.*
	Allen	Canbusnethan	-	1*s.* 3*d.*	-	2*s.*
	Lindsay	Covington	-	1*s.* 2*d.*	2*s.* 3*d.*	—
	Leatham	Stonehouse	-	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.*	—
Renfrew	Bryce	Paisley	-	1*s.* 6*d.*	—	—
	Thoms	Kilmalcolm	-	1*s.* 3*d.*	—	
Argyll	Mitchell	-	Cantyre	1*s.*	2*s.*	—
	Taylor	-	Knapdale	1*s.*	1*s.* 6*d.* and food.	—
	Hay	-	I. of Islay	10*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.*	—
	J. Campbell, Esq.	-	I. of Jura	8*d.*	—	—
	Clark	-	Cowall	1*s.*	2*s.*	—
	McDonald	-	Argyll	1*s.*	1*s.* 6*d.*	—
	Poltalloch farm	-	Argyll	10*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.*	—
	McLean	-	I. of Coll	10*d.*	—	—

For men, in most of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, hired by the day the wages are 2*s.* 6*d.*, a little higher sometimes clo Glasgow.

IV.—Employment of Children in Agriculture.

Age at which employed. 32. I went to the Lowland counties prepared to find very little employment of children at any ea age, and in this, in Lanarkshire, at least, I was not disappointed. The great interest taken by the peo in education, and the good wages given, are the principal causes. In Argyllshire, however, the cas far different; in that county I heard on every side complaints that during the six summer months school attendance is diminished one half, the very youngest children being taken away to herd, o assist their parents in the crofts.

No distinction between boys and girls. 33. One rule to be observed is that at this early age no distinction as regards work is made betw boys and girls. If anything the girls begin work earlier, for boys often come back to learn a tra whereas a girl of 12 or 13 can take care of a child, or milk a cow (Rw. 11). The school returns I h appended, however, show that in the county of Lanark, to which I am now about to confine my remar the difference between summer and winter attendance hardly exists. If some few children are tal away at 12 or 13 years of age to work, the number will always be made up by the greater numbe younger children attending in the summer. In harvest time holidays are given, regulated by the ti at which the corn is ripe; in some schools the children bring a handful of ears of corn, and lay th on the master's desk, as a hint that it is time for the holidays to begin. The parochial board usu keeps children at school till they are 14 years of age, and then puts them out at farms; the fac that except in harvest there is very little employment of children, not living in farm-houses. Perha if a labourer lives in a cottage on the farm, his child will still live with him, but it is usual for a farm to take a little boy or girl to live on the farm for the six summer months, to drive out the cows; in so few cases for the whole year. The age at which they are taken for this purpose varies according to poverty and remoteness of the parish; about the neighbourhood of large towns they always stay la at the school, and in most of the large schools, when I wanted to talk to a child who had been out the summer at farm-service, there were but one or two who suited my purpose. A girl at Carst went out to farm-service at 13, to nurse children, and do a little work in the dairy; she went to field in busy times, such as harvest, potato setting, and potato gathering, and liked it better than indoor work, but she had come back to school for the six winter months. Another little girl, a y younger, whose father was a shepherd, kept 50 sheep for him during her holidays (Lk. 43, 44).

Children in farm-houses.

Herding. introduction of wire-fencing has, however, nearly abolished this latter employment; a boy or about 12 years of age used to be taken to keep sheep off a corner, for there being no fences among hills the patch of corn was utterly unprotected (Lk. 68). Even in the hill parishes of Crawford Crawford-john but little of this employment remains, and the school attendance has in consequ materially improved. A little boy or girl is, however, still needed to go out with the cows during six summer months. But Mr. Smith, in his valuable returns from the parish of Douglas, says t not more than 12 boys and half as many girls in the whole parish are so employed, and when Mart mas comes round most return to the school (Lk. 62). The farmer is of course not very particular asking the age of the child, so long as he seems up to his work; but few would take a child youn than 12. When not in charge of cattle the duty is generally to clean the byre, gather stones, scare birds; a girl has to do a little household work, which explains much why so many of the smal farmers prefer a little girl to a boy of the same age.

Day's wages. 34. In the mining districts girls will come out a great deal, but as a rule not very young; some co out at 14, out few. Mr. Allen, of Cambusnethan, employs none under 16 (Lk. 22). In this

U.

er will consult his own interest, for till that age they are not fit for the work required; those loyed so young seldom work for the principal farmers, who like to have them come well ructed in their work. Compared with married women, however, the number of girls employed is ll: at 14 or 15 they generally get into service in the towns which lie so thick. There are very few - earning days' wages in Lanarkshire; in parts of Renfrewshire the case is different; about Paisley e are employed to scare birds, but the birds are few in number, except where there is much pre- ing. Small birds are generally shot, so that this cannot, as in England, be considered as one of principal employments of children. Still where they are so employed, they are usually taken at earlier age than for any other purpose, perhaps at 10 years of age, for their meat and a suit of clothes rst, later on at 6*d.* a day. In this district every farmer has a boy so employed, and here, too, it g a great cropping district, we find nearly every boy past the age of 10 years goes out to do his 's work. This has the same effect in diminishing the winter attendance at school as the croft em in the Highlands, and approaches nearer to the state of things in the western counties of land than any other part of these two counties. In like manner on the home-farm at Ardgowan, e or four little girls, from 12 upwards, find work at 1s. a day, till they go into farm-houses; they the children of labourers living on the farm (Rw. 3), and Mr. Brown, at Bishopton, mentioned at one farm in his neighbourhood 20 or 30 little girls used to come out turnip-singling with other ds, a woman being in charge of them. They were 10 or 12 years old, "but it was too young, hough perhaps it taught them to do the work better when they were older" (Rw. 6). These are ividual cases that are found in every country that is highly farmed, and of course such labour can got cheaper, though most farmers fortunately prefer to employ older hands. On the whole there more employment of young children in Renfrewshire than in Lanarkshire, for it being a manu- turing county as compared with a mining, there is not the same employment for boys, and women required for the factories; so that a boy who in a mining district would earn his 1s. 6*d.* a day at 12 ars of age, has to go into the fields, or has no work at all. In Lanarkshire, women not being uired for mines, and there being fewer factories, they on the other hand are obliged to work in the ds, if they wish to earn money.

Bird-keeping.

35. In Argyllshire children work out at a much earlier age than in the Lowland counties, children of mers and labourers alike; in fact, except about the houses of large proprietors, and in districts such Cantyre, which in their characteristics are almost lowland, the labouring class hardly exists. In apdale children go as young as 8 sometimes, though generally not till 10 years of age, to herd in summer months; girls just as much as boys; principally on the smaller holdings. However small farm there is generally a child required to keep the cows out of the corn, and very often in poor tricts "you will see pretty near a child to each cow." It is a very healthy life (Arg. 64, 76); the great awback, of course, is its interference with education. The children go away in March, and the school seldom at all full again till November. Besides herding, boys and girls are employed from the age of years at haymaking, weeding turnips and potatoes, and lifting potatoes for the farmers; and each mer generally, as in Lanarkshire, takes in a herd for the six summer months. If he has a little y or girl of his own, however, the farmer employs him to herd. A farmer's young family, aged from to 15, are often kept from school to do the light work, when other labour is not handy; a farmer uld rather employ his own children than strangers, so as to save the day's wages. For light work a ild is as good as a woman or man; at 8 or 10 he can learn in a couple of days to use a light hoe. For tato-hoeing it is "just a mixture," that goes out, from 9 years upwards in age; old women and little ys and girls, and the master goes out to see the work properly done (Arg. 22). In Islay, again, little ys and girls would not work for farmers much before 10 or 11; but are kept at home by their parents mind the cow, and assist in working the croft, picking stones or weeding, as soon as they are old ough to do anything of the kind. In the infant school at Port Ellen I saw two little girls, aged 9 and , who had just returned from herding. Mr. Webster, of Daill, employs six or eight girls, aged om 11 to 13, singling turnips, and in harvest; in the island of Colonsay nearly all the girls from e age of 13 go out weeding and hoeing turnips and potatoes, clearing hay-land of stones, and such ght work, while women are very little employed (Arg. 33, 37, 42); in this island they do not work der 11 years of age, and from that age up to 13 or 14 work is done for their parents.

Employment of children in Argyllshire.

Farmers' children employed.

Islay.

36. One of the principal employments for which children are employed is laying out the peats when e parents cut them. This employment a child will be fit for at 8; it is the earliest work in the year for hich they are taken from school; after that comes weeding and hoeing; then September holidays d harvest, then potato-lifting, which is the great wind-up, and that brings the work into the middle November. In the distant islands and Highlands nearly all this work is done for parents and eighbours; and there is a great deal of work, such as cleaning and gathering potatoes, a child of 10 n do as well as an older person (Arg. 17).

Peat cutting, &c.

37. The age at which a boy is taken into a farm varies from 10 to 14; his first work is herding and cart- g; a farmer sometimes takes another farmer's boy in this way, but usually a small crofter's son. They ve generally at the same table as their employers. But on the whole there are few boys in the country, ose who have any education at all generally going away to the low country to get into trades. In nfenced ground a boy is generally preferred, but a girl, when it is fenced, as she is more useful in the ouse. A girl of 13 or 14 often takes day's wages for a year or two after working at home, and before oing into service; but many of them, like the boys, go away south. The population therefore is reatly diminishing (Arg. 17, 55).

Farm service.

V.—Education.

38. A broad line may be drawn between the state of education in the Highlands and that in the Lowlands; main difference, as it seems to me, being attributable to the insufficient means for paying schoolmasters n the Highlands. In Lanarkshire and Renfrew, though the heritors are only bound to support one school, which of itself would be quite insufficient for a large parish, a sufficient number of adventure schools, and schools supported by private individuals or societies, are generally found to supplement it; immense progress in like manner has also been made in the Highlands of late years; but though there are few districts so remote that they are not now within reach of a school, great difficulty is generally experienced in getting together sufficient money to pay the teacher, for the fees are lower, and the people so poor, as not to be able often to pay even the 1*d.* a week.

State of education.

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39. For the most part the labourers take great interest in education, and like their children to kn how to read and write, but even in the Lowlands the married ploughmen are often hard put to it to ke their children at school. Few fail to send them, but they are generally "glad to get them away

Fees in Lowlands,

work as soon as they can write, and read the Bible, and do a little counting." The youngest child often kept at school later than the elder ones; for the parents are better off then than during the fi years of marriage. As in England, the money payment must always be a consideration to the parent even with 15*s.* or 16*s.* a week wages, a payment of 3*d.* a week each for several children, with extras coals in winter, and for books, slates, &c., must sensibly diminish the family earnings. I have append a few of the school bills, kindly furnished to me by a Renfrewshire schoolmaster, to show the sums p by the parents for schooling (Rw., App. II. 2), from which it will appear that the schooling of two gi cost 14*s.* 4*d.* a quarter, or 7*s.* 2*d.* each, out of which 4*s.* each went in fees, and the rest for books, slat ink, coals, &c. At this rate the schooling of each child cost a fraction over 6½*d.* a-week. Anoth schoolmaster from the same county gives as his fees for the youngest children 3*s.* a quarter, rising a branch; thus 3*s.* for reading only; 3*s.* 6*d.* reading and writing; 4*s.* reading, writing, and arithmet After there are three children of one family in the school, he takes younger children for nothing. Lo land fees have spread into Cantyre; they are 2*d.* a week in Cowall, but in the greater part of Argyllshi the usual fees are 1*d.* per week.

in Highlands.

40. The parish schoolmaster on Seil Island attempted, when he first came, to get the lowland fees, 4 but had to reduce them to 2*s.*, a quarter. Many schoolmasters told me that even when their fees are o 1*s.* a quarter they have great difficulty in getting them paid owing to the poverty of the people, w also think that because the schoolmaster is paid, indifferently though it is, by the heritors, it is n necessary for them to pay any fees at all. The teacher at Kilchoan school, in a very poor district, t me that he could not take fees from more than three or four people; sometimes he gets a day's wo from one of them, or perhaps the loan of a horse. The system of payment of fees in kind prevails a great extent in the islands, and in consequence most of the schoolmasters keep a croft; in Tyree t schoolmaster told me that from poor people he generally got a day's potato-lifting, from farmers t loan of a horse for a day's ploughing. When he first came all the fees were paid in kind, two barr of potatoes or a bushel of meal for each child; and at the school at the other end of the island that syste is still carried on. While on this subject, I may mention that the poverty of the schoolmaster oft prevents him from putting the school under Government, owing to the stipulation that he must a schoolmaster and nothing else; for he can make more money by filling the office of inspector of po parish registrar, and other minor posts, which in most poor Highland parishes, and even in ma in Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, we find he usually fills. The highland schoolmaster generally found most able and ready to give me every assistance; very glad to receive a visitor, and deplorin that there were so few people to take an interest in the progress of the pupils. Few of them ha more than 25*l.* to 35*l.* a year, and what they can scrape together by fees, and parish offices; so that is no wonder that all of a superior class have an ambition to go away south.

Regularity.

41. In Lanarkshire I collected some statistics as to the regularity in school attendance of the childr of farm-servants and ploughmen compared with those of miners, tradesmen, and farmers. Compar with the miners' children it will be seen that the boys at any rate are far more regular and stay school till a later age, nearly every miners' boy being taken away directly he has arrived at the age which the law allows him to work under ground. In case of the girls the difference is less conspicuo except in so far that the miners are not so steady a class as the labourers, and care less about educatio The miners and labourers are distinct classes; a labourer's boy seldom goes to a mine, nor does miner's boy take to agriculture. Mr. Fraser, (Dalserf parish,) whose school is very large, and a fa specimen of a mixture of all classes, does not remark any difference in the regularity of farmer tradesmen's, and labourers' children. His two best pupils are the children of a labourer; but general I was told that most regularity was to be found among tradesmen's children, and that the least regul were the farmers' children; for that they would keep them at home to save the wages of a hired bo on the other hand, a farmer's boy stays later at school than a labourer's, often coming back after doi some work to perfect his education. A tradesman's child has, of course, advantages in always being the spot; but the agricultural population take fully as much interest in education as the villag and where there are children growing up uneducated, they are almost always village or tow children.

Age at which children leave school.

42. In the Lowlands few children stay at school later than 12 or 13 years of age. In the large scho at Dalserf there are but six children above 12 years of age, none above 13; and those that rema even so late as 12 or 13 are generally the children of superior persons: either the schoolmaster himse a well-to-do tradesman, or farmer, a game-keeper, or gardener, seldom of an ordinary labour In the Highlands very few children attend school after 10 years of age; those that do so comi almost all of them only for the winter months. Many of those that remain so late take up high branches, but I was much surprised to find how much the learning Euclid and languages is going ou

Higher branches.

A principal reason given was that the Government system gives no encouragement at all to su studies. The parish school at Lesmahagow was one of the best instances I found; the teacher he has eight boys in Latin, and takes an evening class of five girls in French; but he is one of th teachers who finds it better to fill other offices, and not put his school under Government; nor is h school entirely agricultural. In the school at Kilmalcolm (Renfrewshire), a purely agricultural distric there are no less than 12 in Latin, but it is a very elementary class, only one being capable of readin Cæsar. At the school at Mearns, in the same county, two boys are reading Greek grammar. Th

Commercial education.

same master has had "several girls doing mathematics first rate." But what struck me particular in the agricultural schools about Glasgow and Paisley, was that a commercial education seemed to b generally taking the place of the classical. In most Renfrewshire schools there is generally a class learn ing book-keeping, sometimes indeed only for home use, but usually with a view to a commercial caree Mr. Brunton, the teacher at Innerkip, told me that book-keeping is considered the great necessity now he drills up at least 50 or 60 of the children every day to draw out accounts; at Kilmalcolm the teache Mr. McDonald, takes out a class of 13 or 14 into the fields to learn mensuration. But in parts of th Highlands I found classical education valued far more than in the Lowlands, and it was often boaste to me, even by the teachers on the remotest islands, how one or more of their pupils had obtained hig

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urs at the University. This I found to be most the case in Cantyre, where Highland and Low- I may be said to meet. In one purely agricultural school, Southend, I found two boys (aged 17) ning trigonometry, and the 6th book of Euclid, reading Virgil, and in the rudiments of Greek; and is another class of five reading Cæsar. In the Free Church School at Campbelltown there are no than 41 learning Latin and four Greek. I was assured that those of Highland descent stay longer hool, and are fonder of reading at home; but as I went further north I found that though they ainly did care more for reading at home, the desire to earn something at a very early age militated tly against their being kept long at school, except in the case of a well-to-do farmer or shepherd. her branches are seldom taught in side-schools; children generally have to come into the parish ol for the purpose.

Classical education in the Highlands.

3. Irregularity in school attendance in the Highlands comes to being almost a system; barely any above 9 or 10 years of age thinks of coming to school between April and November; during all time all the tuition they receive is from Sunday classes, and in some few cases evening classes; the latter are very rare, both in Highlands and Lowlands, principally owing to the distance to h pupils have to come, and the very small amount of amateur assistance given to the schoolmaster. Highland parents all wish their children to learn; but seem to have a strange idea that learning r easier than it really is, and that four or five months' schooling a year is amply sufficient; conse- tly, although the child is really only at work at intervals from April to November, the parents never t on his going to school during that time. Even when November comes there is great delay: all clothes are worn out, and the child has to get new, or he has no shoes, and so matters drag on till school is really not full again till after Christmas. There are instances, too, in most parishes of dren growing up utterly without education; such as in the Island of Mull, boys and girls of 16 17 at work now who have never been to school; a few children about the port in the Island of . a few crofter families in Islay, and a few families in Knapdale. It is the case with girls rather boys; education is not thought so necessary for a girl (Arg. 29, 77, 85). These are all instances hich schools are within reach; there are few houses now out of reach of a school; some few sters and shepherds in Lorn, where the extent of farms and forests is enormous, and a scattered rict here and there, such as a remote corner of the Island of Islay. (Arg. 26.) Thanks to the gy of various societies and individual enterprise, there are few such regions now. In many such ricts in former days, the farmers and shepherds used to combine to support a lad, who boarded nately with the parents, and received some small stipend; one such remains in the Island of Mull, re the proprietor assists with 5*l.* (Arg. 78). In the upper end of Lanarkshire the same system prevails; at Sweetshaw school a lad boards about by turns with the shepherds, for eight months he year, receiving the current fees and 2*l.* a year from the farmer who employs the shepherds; the ber of scholars is about 12. In like manner in the same parish another tenant, who has a large ily of boys, boards "a sharp lad, of his own choosing," and allows all the shepherds to send their dren on payment of the ordinary fees. The parish schoolmaster remarks on the superiority of the pherds' boys who attend his school (Lk. 4, 5). Of course for so small a stipend it is seldom sible to find a good teacher: it is generally some lad, physically incapable of other work, "just an ect," as one gentleman explained to me. I have appended a letter from Mr. Tweedie, a gentleman ding in these parts, in which he sketches out an admirable plan by which he wishes to put side- ools under pupil-teachers sent from the parish school as a centre (Lk. App. iii. 6).

Irregularity in the Highlands.

Children never going to school.

Schools supported by shepherds.

4. In winter, distance makes a very great difference in the regularity of children attending school; ou cannot expect them to come when the snow is on the ground." But in the Highlands the ances to which some of them come are very great, and the schoolmasters remarked that in general se coming from a distance are as punctual as those living near, naturally enough, as they must be rested in their work to come so far at all. They are generally the children of farm-servants and pherds; but though regular when they are attending school, they do not begin to attend so young he villagers. The schoolmaster at Crawford, in Lanarkshire, told me he had children coming daily miles; in Argyll the teacher at Glenorchy has some coming five miles, and they generally the liest and most regular. To Salen school, in Mull, one child aged 8 walks daily five miles and k, and one of 10 seven miles, and they are just as early as any. These children bring their dinner h them. The farmers often send their children to board in the village, as also do shepherds and n-servants if they have some relation to whose house to send them. This is done sometimes even en a side-school exists nearer, but the parents prefer the better teacher. The teacher at Crawford had eight boarding in the village; when I visited him there were only three,—two children of a pherd and one of a publican. At Salen (Arg. 78) a head-shepherd up in the glens and a farmer ding at some distance sent their children to board at the schoolmaster's. He charged for room and ging and they provided food themselves, sent from home and cooked at the school. This is gene- ly done when the parents wish their children to learn higher branches, which they cannot learn at -schools (Arg. 14, 57, 68).

Distance.

Children boarded in village.

5. Besides peat-cutting and agricultural labour there are various local employments that take away children of particular districts in Argyllshire; of these whelk-gathering is most prominent; it employs very smallest children about the coasts of Mull and the adjacent mainland in the month of March. Children will go at 8 and 9 and 10 to the whelks; can be seen in droves going away with their mothers and older people. Look like gipsies or the like of them, not well dressed; get wet on the shore; they say sea-water is good for them" (Arg. 78). They make sometimes 2*s.* a day at this rk. In like manner little children go out to gather tangle in the Island of Tyree after the great rms, and are out at 9 or 10 years of age in shocking weather. While approving agricultural labour children, Mr. Campbell, the minister of this island, does not approve of such young children being posed at tangle-gathering in the cold (Arg. 81, 83). Again little boys of 8 and 10 years of age are ployed in the Easdale slate quarries, and grow up with little or no education. The quarrymen, ough also Highlanders, are quite a distinct class from the country people, and seldom intermarry, ch class considering itself superior to the other.

Shell-fish.

Tangle.

Quarries at Easdale.

6. Again there are complaints of children being very much indulged and not forced to go to school less they are willing themselves. This is equally the case in the Lowlands; a Renfrewshire hoolmaster told me that very often the parents will be out at work themselves, having told the child

Indulgence.

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to go to school; but as soon as they are out of sight he plays truant. Often, too, the parents i Argyllshire do not wish the child to be well educated, for they know that it is generally the "be scholars" who go off south, and they feel that education is a sure means of depriving them of the

Girls kept away nursing.

child. About girls, too, there is the complaint that we find all over the kingdom; they are kept home on the smallest pretence to take care of a younger child, while their parents are working out, to take dinner to a parent or brother working out in the fields. But on the whole, though they lea school earlier, girls are more regular in their attendance than boys, because boys go more to herd summer than girls, and also to fish, which seems not to be considered a girl's employment (Ar 15, 66).

Compulsory attendance.

47. Almost without exception the intelligent schoolmasters in the Highlands with whom I had th good fortune to converse, expressed a hope that there might be a compulsory clause in the Educatio Bill; they consider it hopeless to attempt teaching under the present system of four months schooli and eight months holiday. But few practical suggestions were offered as to how it might be effected. gentleman at Easdale, with whom I talked on the subject, while remarking that the people a really well enough off to send their children to school, most sensibly suggested that it might easily made a part of the duty of the inspector of poor or some such officer to see that the children attende punctually. The Rev. Arch. Clerk, minister of Kilmallie, writes, "I think the best plan for such " parish as this is to insist on all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age attending scho " throughout the whole year, and that the parents who refused to send them should pay the full scho " fees. The landlord could easily enforce this" (Arg. 63, 70). Some of the teachers remarked th there ought to be a compulsory clause to ensure payment of fees, which in some parishes are almo nil. Even in Renfrewshire, the schoolmaster at Kilmalcolm told me that he had to be careful in askir for his fees, as the people cared so little about education that he feared if he pressed them too muc they would take the child away altogether (Arg. 66; Ren. 11). Mr. Ballingall, the agent f Mr. Morrison's Islay property, described to me the system by which he attempts to secure attendanc at school in that island. He gets the teacher to report to him any children who have been irregul lately, and he comes round to the parents' homes next time he is riding in that direction, and asks wh they do not send their children to school. They are pleased at the interest taken in them, and alway say they will send them next week; but they have had to cut peat, plant potatoes, &c.; however th child does come (Arg. 33). On a property in Mull notice was given last November by the factor th the rent would be raised on any parent neglecting to send his child to school, and attendance has sin improved (Arg. 77). It will be seen, therefore, from the evidence of the above and other gentleme

Regularity in mining schools.

of property, clergymen, and factors, that there is a strong feeling in parts of Argyllshire in favour some system of compulsory education. In the Lowland parts of my district its want is recognise among similar classes, although in a less degree. The Irish children in Lanarkshire, whose paren are generally employed about the great works in that county, for the most part attend the school i connexion with the works under a system almost equivalent to compulsion.

48. The general system practised at the iron works schools in Lanarkshire, is that twopence weekl is stopped off the wages of each man employed, and for that he can send any number of children school. Young men are allowed to attend night-classes; but married and unmarried pay alike the 2 The system seems to work well; but unfortunately it would be difficult to apply such a system to a rur population.

Purchase of books.

49. The following is a summary of the information, which I gathered from some of the schoolmaste visited, on certain points of internal arrangement:—The purchase of books by the parents seems to almost invariably the custom, and as the returns I have appended from Kilmalcolm school (Renfrew shire) show, the value of books needed comes to little less than the fees paid. In Lanarkshire ar Renfrewshire the schoolmaster seldom has any difficulty with the trading or agricultural classe except works on history, the books are cheap, and the only result of that expense is that litt history is taught in the schools. It is very often the custom for the schoolmaster to provide the book himself, charging for them in the quarterly bill, but he generally prefers to say what book is wante and the child buys it in the village. Even the poorest labourer often makes a struggle to get book The teacher at Liberton (Lanarkshire) has never had a book refused, except when it has been in th family before, and it was unnecessary to buy it anew. Of course the books in the higher classes a more expensive, but if a child stays on long enough to learn Latin and higher mathematics, his paren are sure to take an interest in his work, and give the books readily. The case in Argyllshire, whe the people are poorer, is very different, and there is often great difficulty in getting the books. Son even think Bibles unnecessary; they will give a reading book, but grudge geography or arithmeti and geography has to be taught a good deal from the map, arithmetic from the slate. Son schoolmasters are driven occasionally to give the books themselves. Pauper children are of cour provided with books by the parochial board, and at General Assembly schools a book is given by th committee on the minister's certificate that parents cannot afford to pay (Lk., App. III., 39; Rw., 10, 1 Arg. 12, 85).

Work done at home.

50. With regard to young children who require help from the master, all their work is done in school as they grow older more is given them to do at home. At Bishoptown (Renfrewshire), all the arith metic is done at home, and the children are expected to write out two or three lines of each lesso and bring it in the morning as a writing lesson. At Dalserf, the schoolmaster gives out two or thr chapters of history or of the Bible, and expects the children to come next morning ready to b questioned on them. In general the work is well done, especially by the farmers' children. It is n so much the case with the poorer people, says Mr. Montgomery, the teacher at Southend (Argyllshire there is no proper light, and the babies are squalling, besides which the parents do not take prop interest in the work; but a Lanarkshire schoolmaster assured me that it is better not to take su excuses. They can always prepare their lessons on the way, or come to school a little earlier a prepare them there; or even get help from a companion, which is better than not doing it at all (L App. III., 3, 9.; Rw. 12.; Arg. 12).

Modes of encouraging emulation.

51. There are two modes of encouraging emulation in Scotch schools, prizes and "trapping," or tal ing places. "Emulation," said a Campbelltown schoolmaster, "brings out great qualities, and is " epitome of the after-world." Unfortunately, as in the after world, it often creates jealousies to

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regards trapping, the parents seem to like it better than do the teachers; one schoolmaster informed that some of them had come to him and asked him to do it more. It makes a great noise, but at same time it stirs up the children, though they often get disheartened if unsuccessful. The system giving prizes does not seem common. The teacher at Carstairs gives a sort of challenge medal .v to the head of each class, and it is brought back each day to be contended for again. Mr. Fraser, Dalserf, says he has an objection to prizes, because the parents are so jealous. If it is given to one ld, the parents of the others will declare it was so arranged beforehand; even the best class of lesmen and agriculturists will say so. A lady much interested in the school gave dresses as prizes the sewing class, but had to withdraw them on this account (Lk., App. III., 2, 3, 9; Arg. 12, 14).

Rapid mode of testing knowledge.

is same teacher adopts the well-known method of testing the manner in which children have pared their work; he asks a question, and desires all who know the answer to hold up their hands, d then pitches on one of them to answer it. Each teacher has his "tawse" or cane conspicuously played. One schoolmaster said he does not use it much himself, but rather suspects his assistant of ng so. "Young teachers always do."

Mixed schools.

52. It is almost the invariable custom for boys and girls to work together, and though the schoolmasters generally in favour of it, they find it difficult to assign a good reason. It is supposed to encourage ulation, for the boys do not like to be beaten by the girls. Mr. Ross, at Campbelltown, at the end the day will say, "Girls, you beat boys to-day," or vice versâ; but he does not allow trapping long boys and girls after 9 years of age. The boys attempt to assume a superiority over the girls, t as far as acquirements are concerned they have no right. I was interested in inquiring whether re were certain branches of education in which boys are habitually superior to girls, or the reverse, rticularly mathematics. But it was the general answer that no rule could be laid down, and in one hool, where I made the inquiry, the best mathematicians are all girls. Certainly the system of xed schools well carried out ought to exercise a humanising effect on the boys, and teach them od manners. But it is very much to be feared that it has acted rather in the opposite direction. hatever effect it may have had on the girls, it has not softened the boys. Another objection, an jection of detail, is that it clashes much with the Government school system. It is difficult to make e girls keep pace with the boys, when they are taken away for lessons in needlework. There is tle doubt that the great backwardness of industrial schools in Scotland that prevailed till the last w years, was owing to the system of mixed schools, which necessitated girls giving all their time other work (Lk., Ap. III., 2, 3, 9.; Arg. 14). This drawback has led to the establishment of various hools, either by private hands, or the Ladies' School Association, either for girls only, or admitting so little boys. Of the former class are those at Poltalloch and Douglas; the Ladies' association has done great amount of good by spreading schools all over Argyllshire, where except a little knitting dustrial work was almost unknown. I visited two excellent industrial schools in the village of esmahagow (Lanarkshire); the former a model school, supported entirely by subscriptions. The ry youngest child does needlework; at that age the teacher finds it all that a child can do. One ly 4 years of age was sewing. At the latter school, supported by the Free Church, the work done as fully as good, and knitting, shirts, and embroidery were shown to me. There is no regular time r needlework, but each child has always a bit beside her, to which she is expected to turn when not herwise employed (Lk., App. III., 2, 12, 13).

Needlework.

Gaelic.

53. In the greater part of Argyllshire, children when they first come to school are utterly ignorant of nglish, and it is often the custom for the schoolmaster to forbid any conversation in Gaelic at all, if they cannot talk English, must just not talk at all." Of course the difference of language places reat difficulties in the schoolmaster's path; pupils seldom understand English till they are 10 or 11 ears of age, and often understand it for some time before they can speak it, so that when addressed n English they answer in Gaelic. Explanations consequently have to be given to the younger nes in Gaelic; they are very often to be found reading on without understanding a word. The ant of a good cheap Gaelic dictionary is much felt; they have to use Walker's or Johnson's ictionary to explain the word: nor could they always use a Gaelic dictionary if they had one, for they ave only learnt the language by hearing their parents speak it. The system of discouraging Gaelic s practised by the schoolmaster is often unpopular; but their justification is that so many of their upils are ambitious to go south, where those who talk Gaelic are laughed at. Still a great many take reading-class once or twice or three times a week, perhaps on Sunday a lesson in the Bible, with he view, as they say, of enabling them to read the Bible to their parents. Nor are Gaelic schools yet xtinct: there are three in the Island of Mull alone, one in Islay. At these schools the children are sually taught to read in Gaelic, and the advanced classes learn English. Mr. Telford, who teaches he parish school at Kilfinichen (Mull), reads the Bible on Sunday in Gaelic with a class of 10 or 12, nd considers that the more taught in Gaelic the better, until they really understand English. Some eachers know no Gaelic, but that is rare; it is also a disadvantage that the Government Inspec- ors should be ignorant of Gaelic; some of the younger children will not understand a word hey are saying, and consequently they take away a bad impression of the school. I must confess that ny own ignorance of Gaelic hampered me much in my inquiries in Argyllshire. The delight with which the people always received the few words I had contrived to pick up, was a sufficient indication ow little they approve the rapid disappearance of their language.

Gaelic schools.

Comparison of English and Scotch schools.

54. As regards the comparative attainments of children in English and Scotch schools, I failed to find hat immense superiority, which I was led to suppose existed in the latter. The Highland schools are decidedly inferior, but here various causes come in that are comparatively unknown in the Lowlands; for instance, the necessity of teaching children English as a foreign tongue throws them back in their work, and the great distance to which children have to come to school necessitates their beginning school at a later age than in England. It is to be remarked that in Scotland it is the rule for children to begin coming to school later than in England, that infant schools are almost unknown, and that all children have to begin work in the same school; in few cases do they begin younger than 6; in England children are sent to school as to a nursery at 3 and 4 years of age. Again in Scotch schools I found it quite the exception for a child to remain till past 12 years of age, and that almost all those who did so were children of ministers, farmers, or perhaps the schoolmaster himself. The Scotch parish-school takes the place of a middle-class school, in some towns almost of a

U. grammar-school, and it will generally be found that the children who stay past 12 years of age, are those that would be above going to a village-school in England at all. It was a fact remarked by several schoolmasters in Lanarkshire, that the number of children who stay past 12 years of age is diminishing rapidly: some confessed that owing to the present Government system it was their interest only to assemble as many pupils as possible, and not advance them beyond the mere necessities of a Government examination.

VI.—Cottages.

Lowland cottages described.

55. The circumstance that strikes an Englishman most forcibly on this question is that he never hears in Scotland any question of building cottages with three bedrooms, in fact, there are few with two bedrooms, and it is a very common thing to find cottages of only a single room even in the Lowlands. It is also a rare thing to find a labourer's cottage two storeys high. It is a universally acknowledged fact that to build large cottages does not pay the landlord, and at the same time that the people do not care about them. The largest cottages I saw, Sir E. Colebrooke's, two storeys high, and containing two bedrooms, had one of the upstair-rooms turned into a carpenter's shop. They generally turn an extra room into a storeroom, or take in a lodger. The climate must account in a great measure for this indifference to space; they cannot keep up above one or two fires, and fires in Scotland are of course a necessity. The cottages are almost stifling, the windows seldom unfasten, and the kitchen seldom gives on to the open air, it being considered always necessary to build a small vestibule for the sake of warmth, and this naturally impedes the circulation of fresh air. What air there is, is only the draught between these doors and the chimney. The ordinary type of cottage about Biggar consists of a kitchen, containing a couple of box-beds, or perhaps three, one for the parents, one for the boys, and one for the girls, and a vestibule and pantry or store-room. The new cottages, however, have generally a bedroom. There is often a loft in the roof over the kitchen, ascended by a ladder from the pantry, and if there are one or two boys at home, a bed will be put up for them there, but there is no light except what comes from the pantry (Lk. 28). It sounds at first as if the overcrowding must be dreadful, but it is to be borne in mind that few children stay at home after 12 years of age.

Number of cottages.

56. The number of cottages also is very scanty, but much on the increase; when a new lease is given a cottage is very often put up, as the farmers are beginning much to prefer married men to single. The usual custom is for the landlord to put up the cottage and for the tenant to pay four or five per cent. on it. I did not come across any case of public money being applied for to build cottages: the universal answer in the Highlands was, that the conditions made it impossible for landlords to borrow such money at any advantage to themselves.

Expense.

57. Cottage building is extremely expensive, mainly owing to the heavy wages earned by masons, 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* a day. I was much surprised at being told by some proprietors and agents what very indifferent-looking single-storeyed cottages had cost. A pair of cottages of Lord Home's, each consisting of two rooms, a bedroom and kitchen, 16 feet by 12, and a small vestibule and pantry, cost 180*l.*; the material was all bought. Mr. Smith, the factor, considers it better to sell his own stone and timber and buy what is necessary for the estate. A cottage built for Mr. Tweedie by his landlord Sir E. Colebrooke, on much the same plan and much the same in size cost 90*l.* A pair of cottages of a large size built on the Duke of Argyll's estate in Cantyre, cost 180*l.*; each being on one floor, but containing two bedrooms, and all the rooms are large and high, and there is a byre for the cow and a privy at the back, all under one roof. They are roofed with felt, which has anything but a picturesque effect, making them rather resemble bathing-machines, but the saving seems to be great; for I was assured that such a pair slate-roofed would have cost 250*l.* Detractors said felt roofs would not last, but Mr. Stewart considers them sufficiently durable as long as they are tarred afresh when necessary. These cottages are let for 5*l.* each annually which barely pays the interest (Lk., 63, 69; Arg., 16).

Want of outhouses and gardens.

58. Few cottages have any outhouses, privies having been generally thought quite unnecessary, and if a pig is kept, a bit of a place is generally put up for him by the tenant. The gardens are very small and the Scotchman never takes a proper interest in giving a picturesque appearance or planting creepers over the house; allotments also are very rare. As the Lanarkshire farms are enlarged the old farmhouses that fall in are often cut up to make cottages. But in Lanarkshire a cottage is considered so minor a consideration, that it frequently happened that a farmer in detailing his wages would not mention the gift of a "free cottage," until I asked him what rent he charged. Farm-servants almost always hold of the farmer, not of the landlord. Sometimes I came across instances of a tenant having to take with his farm more cottages than he required, and this was generally considered an advantage in rural districts, as he could let one of them to an occasional labourer or widow who would come out and work if wanted, in some cases paying the rent for the cottage in field-work. A Renfrewshire farmer calculated that 60 days of a woman's work pays her cottage rent (Rw. 7). Mr. Campbell, of Jura, in like manner lets his cottage for 20 days' work in harvest. There was never any question of any one building cottages and consenting to be out of pocket thereby.

Argyllshire labourers' cottages.

59. The same remarks will apply to a great extent to the cottages built for labourers in the Lowland parts of Argyllshire; the expense is about the same, the labour being cheaper than in Lanarkshire, but the carriage of course more difficult. I was shown on the Ardpatrick estate a few cottages which though in England they would be considered ridiculously small, are considered in this country as amply sufficing for the wants of a labourer's family. The entrance is by a vestibule in the centre, from which a door opens out right and left, the room to the left being the kitchen floored with red tiles, that to the right a bedroom with wooden floor; from the kitchen another door opens into a scullery at the back, and thence a back-door leads out. This cottage cost 60*l.*; it was roofed, however, with bracken; tiles would have cost 20*l.* more (Arg. 26). In this cottage the ceiling is of wood; but the more ordinary custom is not to ceil the rooms, and the tenant in that case generally puts up rough wooden rafters with paper or cloth or nothing in the interstices, and stacks his peat in the loft overhead for warmth. Cottage-building is making considerable progress in Argyllshire both in numbers and quality. I was surprised at finding a superiority in this county over the Lowland counties I visited; in all cases, however, they are built on one floor, which seems the recognised system.

60. The cottages of the crofters all along the Argyllshire seaboard are most wretched; many consist of a mere cabin of turf or stone, containing only one room; generally, however, divided into two by the

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Crofters' cottages.

l. of the box-beds, that seem a necessity everywhere. Two of these placed across the cottage end nd make a very fair partition. They can generally be closed with shutters themselves, and con- ently, when, as is sometimes the case, men and women sleep in the same room, each sex can get le its own box to dress and undress there. In some cases the overcrowding is very great, 8 or 10 ple sleeping in one room, but the rapid depopulation of the county is tending rapidly to diminish evil; many of the sons and daughters too, as they come to 14 or 15 years of age, go south, or get k on farms, and the overcrowding exists only in extreme cases of great poverty or carelessness. The ple who live in these cottages are usually the small crofters, who farm perhaps their 12 to 20 acres of bad d. There are still left in Islay some of the old farm-houses, in ch the family and the cows enter by the same door, a fertile source fever I was assured by a medical man in Mull. They will, rever, tell you, as a grim joke, the children cannot sleep without ring the cows chewing the cud. Farmers with four or five cows thus, but happily such hovels are rapidly disappearing (Arg. 27, 29, 55a.)

Fire-place.

1. It is astonishing how the Highlanders cling to their old system of cottage-building. It seemed to that the picturesque appearance it gave to the cottage was the only advantage of having the fire-place he middle of the room; on the mainland this is becoming uncommon now, but in the islands the place is often to be found if not in the centre at least at one side of the room, but open, and the smoke aping through a hole in the roof. One luxurious hovel that I entered had two such chimneys, one each end, and the position of the fire-place was moved according as the wind happened to blow. To ove the fire-place was easy, it only consisted of a few clods of peat, and a big pot hung from three ights. Of course the argument in favour of the system is that in a cold country none of the heat ost; a large family can crowd round, whereas a modern fireplace has but one side. To a visitor the ct of a house full of smoke is naturally very unpleasant, and he wonders how the people can live in but they all say that peat-smoke is wholesome. One proprietor in Knapdale offered a tenant to him up a regular chimney, but he declined, saying that his fire never smoked, and he feared a mney would (Arg. 21, 38).

Turf cottages.

2. The district which enjoys the greatest celebrity for the poorness of its cottages is that between mouth of the Caledonian canal and the river Lochy, between Banavie and Fort William, a part that ets the eye of every tourist or traveller passing northward to Inverness. Here are clustered some to 30 wretched cots, each with its little patch of land, the house built entirely of turf and thatched, l with the smoke only coming from a hole in the roof. Other similar cottages I saw, but they are ommon, one in Islay, for instance; but it is rare not to find the walls built of stone; turf must be often mer however, for many of the houses are merely constructed of rough stone, not plastered, and the comes through the interstices. The surroundings of these cots add to their wretched appearance; dung heap and peat-stack close at hand, the pig or cow at the house-door, wet mud always there, attempt at neatness, and no garden save a patch of potatoes. The worst cottages are of course nerally those in possession of paupers, which the landlord gives rent-free. A landlord who has a ge population of crofters on his estate is placed in rather an awkward position; the houses are so nerous it is impossible for him to keep them up, and the people rather prefer to live in their present uses to submitting to modern improvements. Often has the knot been cut by summary ejections.

Colonsay.

3. Amidst all this wretchedness it is not an uncommon thing to come to some island or district where energy of some proprietor, if it has not been able to make the people richer than their neighbours, at any rate succeeded in giving an appearance of neatness and prosperity. Such is to be found in model farm and the model cottages of the Island of Colonsay, which bears the appearance of a well- naged Lowland estate set down in the Atlantic; such, too, in the little street in which lodge the employés the home farm in the Island of Jura, and in the quaint cottages of Tyree, a low sandy island, with a ming population, outlying far beyond Mull. In this last island the cottages bear the appearance of ystacks erected on the top of rocks with the view of being out of the wet. They are built with very

Tyree.

ck double stone walls, the gap of several feet between being filled in with sand. The whole wall is, refore, six to eight feet thick, and through it the windows, which are larger than in most Highland cot- es, peer as through embrasures. They are seldom plastered outside; but the better cottages are plas- ed inside. The roof rests on the inner wall; it is of thatch, and held down by stones at intervals; but now and then blown off. The sand makes the walls perfectly air-tight, and the cottage is warm and g, though the appearance is very rough and untidy; the rain runs off the roof into the sand, and kes it; but too often percolates into the house. The top of the wall is generally covered with thick ass, and makes a capital place for the poultry, which abound in this island. One of these cottages uld be 30 feet long inside, and consist of two rooms, parted by a vestibule and closet. They are nerally open to the roof, the partition only rising to a level with the top of the outside wall, which some cases is not more than 5 feet high, in others 8 or 9. Sometimes there is a loft in the roof. e general cleanly appearance is much aided by the native cleanliness of the island, the soil being a e white sand. I was told that such cottages exist also in Iona; but did not come across any. I lieve there are none in any of the other islands; here their existence is due to the sandy soil on ich they are constructed providing an abundance of the necessary material.

4. In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and acknowledgments to the many formants of every grade, who so kindly assisted me in my inquiries.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

2nd January 1871. ROBERT F. BOYLE.

REPORT by Mr. C. W. CAMPION on the Counties of INVERNESS ROSS, SUTHERLAND, and CAITHNESS.

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To HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

V. 1. I HAVE now the honour of submitting to you my Report upon the questions connected wi agricultural employment, which I was instructed to investigate in the counties of Inverness, Ros Sutherland, and Caithness.

General aspect of districts. 2. The district embraced by these four counties, although of great extent, contains a populatio which bears a very small proportion numerically to the area over which it is scattered, and this pop lation is mainly located upon the coasts of the Atlantic and German oceans, occasionally diverg from thence into the interior of the country where some strath or glen offers a soil sufficiently fert to repay the labour of cultivation.

3. From the south-eastern point of Inverness-shire to the headlands of the Ord which separate t counties of Sutherland and Caithness, the sea, receding from the mountain ranges, has left behind it rich tract of alluvial soil admirably adapted for the growth of cereals and possessing the additio advantage of a mild and equable climate. The land in the plain is chiefly occupied by large farme holding from 200 to 600 acres, but the slopes of the hill sides are cultivated by the crofters or sm tenants, who being usually employed to break up the peat and moss into fresh arable ground, repr sent as it were the outer circle of civilization in its progress towards the poorer soil of the risi highlands.

4. Crofters are also interspersed more or less with the larger holdings upon the plain, and assist the cultivation of the farms, devoting all their energies to agricultural pursuits, and leaving t fishing to the regular fishing population which is congregated in hamlets along the coast.

5. To the north of Golspie the hills approach more closely to the seaboard, and the belt of arab land narrows till it is eventually entirely blocked out by the cliffs of the Ord, beyond which t mountains, again receding from the shore, leave a considerable area of flat undulating table la available for agricultural purposes, and especially suitable for the growth of root crops.

6. The interior of this district, which corresponds with the county of Caithness, is cultivated pri cipally by large occupiers, while the coast line is fringed with the cottages of crofters, who derive portion of their subsistence from the soil, but rely principally upon the herring fishery, a source livelihood both precarious and demoralizing.

7. The remainder of the district over which I prosecuted my investigations is covered by t mountains of the North-Western Highlands, and in the case at least of Ross-shire and Sutherland-shi offers hardly any field for enquiry in the interior of the country, which is abandoned either to sheep deer, and tenanted by scarcely any inhabitants except a few game-keepers and shepherds; but alo

the western coast, there exists at intervals a considerable population distributed in hamlets of different size, and earning, partly from the sea and partly from the land, a scanty and difficult subsistence. Some of the inland portions of Inverness-shire also contain a Highland population, which is collected in a few places upon either side of the Caledonian Canal, and exists in greater numbers in Strath-Spey.

Method of procedure.

8. Such being the general aspect of the country, I deemed it advisable to adopt a plan of procedure somewhat dissimilar to that which your Commissioners have usually acted upon, and instead of narrowing the circle of my inquiries to a small district selected as typical of the remainder, to extend it over as wide an area as possible, so as to note the peculiarities which must exist in different localities under so many varying conditions of soil, climate, and position. With this view I collected evidence throughout the arable country on the eastern coast and in as many districts of the North-Western Highlands as appeared to me to demand special attention, and having, while thus engaged, travelled nearly 1,000 miles by road, exclusive of railway journeys, I trust that I am in a position to supply sufficient data for information from all the localities to which my inquiry applied.

Division of subject.

9. I have also considered it advisable to discard the arbitrary division of counties, and to arrange my subject in those three divisions into which it seemed most naturally to fall. In the first division I have placed the belt of arable land which, varying in breadth from twenty miles to a few hundred yards, stretches nevertheless in an uninterrupted line along the east coast of Scotland, from Fort George to Helmsdale. The second division contains the county of Caithness, and in the third I have included the whole of the North-Western Highlands. The observations which I propose to offer to your notice with respect to the condition of the agricultural classes in these three districts I will classify in each case as far as possible under three heads, comprising under the head of "Habitations" some remarks as to the degree in which the labour market is affected by the nature and distribution of cottage accommodation, an account of the various methods of boarding farm servants, and a personal experience of the condition of cottages both among labourers and crofters, under the head of "Labour" statements upon the nature of employment and the rate and adequacy of wages, and lastly, under the head of "Education," I will endeavour to show how far the inclination and ability of the parent to provide schooling for his child is influenced by considerations arising under the two previous heads, and I will also state what difficulties, if any, appear to me to be interposed either by natural or artificial causes between the child and the school, the means of education and its end. And with reference to this last head I may here remark that I have found it necessary to neglect a portion of your instructions, and to confine my attention, as far as education is concerned, to the causes which promote or retard the attendance of children at school, and the influence which the knowledge there acquired by them exercises upon their after life, without attempting to prosecute any close inquiry into the internal arrangements and efficiency of the schools themselves, a matter which, I may observe, has already formed the subject of a long and careful report by the Education Commissioners. Incidentally indeed the evidence which I have collected contains occasional statements with regard to the adequacy of school accommodation, but these statements are only collateral to that which I cannot but regard as the main issue of the inquiry, namely, assuming the existence of a school with a good teacher and in a convenient situation, what is there to interfere with the regular attendance of the children?

Object of inquiry.

Crofting character of population.

10. Before I conclude these few preliminary remarks, I wish to draw your attention to the peculiar character of the great bulk of the labouring agricultural class in the district over which my inquiry extended. On the arable farms on the east coast there are of course farm servants paid and lodged upon a system in many respects analogous to that which prevails further south, but in the Highlands of the north and west it is rare to find an arable farm large enough to furnish employment for regularly engaged servants, who therefore cannot be said to have any existence there as a class, and the land is cultivated by crofters holding usually from two to six acres of their own, and also earning something by occasional job work in the neighbourhood. These crofters exist also more or less numerously all over the east coast, and inasmuch as in a great part of that district, and notably in Caithness, the farm servants are as a rule unmarried men boarded in bothies, it follows that all those questions in this inquiry which relate to the education of children, must be regarded chiefly with reference to the crofter class to the exclusion of the class of regular farm servants. And this brings us, as it appears to me, face to face with a serious difficulty upon the very threshold of the inquiry.

11. In applying a method of indirect compulsion upon the principle of the Factory Acts, I apprehend that the labourer who by the action of the law is thus deprived of the wages earned by his children in agricultural employment, will not in the long run be a loser, for should such a loss seriously cripple his resources, he may look to be ultimately compensated by an equivalent rise in the rate of his own wages. In this way the loss would fall upon the employer instead of upon the labourer, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the employer himself may expect an eventual recompense for such loss in the increased skill of the labour which he will have it in his power to apply to the cultivation of the soil, an advantage which is likely to become more and more appreciable now that the operations of merely manual labour are continually superseded by the applications of mechanical science. No injustice is, therefore, done to the labourer, whom I have assumed to be, as in fact he often is, only just able to support his family under present circumstances, so that any loss of income would incapacitate him from paying his way at all.

12. But the case of the crofter is widely different; depending for his livelihood mainly upon the crops grown and cultivated by himself on his own croft, and, in districts along the coast upon the proceeds of the herring-fishery, his wages as a labourer working for hire are too irregular and desultory to be influenced by any general law affecting the price of labour. He would, therefore, lose the immediate profit of his children's earnings, without the prospect of indirectly, or at any future time, obtaining any kind of recompense for his loss, and this blow, under all circumstances a grievous one, would, in the greater part of the Highlands fall upon a population already so indigent that they are barely able to support the struggle of existence.

13. The crofting character of the agricultural population, and the manner in which children are employed in assisting their parents upon the crofts at certain seasons of the year, also opposes another

V. difficulty to the application of any indirect system of compulsory education, which I will reserve for subsequent remark, proceeding now to the discussion of my subject in the order which I have already indicated.

DISTRICT BETWEEN FORT GEORGE AND HELMSDALE.

Habitations.

Distribution of crofts.

14. I believe that I am right in assuming that the large arable farms which now cover the greater part of this district were originally distributed in small holdings amongst crofters, and that these small holdings were gradually thrown together, the process of amalgamation naturally commencing with the superior land, so that wherever inferior soil exists it is still usual to find a considerable number of small tenants in the occupation of the land.

The reclamation of fresh land is also conducted, to the extent probably of more than one half of the entire amount reclaimed, by crofters (Evid. 3), who often hold under leases of 19 years in the purely Lowland district, but are more often yearly tenants upon the outskirts of the hills.

15. Where the crofts have been absorbed in the large holdings, the dwellings of the former tenants often remain and stand in the way of the erection of cottages more conveniently situated for the cultivation of the land.

Landlords are naturally reluctant to cumber their property with fresh buildings when so many already exist, and they are also deterred by the fear of raising the poor-rates (Evid. 4), so that instances may be found of the existence of a number of old cottages furnishing no labour whatever for agricultural purposes, in the midst of a parish where the scarcity of cottage accommodation is a theme of complaint, and the Bothy system is not unknown (Evid. 8, 11, 12).

16. The holdings of crofters range in size from two acres upwards to an extent which may be more properly denominated a small farm, but the crofter proper usually holds from two to ten acres. This is obviously inadequate for the maintenance of a family, and he accordingly is in the habit of eking out the subsistence derived from his croft by the wages obtained for job-labour upon the arable farms.

In the country between Inverness and Dingwall, and especially upon the estate of Lord Lovat, an attempt has been made, not unsuccessfully, to adjust the size of the crofts in proportion to the demand for labour in different situations, by placing the smaller holdings in the neighbourhood of large farms, a position of mutual advantage to the farmer and the crofter, and making the holdings which lie more remote, of a size adequate to afford an independent subsistence for the tenant and his family (Evid. 1, 13).

Inherent evils of the crofting system.

17. I have no doubt that this system is admirably adapted to the circumstances of the country, but there are disadvantages inherent in the small-crofting system, which appear to me to present a continual obstacle to the improvement of the labouring classes. These disadvantages arise from the fact that the crofter is at the same time a farmer on his account and a labourer for hire, getting enough out of his land to give him a sense of independence, and in many cases never accepting extra work till the privations of poverty actually compel him, so that the country is periodically flooded with a supply of desultory labour, while at other times the scarcity of regular hands is a matter of positive grievance.

It is no doubt true that the crofters supply much necessary extra labour to the large farmers, but they cannot be depended upon for regular employment, and it is also to be remembered that the very time at which they are most essential to the farmer, is also the time at which their labour is most required at home to lay down and garner the crops upon their own crofts (Evid. 54). Indeed, in the relations which subsist between crofters and large farmers, there is always, excepting under the most favourable circumstances, an element of uncertainty on both sides, which too often neutralizes the effect of the reciprocal advantages which should otherwise flow from the system. Thus it is impossible for crofters to count upon regular employment, unless they live in the immediate neighbourhood of large arable farms, demanding at particular seasons the services of a great many extra workers. But it is precisely in such a neighbourhood that crofts are the least numerous, for they have been amalgamated in the large holdings as previously described, and their tenants have retired to settle down in a less fertile district where there is a proportionately smaller demand for their labour, and where their sons and daughters upon growing up are compelled to emigrate or leave their homes in search of employment. I have inserted a reservation for "unusually favourable circumstances," because it occasionally occurs that a moor or hill-side in the immediate vicinity of the rich soil of the plain may offer a convenient situation for crofts, but this is a combination of infrequent occurrence. On the other hand, the employer has, in addition to the reasons specified above, further cause for uncertainty in the restless character of the young men and women, who sometimes leave their homes in such numbers as almost to depopulate the district of labourers (Evid. 61). This state of things is unsatisfactory for the crofters themselves, and at the same time it reacts unfavourably upon the condition of the regular farm servants.

18. The complaints of the scarcity of cottage accommodation are very general in the evidence which I have collected between Inverness and Helmsdale, with the exception of that taken in Easter Ross (Evid. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 50). In the neighbourhood of Inverness, the Bothy is a common institution, and is the ordinary method of boarding unmarried farm servants, a class, speaking of whom, the Rev. Mr. Fraser, of Petty, says,—"It is still very difficult for a young labourer who wishes to marry to "get a cottage where he can settle, and there is generally great want of cottages upon the farms" (Evid. 4, 5, 6, 7). Corroboration of this statement may be found in complaints of the difficulty of obtaining female labour, a difficulty which seems to increase although the demand for it has diminished materially with the introduction of reaping machines, and one witness speaks of having introduced in consequence upon his own farm a plan analogous to that which is known in the north of England as the "bondage" system (Evid. 5, 7).

The Bothy system.

19. The Bothy system exists in the district which I am now speaking of, only in what I may call its "single" form, *i.e.* for single men and women separately and not conjointly, and there are no instances that I have been able to discover of that amalgamation of the sexes under one roof which is

so common a practice in Caithness. It is usual during the harvest to board the extra female workers, drawn principally from the Highlands, in outhouses and empty cottages which are sometimes termed "Bothies" (Evid. 5, 6, 27, 42): and female bothies for regular field workers are also occasionally found (Evid. 4, 11, 19), but I have only met with one instance of a male and female Bothy co-existing upon the same farm, and in that case the male Bothy only contained one occupant and was not under the same roof as the female Bothy. V.

20. In the country between Tain and the Moray Frith, commonly known as "Easter Ross," the land is cultivated principally by married men, and Bothies are rare, indeed I could only hear of two, and one of those was under sentence of death.

The necessity for the Bothy or some analogous system of boarding farm servants is superseded here by the number of cottages, which if often poor in quality, are at least hardly ever deficient in quantity. Some of these cottages are held by crofters, but more are occupied by a "cottar" class, *i.e.*, they have no land attached to them, and the tenants depend for a subsistence entirely upon the proceeds of job-labour, for which there is an abundant demand in the neighbourhood (Evid. 3).

I may mention that among the better class of farmers, I have generally found an aversion to the Bothy, even those who have one professing to accept it as a necessary evil in default of cottage accommodation for their ploughmen. Thus, one witness says that "no farmer in the country would have a Bothy unless the proprietor refused to give him sufficient cottage accommodation (Evid. 44); and another that "farmers would prefer upon the whole to employ married men if they could (Evid. 6). I have also been assured by employers who have tried the experiment of a Bothy and given it up as a failure, that it did not answer, that the men would not stay for any time in the same place, were careless with their work, and in the habit of wandering at night (Evid. 26, 60).

22. Proceeding further north, the Bothy system makes its appearance more frequently in the arable district on the East coast of Sutherland. I visited three Bothies in this district, and from my experience of them and also from the information which I collected from different witnesses, I am inclined to think that the system may be here seen in its best phase and under the most favourable circumstances which it admits of.

They contained a comfortable sitting-room in which the men took their meals, the cooking being done by a woman known as the "Bothy woman," who usually occupies a room of her own in the Bothy (Evid. 54), and bed-rooms above, the beds partitioned off so as to form a separate apartment for each man. The sitting-room was in every case well-floored and provided with a good table, and chairs, or benches, and in one instance I observed newspapers and a large slate over the chimney-piece used, as the farmer informed me, for instructing the men in the evenings. The grieve or bailiff was charged with the supervision of the men, and the foreman sometimes made responsible for the observance of a rule compelling all to be in doors by 10 o'clock at night (Evid. 54).

23. Thus carried out, the system contains nothing which tends directly to deprave or demoralize, and if its influence is for evil, that circumstance must be traced to some radical vice inherent in the system itself. Upon this point, the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Free Church Minister at Golspie, says,—"I have very little to complain of the bothy system as it prevails here. It is upon the whole very "well managed, and I do not know that it has a bad effect upon morals;" but he goes on to say,—"I "am only speaking of the phase of the system here; generally I should condemn it strongly. It is "an iniquitous system" (Evid. 47).

The Rev. Mr. Kennedy, Dornoch, says,—"I consider that the system works badly in a moral point of view" (Evid. 50).

For my part I cannot help thinking that, although in the Bothies which I inspected in this district everything had been done which could be done for the comfort and improvement of the men, the system is an intrinsically bad one, and that it would be for the true interest both of employers and employed to replace it by what I may term the "married" system, and I do not doubt that in the majority of cases farmers would be both willing and anxious to effect this change; but the bothy system is kept alive, as I believe, to a great extent by another evil which I have previously alluded to, namely, the small crofting system. The crofters upon the East coast of Sutherland are as a rule not a well-off class, especially those between Golspie and Helmsdale. These last are the descendants of the Highlanders who were expelled from the interior of the country at the time of the "Sutherland clearances," and dependent for a livelihood partly upon the produce of their small holdings, partly upon the herring fishery, and partly upon work supplied to them by the generosity of the proprietor, they live a life of constant struggle and difficulty. On the other hand the Bothy lads are remarkably well off, getting from 20*l.* to 24*l.* by the year a piece, besides allowances of meal, milk, and potatoes, fuel, bedding, a woman to wait on them, and a comfortable house to lodge them (Evid. 49, 54).

Yet I find that in spite of these advantages on the side of the Bothy, whenever a lot of croft falls vacant there is great competition for it (Evid. 50). The reason is plain; to obtain a croft is the only opportunity open to a young man who wants to marry of finding a cottage to settle in with his wife, and he prefers to run the chance of hardship and privation in a home of his own to continuing a life of comparative luxury in a Bothy. In this way the Bothy system may be said to perpetuate the small crofting system, and I have already remarked upon the obstacles which the latter presents to the erection of good cottages for farm servants, the only means of doing away with the Bothy, so that these two systems, though apparently so distinct, are in reality closely connected, and mutually tend to foster and maintain each other.

24. The practice of boarding farm servants in the kitchen, although not unknown, is not sufficiently frequent to call for any remark. From its nature this system could hardly be applied to a large farm cultivated by many unmarried men, and accordingly in such cases recourse is usually had to the Bothy in default of any better means of accommodation (Evid. 4, 5, 17, 19). The kitchen system.

25. I have already noticed the general complaints of the scarcity of cottage accommodation in a great part of this district, and upon this head I will refer to a letter from Mr. Macleod, of Cadboll, pointing out the difficulty which proprietors have in availing themselves of the Act 27 and 28 Vict. c. 114 (Evid. 20). He says among other things,—"In most cases the ideas of the Enclosure Commissioners are "far too extravagant. In these parts we do not require grand buildings and cottages containing cubical Cottages.

V. " contents to satisfy a Lunacy Commissioner; we want good buildings suitable to our system of agri
" culture, and comfortable houses suitable to the habits of the people and district."

26. It has been frequently urged upon my attention that the habits of the Scotch cottager are such as to necessitate, for the purposes of decency, fewer partitions into rooms than are requisite in the South of England. Almost invariably he uses his kitchen as a bedroom, an economy of warmth highly desirable in the extreme cold of a northern winter, so that with two more rooms the division of the sexes, and of parents from children, is complete. A dwelling of this description comprising two rooms and a closet is the ordinary type of new cottage now in process of erection by proprietors, and where the closet is of a fair size, contains a window and is well ventilated, it appears to me a reasonable and adequate concession to the demands of the labourer. At any rate it represents a very decided improvement upon the tumble-down building which it supersedes, and which in too many cases contains only two small rooms, unfloored, ill-lighted, and apparently scarcely fit for human habitation. I have met with specimens of this kind in Easter Ross, but it is fair to state that they are rapidly disappearing and that proprietors are making every effort to eradicate so serious a blot from their social system. Mr. Kenneth Murray, of Geanies, says:—" With regard to cottage accommodation, it may be laid down
" as the rule that few farmers are as well supplied as they ought to be. But within the last fifteen
" years there has been great improvement in this respect. Although the buildings are mostly thatched
" with straw, they are, generally speaking, comfortable; and whenever the wife is of a tidy disposition
" they are kept wonderfully clean and wholesome. . . . . I should say that quite three-fourths
" of all existing cottages have been built or thoroughly repaired and altered quite recently, and I have
" as little doubt that their improvement will go steadily on" (Evid. 3). Other witnesses also speak of the material improvement which has recently taken place in the condition of the cottages (Evid. 40, 41, 50), but it is clear to me both from personal observation and from the statements of witnesses that much remains to be done (Evid. 45).

27. Besides the old cottages which I have mentioned as so bad, there are, both in Easter Ross and the district between it and Inverness, many cottages of a later date which appeared to me very unsatisfactory in consequence of the very insufficient accommodation which they contain for a family, namely, only two rooms, or even, in some cases, only one room and a closet. In some which I visited of this description attached to a farm-steading, the rooms were all remarkably neat and well-kept, and as the occupants were all newly-married men there was no present crowding, but if they are destined to become the parents of large families their position will at some future time become a very uncomfortable one. In another case I found two cottages, also forming part of the farm-steading, consisting respectively of one good-sized room and a small dark closet borrowing all its light from the outer room; each of these cottages was tenanted by a family of four exclusive of the parents. In a third case, upon a farm where none of the cottages contained more than two rooms, there were some placed one above another in a two-storied building, with an outside staircase communicating to the upper story. I have selected these instances at random, and they may be taken as fair specimens of a description of cottage very common throughout this district.

28. At Ardross, Mr. Matheson, M.P. has built some new cottages of a superior kind, and the pains which have been bestowed by the occupants upon the order, and even decoration of their rooms, show the excellent effect which may be produced by improved dwellings upon the habits of the people. Even these cottages however only contain two rooms and a closet, the quota which general opinion seems to pronounce sufficient. Some capital cottages have also been recently erected in the parish of Fodderty, upon the estate of the Duchess of Sutherland, but both this and the previous instance are so exceptional that it would be highly erroneous to deduce from them any idea of the general state of things in this district.

29. I have no doubt that the deficient cottage accommodation has some influence in driving young persons out of the country to look for other employment, and thereby creates occasionally a scarcity of hands upon the arable farm (Evid. 5). On this question the Rev. Mr. Campbell, minister of Tarbat says, "The boys leave their homes to go to sea, emigrate, and for other lines of life, in the same way
" as the girls, and do not generally take to agricultural labour. I have no doubt that if the cottages
" were better, a great many of them would stay at home to labour on the farms" (Evid. 45).

With reference to the influence of overcrowding upon morality, I am not in a position to state that any evil effects are directly produced. The proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births is certainly low one both in Inverness-shire and Ross-shire, being about 5 per cent. Such crowding, however, as must sometimes occur in a two-roomed cottage cannot be entirely without pernicious results, and this is the opinion often expressed to me by ministers. The Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Fearn, says, "I think
" that the insufficient accommodation in the cottages, and the crowding together of large families, in
" two rooms must have an injurious effect upon the morals of the people; but at the same time
" know of no instance of actual immorality, for generally our people are exceedingly moral" (Evid. 40).

If we consider the condition of their dwellings in a large proportion of cases, and remember also that where improvement has taken place it has been of a very recent date, it must be admitted that such a statement reflects great credit upon the character of the people.

Labour.

Wages of labour.

30. The conditions of agricultural employment in this district are not, upon the whole, unfavourable to the labourer. Ploughmen are hired by the year or half year and paid partly in money and partly in kind, a mixed method which, I am informed, is found to work well in the majority of cases (Evid. 3).

The allowances which they receive in kind are summed up in the expression "cost," so that a ploughman is said to be given so much money "and cost," the "cost" including oatmeal, potatoes, milk and fuel, each item varying in quantity according to the custom of different farms.

31. With respect to money payments I find that the highest sum received annually by married ploughmen within the range of my observation amounts to 18*l.* (Evid. 12) and the lowest to 10*l.* (Evid. 30, 34, 46).

In the same way the largest allowance of meal which I have noted reaches the quantity annually of 12 bolls (Evid. 30) and the lowest only of 6 bolls (Evid. 30, 34, 46). Potatoes are given partly in

V.

ir allowances, which vary between 2½ and 6 bolls per annum (Evid. 12, 34, 49) and partly in the ssion conceded to farm servants to plant potatoes of their own upon a small portion of their vers' farm, the extent being computed, sometimes by area, in which case it averages a quarter of e (Evid. 13, 30) and at other times representing so much of a potato drill, in which case it varies gth from about 800 yards to 1,600 yards (Evid. 22, 34, 46); potatoes so planted are called "harvest bes," and are cultivated by the farm servants exactly as though they formed part of his employer's so that the system is, upon a small scale, a species of co-operative system (Evid. 30).

allowances of milk are more uniform in quantity, being usually a Scotch pint daily, or, in sh measure, a trifle over three pints (Evid. 34, 46, 49). The foreman or "grieve" is often ed the keep of a cow of his own, but this is unusual in the case of ordinary farm servants (Evid. 8, 3, 57). In fuel 1½ tons is the lowest and 2½ tons the highest annual allowance of coal which I ecorded in my evidence (Evid. 12, 22, 34, 46, 49), but in those portions of this district which r on the moors of the Highlands, the allowance of coal is supplemented by permission to cut a n quantity of peat (Evid. 30A).

sides the above allowances farm servants are sometimes given liberty to keep a pig and a few hens, . 13, 19, 22, 30 A, 34, 46) and in all cases have their cottages rent-free, sometimes without but often with gardens which are also exempt from any payments of rent (Evid. 8, 13, 16, 22, 28, , 31, 32, 34, 42, 43, 46, 49.)

I have collected several estimates of the gross value in money of a farm servant's wages, ding his "cost;" the highest of these estimates attains a total sum of 41*l.* (Evid. 30A) and the t of 25*l.* (Evid. 16), so that if we take the mean of these two sums, their average annual value may sumed at about 33*l.*, or a trifle over 2*s.* 1*d.* a day, and although I am inclined to look upon both of the extreme estimates which I have cited as rather exaggerated in opposite directions, the conclusion h they furnish is, I am persuaded, a tolerably correct one, an opinion in which I am confirmed by vidence of Mr. Kenneth Murray, who says,—"I think you are safe to state that a ploughman w receives in money, meal, potatoes, and other supplies . . . . . at the rate of 2*s.* r diem all the year over" (Evid. 3).

must be remembered, however, that Mr. Murray omits from his reckoning the rent of the cottage h is of course included in the above calculation, so that his estimate would be about 2*d.* a day er than mine.

. In instituting any comparison between the respective conditions in point of wages of the Scotch English farm servants, the mode of living in the north and the advantages incidental to it must be n specially into account, and the Scotch farm servant hired by the year or half year must expect deduction in the amount of his wages which he will be compensated for by the greater stability of osition, while in addition to this advantage he possesses privileges of a more practical character in bligation which is generally cast upon the employer of paying his doctor's bill and keeping him in pay for six weeks whenever he is taken ill (Evid. 22). Comparative sufficiency of wages.

4. The farm servants thus engaged for a fixed period are usually better off than any other class of ultural labourers, although in the case of the labouring crofter his well-being depends upon a ety of extraneous circumstances which may, and often do, place him higher in the social scale than farm servant. But the "labourer" or cottar who holds no land and is employed from day to day rding as there is demand for his labour, is certainly upon a somewhat inferior footing, seldom ining more than 12*s.* a week at the highest, out of which he has of course to defray the rent of his age (Evid. 4, 9).

5. In entering upon any computation of the proportion which a labourer's expenses bear to his me, regard must also be paid to the form of diet habitual to the Scotch peasantry. Butcher's meat even bacon rarely, if ever, cross the ploughman's door, and his food consists of oatmeal, milk, potatoes, , sometimes, salt herrings; the abundance in which milk is usually allowed and the farinaceous ure of the vegetable items combining to give to this cheap and simple food all the qualities of a lthy and nutritious diet. I apprehend therefore that in cases where his family is not a large one, where he is not compelled to buy extra food to any serious amount, but can subsist mainly upon allowances, his life though hardly an easy one, is not one of undue hardship. When, however, his ily is so large that he has to purchase annually four or five bolls of meal in addition to his allowance, evere strain must ensue upon the small sum of actual money which is included in his wages, and that iculty might be enhanced to an almost unbearable extent in a case where, with four or five children a school-going age, the expenses of teaching were unusually heavy. (Evid. 37, 38, 39, 40).

6. Women are engaged in labour to a considerable extent upon the arable farms, both as regular d workers and as occasional assistants during harvest and hay-making time and at the periods of ing and lifting turnips. They are also employed in weeding, potato-lifting, attendance on the eshing machine, and a variety of other light work suitable to their sex (Evid. 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 30, . Taking the case of three farms in Easter Ross and comparing their gross acreage with the al number of women regularly employed upon them, I find that the result gives an average propor- n of one woman to every 43 acres, but this is probably in excess of the real proportion, which would rhaps represent about one to 60 (Evid. 42, 44, 46). Employment of women.

The evidence which I have collected is unanimous in testifying that there is nothing in the nature of nale employment in this district which is in any way physically injurious to the employed, and I am ppy to be able to corroborate this statement from my own experience (Evid. 5, 8, 28, 31, 32, 43,). The women who are thus employed are almost invariably single women (Evid. 16, 19, 46), as the rried ones will seldom work (Evid. 30), and their number, in harvest-time at least, is annually creasing in consequence of the introduction of reaping machines, which are now almost in universal upon all large farms (Evid. 5, 6, 30, 31). As to the effect that agricultural employment produces on female morality my evidence is conflicting (Evid. 5, 23, 32, 43, 6, 14, 50); but taking into consi- ration the moral character of the people generally, I am inclined to believe that, although isolated in- nces of coarse language may occur among squad-workers, there exists, as a rule, no reason either upon ral or physical grounds for objecting to the nature of such employment, still less for imposing y legal restriction upon it (Evid. 3, 8, 30 A, 31, 32, 43, 57).

V.

36. During the harvest an immigration takes place of women from the west coast of Ross, Sutherland, who are boarded in spare rooms and outhouses, and largely employed in reaping securing the crops: but machinery is rapidly superseding the necessity of this extra labour. removing at the same time a source of frequent difficulty and occasional immorality (Evid. 10, 42, 46).

The wages of women, which 30 years ago were only 6*d.* a day, have now risen till they h attained, in harvest, a maximum of 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, and at ordinary times a maximum of 10*d.* a minimum of 8*d.*, the usual payments being computed at the rate of 1*d.* per hour (Evid. 3, 4, 19. 44, 46).

Hours of work.

37. The hours of work are uniformly the same throughout the whole district, both Highland Lowland, namely, 10 hours a day, without distinction of sex or age, but in the extreme north they necessarily abridged in winter by the want of light, and they are also differently divided in diffe localities, the more usual arrangement leaving an interval of two hours in the middle of the day for while by another method which seems less common, the day is distributed into three working porti with two interludes of repose.

38. Remarks upon the employment of children will fall more conveniently under the head education, and as I have found no material variation in the tone of feeling upon this question and natural difficulties attending it, throughout the whole of the arable district on the east coast, I postpone the consideration of the subject until the end of my observations upon the agricult condition of Caithness.

CAITHNESS.

General condition.

39. The remarkable course of agricultural improvement which has taken place in this county dur the last 40 or 50 years is fully described in an able paper kindly supplied to me by Mr. James Pur of Lochend (Evid. 63), and a salient feature of that improvement has naturally been the usual proc of the absorption of small tenures into large farms. In some parts of the interior this process has beer effectually carried out, that one may travel for miles and see hardly any sign of human habitati except the farm-steadings and buildings attached to them, but the agricultural circumstances of district on the coast are so bound up with the herring fishery, that they are, and have been, influen by a totally different state of conditions.

40. For six weeks of every summer the fishery on the shores of Caithness offers a tempting opp tunity to all who live near the sea of winning, by an extraordinary haul, enough to keep them in idlen for the remainder of the year, and this circumstance has sufficed to maintain, and even create furt subdivisions among the crofts in all positions contiguous to the coast. Thus it appears that wher in the inland parish of Watten the number of holdings rented under 10*l.* per annum is only 66, parish of Canisbay, scarcely larger in area, but situated on the coast, contains no less than 246 of s small tenants, while the parish of Latheron, which presents a very long range of seaboard, exhibits yet larger number of 639 (Evid. 62); and again, taking the next class of holdings, between 10*l.* 20*l.*, Watten contains 23, Canisbay 70, and Latheron 166. Applying another criterion, it will be fo that Watten has five farms over 200*l.* rent, Latheron 6, and Canisbay only 2; figures which at f sight appear hardly to corroborate the previous statement, but the truth is that in the case of Wat the calculation is falsified by the excessive size of the farms, 2,500 acres of arable land being th in the occupation of only four tenants (Evid. 94, 95, 97).

41. Of the 66 small tenants in Watten parish holding lands rented at less than 10*l.* per annum presume that a considerable proportion, perhaps as much as 30 per cent., may belong to the class of sm tradesmen and others who cultivate a little land in addition to their more regular occupations, leav only 27 or thereabouts to be accounted for under the denomination of "crofters," pure and simp and the existence of even this small number is, I imagine, mainly owing to the adjoining quarries Spittle Hill, which offer constant employment to the population round them, so that I regard crofting system as virtually extinct in this parish. On the other hand, referring to an extract from rent-roll of an estate in the neighbouring parish of Bower, rented altogether at 1,892*l.* per annum find no less than 33 small tenants paying respectively rents under 10*l.* (Evid. 67.), and in compar these rents with the size of the holdings, it appears that, speaking roughly, the land so occupied rented at various sums from as low as 3*s.* 6*d.* to as high as 1*l.* per acre, the bulk of it however be under 8*s.* per acre.

42. These figures furnish a fair criterion of the different stages of civilization in Caithness; Lathe representing the earlier stage in which the cultivation consists merely of a fringe of arable land al the coast, held principally by crofters, but occasionally with larger holdings scattered about, where soil is exceptionally favourable, Bower containing fewer crofts, a greater number of farms and a r rower area of unbroken moor, while lastly in Watten the proportion of the parish not under the plou is very small, and the operations of agriculture are carried on almost exclusively under the auspice large capital and superior skill.

Influence of the herring-fishing.

42. For purposes of comparison I have specially noticed the rental of the crofts in Bower in or that I may place in its true light the condition of the population on the coast. In the case of th crofters in the parish of Latheron my evidence records that one man is paying 5*l.* for five acres second 7*l.* for six acres, and a third 17*l.* 5*s.* for nine acres arable and 3½ moor pasture (Evid. 79, 80, 8 and these extravagant rents are paid for land certainly not superior to that which in Bower is payi only 8*s.* per acre at a maximum estimate. In fact the rent is out of all proportion to the intrinsic va of the soil, and is laid upon the sea as well as upon the land, upon a principle known in the county the "sea-rent" principle (Evid. 69, 75, 76, 87, 112), and as a general rule it may be assumed t under such circumstances the croft is a dead loss to the tenant, who looks to the proceeds of the herr fishery for his whole livelihood.

43. Besides the harbours of Wick and Thurso, small fishing stations are dispersed at intervals al the coast, and the usual plan is for five or six men to take shares in a boat, which they keep at one these stations, and engage themselves to a fish curer who undertakes to buy at market rates all the f

ney catch; on a good year all goes well, but if herrings are scarce, it often happens that the V.
is a loss instead of a gain to the fisherman, and during the ensuing winter he has to subsist
dvances made to him by the curer, so that his life alternates between debt and comparative
ce.
ode of existence necessarily so speculative must in many cases engender reckless and extrava-
abits, and exercise a more directly demoralizing influence in the tendency which it obviously has
aken the sense of obligation for debt.
advance from the curer is looked upon as a right, and as representing his share in the specula-
nd by degrees all debts come to be looked upon with the same indifference (Evid. 76, 80).
ve also been informed that the herring fishery has a pernicious effect upon the morals of the
employed in it. Their chief occupation consists in gutting the fish as soon as they are brought
e, and as this is a very dirty business they cannot go home in the dress which they wear for it,
there is a great deal of dressing and undressing upon the shore without sufficient regard to
ey (Evid. 74, 75, 76).
ose who are too poor to take shares in a boat, engage as hirers under others, and have the ad-
ge of regular wages whatever the luck of the crew may be, but must on the other hand forego
ance of winning a great stake (Evid. 79, 127).

Habitations.

The cottages of crofters have been in almost every case originally built either by the actual Cottages of crofters.
t, or one of his predecessors, who then obtains and afterwards transmits to his successors a claim
e wood contained in the building, this claim resting upon what is called an "amelioration paper"
by the proprietor to the original occupier, and landlords are usually ready and willing to assist,
imes with money, but more often with stone and lime, tenants anxious to rebuild or improve
. 123). Such improvement is however retarded, where it is most needed, along the coast, by the
nstance which I have already noticed, of the semi-agricultural and semi-fishing habits of the
lation. I am persuaded that if a separation could be effected, and the fishermen collected in
ets on the shore, as is the case in Easter Ross, while the crofters occupied larger holdings and
ed all their energies to the cultivation of the soil, an improvement might be effected in the con-
n of the people (Evid. 68, 123). As it is, the unfortunate crofter lives in a vicious circle; if he
up his croft he surrenders the advantages of being able to share in the fishing, and if he gives
he fishing he loses the only chance of being able to pay his rent; by nature and inclination he
be either a fisherman or a farmer, but he must combine the two occupations in order to live in
hore-side parishes, and the contingency is not improbable that he will succeed in neither. Under
circumstances he can seldom afford to lay out much money upon his cottage, and, on an estate
pied to any great extent by crofters, few landlords, if any, can afford to deal with the enormous
nt of house property involved in any question of general improvement. The only remedy which
dlord has in such a case is to endeavour to amalgamate the small crofts and gradually create larger
ngs, but this is a policy which it is almost impossible to carry out in consequence of its great
pularity among the people themselves (Evid. 123). The result is, that the cottages are often very
(Evid 68, 69, 79, 81, 122, 126, 127). The entrance is usually through the "byre," beyond
h are two rooms, one inside the other, or, in some instances, only one room, divided into two or
parts by box-beds and presses; the fire (of peat) is in the middle of the room with one of the
tones of the county placed on end behind it to serve as a back, the smoke escapes through a hole
he roof, sometimes directly over the fire, but as often at the other end of the room; daylight
gles in faintly through one small window, but in spite of the deficient ventilation the deodorizing
ties of the peat smoke have a wonderful effect upon the atmosphere which is seldom unpleasant.
re are of course upon many crofts habitations of a far superior kind, but I do not think that this
unfair description of the type of cottage most commonly to be found in the neighbourhood of the
t.

5. The cottages occupied by regular farm servants in this county resemble so closely those which Cottages of farm servants.
ve already commented upon in Easter Ross and the neighbouring districts, that I have no further
arks to offer as to the quality of the accommodation provided in them, and the observations which
pose to make with reference to its quantity shall be included in the consideration of the merits
demerits of the Bothy system (Evid. 77, 78, 86, 101, 105, 108).

6. That material progress has taken rapid strides of late years in this county is a fact patent to the The Bothy system.
t superficial observation. Roads have been made, land has been reclaimed from moor and enclosed
the "hedge" of the country, rows of flagstones placed on end, large farms have been formed and
fortable farmhouses with convenient buildings erected upon them, but it would seem that improvement
not yet penetrated to the agricultural labourer.

7. The extensive cultivation of root-crops, which is the characteristic feature of Caithness agri-
ure, creates a demand upon every considerable farm for the labour of women, who are fully equal
he task of hoeing and lifting and the other light work incidental to the growth of the turnip, and
at the same time cheaper to the employer. As in the previous district, the women so employed
with very few exceptions, unmarried, and it follows that in those parts of the county where the
ting system has wholly or partially disappeared and has not been replaced by adequate cottage
ommodation, recourse is usually had to the Bothy as the most convenient system of boarding the
ale workers. In the parishes of Latheron and Canisbay, farms are neither so numerous nor so large,
some assistance, although generally of a desultory character, may be obtained from the families of
crofters, so that Bothies, although not infrequent, are by no means universal, while on the other hand
many districts the grieve's cottage is the only accommodation for married men, and the Bothy is
rule instead of the exception upon every farm (Evid. 83, 84, 85, 91).
Thus arises that phase of the system which I have called "the double Bothy," and in a large pro-
rtion, probably more than half, of the farms in this county, the cultivation of the land is carried on
an equal number, more or less, of single men and single women, living in the farm-steadings in
ns where the separation of the sexes is observed more carefully than was formerly the case (Evid.
, 132), but where there is still little or no supervision exercised over them.

V. 48. Having visited 15 Bothies in different parts of the county, I think that I am in a position to
a fair opinion of the average condition of things, although a reference to the notes which I to
them will show how broad is the difference between the best and the worst specimens (Evid.
It will be seen that in five instances out of the 15, the entrance to the men's and women's apartm
by the same outside door, that in four more both sexes sleep under the same roof although
possesses a separate outside door, and that out of these nine instances, in one case the wom
sleeping apartment can only be reached through the men's, while in another there is no doo
obstacle of any kind between the men and the women.

49. It appears to me, à priori, clear that, where such opportunities exist, immoral acts will ensue,
proof is not wanting that such is actually the case, although, to my great regret, I am unable to pro
it in as complete a form as I originally contemplated. I have been assured upon the best auth
that out of 12 or 13 affiliation cases tried before the sheriff in the course of last year, the imm
connection could in every single instance be traced to the influence of a Bothy, and although the pa
which were promised me in confirmation of this statement have not arrived, I believe that it ma
accepted as in the main authentic. I have also read the sheriff's notes of evidence taken in a ca
this description in which the plaintiff and defendant both belonged to the Bothy marked No. 11 in
catalogue of Bothies visited (Evid. 72), and, without descending to particulars, I may state, tha
witnesses examined upon that occasion revealed a state of morality so lax that all sense of restraint
decency seems to have been forgotten by both sexes.

50. In my experience of Bothies nothing has struck me more than the entire freedom from superv
which is enjoyed by their occupants, not certainly in every case, but in the decided majorit
instances, and not only is there an absence of any attempt at direct control on the part of the empl
but he appears usually quite indifferent to what may go on in the Bothy, and even unable to say
are the ordinary habits of life within its walls ; an ignorance which is often shared with him by
minister, so that the bothy seems to be regarded as a sort of "terra-incognita," which it would be
to investigate too closely.

51. The furniture of the Bothy is usually of the rudest description, a couple of narrow benches
the boxes containing the clothes, &c. of its inhabitants, represent the utmost extent of the sit
accommodation provided, the floor is often unflagged, the walls almost invariably discoloured with sn
and dirt, and the general aspect of the place comfortless and forbidding, and it is under such
cumstances that young men and young women have to spend the long hours of a northern wi
How they while away the time in the most favourable instances may be best told in the words
'grieve.'—"The Bothy man don't do anything in the evenings, they don't wander and are well-beha
" but they never try to keep up their education in the evenings ; they just do nothing" (Evid. 1
While in other, and I fear, more common cases, those results occur which might naturally be expe
and lead to such revelations in the sheriff's court as those which I have referred to.

52. I am aware that the Bothy system has able and enlightened men as its advocates, and I wis
draw attention to the arguments upon which they rest their case (Evid. 66, 82, 106), as well as to t
which are hostile to it, but the sentiments which I have expressed upon the subject are so a
corroborated by the evidence of witnesses of all classes, that I have the less reluctance in pre
them upon your attention. Of the three witnesses whom I have just alluded to, Mr. Henders
Stemster is the only one who really defends the Bothy system in principle, the other two gentle
merely regarding it in the light of a necessary evil which need not, when properly organised lea
pernicious results ; and with the exception of these three gentlemen, in every case, where I have
able to extract an opinion at all, it has been one more or less decidedly adverse to the system, v
occasionally it has been couched in strong and even indignant language. Of the former nature are
opinions expressed by four farmers (Evid. 85, 95, 114, 115), seven ministers (Evid. 87, 88, 100,
111, 113, 122), one doctor (Evid. 68), one land-agent (Evid. 73), and two officers of police (Evid
71) ; and with respect to the language in which their opinions are conveyed, I find amongst
evidence the following expressions :—"Such an iniquity as the Bothy system" (Evid. 65). "This n
" nuisance" (Evid. 68). "The system . . . . is attended in my experience with great loosenes
" morals" (Evid. 70). "I consider the system a most degrading one" (Evid. 88). "The Bothy
" and lasses especially are very backward both intellectually and morally" (Evid. 100). "Pen
" employed in agriculture are in general immoral—the Bothy system exists and has a bad influ
" upon morals" (Evid. 111). "I look upon the Bothy system as an abomination" (Evid. 116). "
" system is decidedly a very bad one" (Evid. 122).

53. The general effect produced by Bothy life upon the habits and feelings of the young men
women employed in field work is summed up by Dr. Mill, Thurso, in the following words :—"
" existence of Bothies for young men and women is a great misfortune, and undoubtedly tends m
" than anything else towards demoralising the farm servants. They are freed from all restraint
" superintendence, and as might be expected when there are few or no opportunities of impro
" their minds, fall into loose and careless habits" (Evid. 68). In one instance I was informe
a minister that he could almost always tell a Bothy lad or lass by the gross animal expressio
countenance which they came to acquire.

54. Some farmers are disposed to cling to the system because it saves them the trouble and annoy
caused by the families of married ploughmen whose wives are always squabbling, and whose chil
play all manner of mischievous tricks in the steading, but I have usually found, especially among
better informed, a conviction that their tranquillity was dearly purchased at the price of employing
of untrustworthy servants, who take no real interest in their master or their work, and seldom stay
than six months in the same place (Evid. 65, 114).

55. It is difficult to say whether, with an adequate supply of cottage accommodation for ma
servants, it would ever be possible entirely to abolish the Bothy, but I am fully persuaded that the
of the system, as it exists at present, might be modified to an enormous extent.

I will cite the parish of Watten as an example of what is certainly feasible in any part of the int
of Caithness. It is occupied, as previously stated, mainly by large farms, and upon these the syste

most odious phase has entirely disappeared, no instance having come within my experience of a Bothy V.
abited by both sexes, but it has been found requisite to continue to board single women upon the
principle, and employers speak doubtfully of ever being able to dispense with the necessity of so
ng (Evid. 94, 95, 97). The abundant cottage accommodation which exists upon such farms as Mr.
idson's (Evid. 94) has perhaps hardly been in operation long enough to supply female labour from
families of married ploughmen, and it would therefore be premature to express any opinion upon its
timate adequacy to meet the demand in this respect, but I may observe that the difficulty to procure
men as field-workers in Watten is enhanced, if it is not entirely caused, by the scarcity of crofters.
the district of Keiss, which lies along the eastern coast and is covered with crofts, the opinion
ressed by the Rev. Mr. Stobie upon the comparative practicability of eventually dispensing with
le and female Bothies (Evid. 87) is exactly the converse of that expressed by Mr. Brown of Watten
vid. 95).

Mr. Stobie says,—"I have no doubt that by increasing the number of cottages upon the arable
arms female Bothies might be dispensed with altogether, and the system restricted to a small Bothy
pon each farm for two or three of the unmarried ploughmen" (Evid. 87).

The cottage system has also been tried with marked success upon a large farm belonging to the
own in the neighbourhood of Thurso (Evid. 102, 132).

56. The inference which I am disposed to draw upon the whole is this, that in all localities where
asional supplies of female labour could be drawn from any neighbouring source, such as a town,
age, or aggregation of crofters, it would be possible wholly to abolish the Bothy system both for men
l women, and replace it with the married system, and that such exchange would be for the best
erest of the employer as well as the employed; while, on the other hand, in those districts where
re is no neighbouring population of any kind, so that the farmer must fall back for his labour upon
resources contained within the walls of his own cottages, it might be difficult to carry out the change
thoroughly, but even in such cases the least that should be attempted should be a considerable
odification of the present system, or in the words of the Rev. Dr. Lillie of Wick, "The great object
should be to adjust the proportion between the married and unmarried servants, so that the Bothy
men might be able to look forward to a fair probability of obtaining in due time, and as opportunity
offered, a chance of marrying and settling in the neighbourhood" (Evid. 82).

Labour.

57. Wages in Caithness have nearly doubled in the last 40 years (Evid. 130), but they appear to me
be a trifle lower than in the arable district south of it, although it is difficult to ascertain the exact
nount of the variation. The highest money payment which I have noted as given to married farm
rvants, hired by the year, is 13*l.* (Evid. 86) and the lowest 8*l.* (Evid. 105), the highest allowance of
eal ten bolls (Evid. 106) and the lowest six bolls (Evid. 86). With respect to the other items, the only
aterial points of distinction to be observed between Caithness and the previous district are (*a*) that it
more usual instead of a stipulated quantity of milk to allow the keep of a cow, sometimes one to each
mily, or more often one between two families (Evid. 94, 101, 102, 106), and (*b*) that peat lying
undantly at hand on almost all farms, the fuel is generally given in that shape instead of in coal.
ith respect to the gross value per annum to the married ploughman of his wages and allowances, I
ve received two estimates, one computing it at 33*l.* and the other at 36*l.*, but I should think that the
wer sum would probably be nearest the mark in the majority of instances (Evid. 94, 128).

58. The Bothy men are uniformly allowed one Scotch pint of milk daily, and in meal from seven to eight
olls per annum, while their money-wages range, within my experience, from to 11*l.* to 16*l.* a year
Evid. 83, 90, 102, 106). They are also provided with abundance of fuel, and having neither house-rent
pay nor families to support, must be a very well-off class. Bothy women receive annually about 6*l.*
nd "cost," the variations upon different farms in their wages, both in money and in kind being very
inute. The "cost" includes about five bolls of meal, half pint (Scotch) of milk daily, and potatoes
nd fuel upon the same scale as the Bothy men (Evid. 83, 85, 91).

59. The gang system is unknown in Caithness, but I encountered one instance, in the parish of Employment of women.
alkirk, of the supply of labour by contract. In that case, however, the contractor himself was only
aid in wages upon the same scale as the men under him, and made no other profit out of his contract,
that he was not at all in the position of a gang-master, while the men and women whom he employed
ere paid by the day according to the usual rate of wages (Evid. 104).

60. The practice prevails to some extent of procuring the assistance of women from a distance during
arvest time. These women come partly from the west coast, and partly from the parish of Latheron,
e great market of labour for the interior of the country (Evid. 70, 73, 74, 94, 95), and are boarded
barns and outhouses in a manner which must be often objectionable; but this influx of strangers is
ear by year diminishing in number, and indeed, as far as purely agricultural operations are concerned,
have no doubt that the reaping-machines have already done away with the necessity of extra labour
Evid. 65), but the temptation of sharing the profits of the herring-fishing still brings considerable
umbers from all parts of the North of Scotland, some of whom, after the fishing is over, stay for what
work they can pick up till the end of the harvest.

61. That there exists much laxity of morals among the women employed in agriculture may be inferred
rom my remarks upon the Bothy system, but I am not inclined to consider the field work which they
erform as responsible for this, still less can I think that it is in any way physically injurious to them.
Mr. Smith, of Olrig, says,—"I am not satisfied with the unrestricted and promiscuous employment of
men and women without sufficient supervision and control" (Evid. 106), but my experience leads me
o believe that supervision in the fields is much closer than in the Bothy, and it is certainly easier,
ndeed it can hardly be dispensed with altogether by the most careless employer, whereas when once
he work of the day is over, it becomes at once more difficult and less necessary to maintain any
ontrol. I have no doubt that bad language is often used by the women who work together in squads
Evid. 112), but I am unable to see in what manner the nature of their employment can encourage this
vil, the origin of which must be traceable to some cause more remote than the mere accident which

V. collects them in companies at a particular work, and I have already indicated what I believe tha cause to be.

62. Women are engaged in Caithness in the same kind of work as in Easter Ross, the difference i this respect between north and south consisting merely in the increased quantity of female labour whic is required in the north in consequence of the large proportion of root crops grown there, and not in th quality of the work. There is, however, one department peculiar to the women of Caithness, viz., th "tending" of cattle, which in Easter Ross is always the business of men, and is perhaps harder wor than the occupations in which women are ordinarily employed; but it is found that women are special adapted for the task, inasmuch as they treat the animals much less roughly than the men do.

62. Indeed to look at a Caithness field-worker, one would hardly consider any work that could undertaken in other counties by an ordinary-sized man as beneath her powers (Evid. 68). Her northe origin, for the peasantry of Caithness are a Scandinavian race, is shown in the ruddy complexion an lighter colour of hair than usual with the Celt; her physique is magnificent, and when dressed for th field in a short rough skirt, with a thick warm shawl wrapped over the head and forehead and crosse over the breast, she looks as if she might have ranked with those "daughters of the plough" wh formed the Amazon bodyguard of Mr. Tennyson's "Princess,"—

> "Stronger than men,
> Huge women blowzed with health, and wind, and rain,
> And labour."

Feeing markets.

63. The Hiring fairs or "Feeing markets," which are held in various places in Inverness-shire an Ross-shire as well as in Caithness, are made responsible by some people for a great deal of immorali and drunkenness, but, after visiting two, one at Inverness and another in the neighbourhood of Thurso, cannot bring any more serious charge against them than might be brought against any holiday asser blage, and indeed at Inverness the behaviour of the people was remarkably orderly; a stranger walkin through the streets would have noticed nothing more unusual than a crowd a trifle larger than what ma be seen on any market-day in England, and before twilight trains had carried off the strangers, and th town had returned to its normal condition. In Caithness the want of a railway protracts the hour breaking up, and the Bothy men are a lower and more vagrant class than farm servants further sout but I noticed nothing worthy of remark, and I am informed that some improvement has recently take place in the management of the market (Evid. 71). It is no doubt some protection to the labourers have an opportunity at these meetings of comparing notes as to the current rates of wages (Evid. 8 and the experiment of a register-office has not hitherto proved a successful one (Evid. 229).

Education.

Tone of feeling.

64. Notwithstanding the wretched state of the cottages in many localities, and the indigence some places of the small-crofting population, there exists almost invariably among the labouri classes in this district a remarkably high tone of feeling on the subject of education, and little none of that apathy and indifference which is so apt to be engendered by excessive poverty. I am f from wishing to say that there are no exceptions to this rule, and complaints of a less satisfacto state of things will be found amongst my evidence (Evid. 43, 44, 58, 121), but the statements of overwhelming number of witnesses confirm me in the opinion that in the vast majority of cases, bo farm servants and crofters are sincerely anxious in the matter of education, that they thorough appreciate the advantages conferred by superior knowledge, and that they will frequently make co siderable personal sacrifices to obtain those advantages for their children (Evid. 5, 9, 10, 17, 19, 2 30A, 40, 41, 45, 66, 68, 69, 75, 77, 81, 87, 96, 101, 106, 107, 108, 110, 119, 129).

65. The opinion of ministers and other gentlemen qualified to speak with authority upon this poi is often expressed in language of the highest encomium.

The Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Kirkhill, says,—"The parents are all anxious that their children should "educated, and it is considered a disgrace for parents to keep their children at home, and not se "them to school" (Evid. 10).

The Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Fearn,—"The parents, generally speaking, are exceedingly moral, w "behaved, and very anxious to have their children educated" (Evid. 41).

The Rev. Mr. Campbell, Tarbat,—"I have been minister in this parish for 25 years. I have a "lived in Fife for 10 or 12 years. From my experience of both districts I should say that the Scot "agricultural classes are very proud in the matter of education, and make a point of sending th "children to school before sending them out into the world for any employment" (Evid. 45).

Mr. Henderson, of Stermster,—"The desire for education is so general and so strong that "compulsion, even if practicable, is required" (Evid. 66).

Dr. Mill, Thurso:—"There is a strong and universal desire among crofters and farm servants "have their children educated, and they will make the most strenuous exertions to obtain the be "education for their children" (Evid. 67).

Mr. Smith, of Olrig,—"In respect of compulsory school attendance it is quite unnecessary "legislate in any way whatever as respects this parish, for education is thoroughly attended to, a "the parents are fully sensible of its importance" (Evid. 106).

Poverty of small crofters.

66. Although it would be dangerous to lay down as an unvarying rule that the sentiments of parer upon this question are enlightened in proportion to their material prosperity, I have yet found th such is usually the case, and that complaints on the score of irregular attendance at school, or absen from it altogether, are generally confined to districts inhabited by small crofters, who represent t poorest class of agricultural labourers which I have encountered. The tenant who occupies a holdi of, say 12 acres, is fully on a level, as far as material circumstances go, with a married farm serva and whether it be from a feeling of independence created by the occupation of land on his o account, or from some other cause, he is almost invariably above the farm servant in the moral a intellectual qualities: but in the case of crofters who hold from 4 to 7 acres only, or thereabouts, for example on the coast near Helmsdale, and in the parish of Canisbay, poverty will occasionally beg some measure of indifference to the advantages of education (Evid. 58, 121).

67. A remarkable illustration of the relative inferiority in this respect of the small crofters came ler my notice in the parish of Dunnet in Caithness. In the part of that parish bordering the coast, l populated by the class of fishing-crofter whose circumstances I have previously remarked upon, attendance of children at school was described to me as extremely irregular and unsatisfactory vid. 112), while at a school situated 2 or 3 miles away from the coast (Evid. 113), in a district where children attending school were chiefly those of married ploughmen, the schoolmaster gives a far ter account, and the explanation of this discrepancy supplied to me by the Rev. Mr. Jolly corroboes the opinion which I had previously formed of the comparative difficulty of procuring regular ool attendance from the children of the small crofter (Evid. 112).

68. It would be unjust, however, to omit to notice that I have met amongst this very class with arkable instances of enlightened feeling; and it would be still more unjust to forget that the very culties which in their case oppose obstacles to the spread of education render more conspicuously seworthy the conduct of not a few whose self-sacrifice and energy enable them to break through se obstacles. I will cite a single instance to show that this is not the language of extravagant ogy. It is the case of a crofter (Evid. 79), who, occupying five acres of poor land rented upon the ca-rent" principle, cannot expect to reap the profit of a single sixpence from his land, more especially since his means being inadequate to replace the accidental loss of his stock, he cannot even velop all its resources. During the winter he lives in enforced idleness; during the spring, summer, l autumn, partly as a "hirer" at the fisheries, and partly as a labourer in the neighbourhood, he nages to pick up about 15*l.* in wages in addition to his board. He is the father of seven children, y two of whom are in regular employment away from home, so that upon this sum he has to support persons at least for the whole year round. It appears, nevertheless, that every child in this family eives an education at the cost of from 6*s.* to 10*s.* per annum a-piece to the father, who cannot, use rent and allowance of all kinds included, be considered as receiving equivalent to more than 4*d.* a day.

69. Assuming that poverty is, with exceptions so rare as to be unappreciable, the sole obstacle to ucation, and that the small crofters are the only class of agricultural labourers whose poverty is so reme as to wear the garb of necessity, it follows that the circle of enquiry may be narrowed to the estion of how poverty operates to prevent the children of this class from receiving an adequate ucation.

70. It operates in two ways, firstly, in the difficulty of clothing the children, and secondly, in the cessity of employing them. The severity of the winter in the north of Scotland renders the first nt a more serious difficulty than it can ever be in England, and considerable stress is laid upon it many of the witnesses whom I examined (Evid. 23, 30, 41, 45, 55, 75, 121).

The Rev. Mr. Menzies, Fodderty, speaking of a district in his parish where the school attendance d been unsatisfactory, says,—"The people there are small crofters, and very poor, and were quite unable to provide good enough clothing to send their children to school in" (Evid. 23).

The Rev. Mr. Campbell, Tarbat,—"If instances occur of the children being kept at home, it is attributable to the inability of the parents to provide their children with clothing and shoes, and occasionally to the severity of the winter in the Highlands" (Evid. 45).

The Rev. Mr. Calder, Clyne,—"Some of the cottars are so poor that they cannot always keep their children in shoes, and this keeps them away from school when the weather is bad" (Evid. 55).

The Rev. Mr. Davidson, Latheron,—"The crofters in Latheron are a very poor class . . . ; many of the children are kept at home from the poverty of the parents, and inability to supply them with proper clothing" (Evid. 75).

The Rev. Mr. Macpherson, Canisbay,—"Many of the parents of this" (the crofter) "class are unable to provide proper clothing for their children" (Evid. 121).

Inability to pay the school fees, although it frequently exists, does not keep the children from hool, for in such cases there is always so much indulgence shown by the teachers that education ay be said to be practically gratuitous in many parishes" (Evid. 10, 23, 68, 87, 112, 121).

71. I do not think that there is any special increase of demand for the labour of children (Evid. 66), d there are certainly two causes in active operation which tend year by year to diminish the demand, mely (1) the introduction of machinery, and (2), in a still greater degree, the amalgamation of crofts large holdings. The occupation in which children are chiefly employed is "herding," and it is only on crofts and small farms badly fenced that their services are available for this purpose, for under e age of 12, at the youngest, they are unequal to the task of attending to a large herd of cattle; so at it is only in districts where there are many holdings of an intermediate size, *i.e.*, varying between and 100 acres, that young children are regularly hired for the summer months (Evid. 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 4, 94, 106). When they are so employed, the engagement lasts from May to Martinmas, and the riod of absence from school is too often prolonged from want of clothing or similar causes to the ginning of the new year, so that four months would be in such cases the average extent of annual hool attendance. As, however, throughout the arable district upon the east coast these intermediate oldings are rare, and as farmers will not engage children to perform other branches of agricultural bour, because, in the language of a witness, "They are unable to officiate" (Evid. 114), it may be fely stated that the employment of children by farmers is not of a nature to interfere appreciably ith their education (Evid. 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 19, 30A, 44, 57, 82, 87).

Employment of children.

72. But the cultivation of small crofts demands the assistance of young children who are quite apable of herding the one or two beasts which represent the stock of the tenant, and are also useful many ways to agricultural operations conducted upon so minute a scale. It is this peculiarity of e employment of children that creates the second difficulty which I alluded to at the beginning f this Report, for the work which they perform upon their parents' crofts is for the most part of so esultory a character and so much intermingled with purely domestic services, that it is difficult to see ow such employment could be brought within the scope or definition of any measure of legislative estriction which did not interfere in rather an arbitrary manner with the internal economy of every ousehold.

73. The sentiments of witnesses whose opinions I have collected with reference to the advisability of irect compulsory education are almost equally divided between those adverse to (Evid. 41, 66, 68,

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101, 106, 107), and those in support of such a measure (Evid. 44, 45, 47, 94, 121, 129), but in no case have I recorded an opinion favourable to the indirect method of compulsion, which forms the principle of the Factory Acts, a method which would indeed prove wholly inoperative in the majority of cases owing to the rare employment for hire of children under the age of 13 (Evid. 5, 30, 82). For my own part I am inclined to think that, however beneficial might be the effects of a compulsory system in the case of a small minority of children, provision should be made, in the manner which I have indicated below (s. 97), for retaining the uniform application of the system in instances where it would press unduly on the parents; otherwise, to quote the words of the Rev. J. Macdonald (Evid. 41),—"It would "entail great hardship on many of the parents, as it would compel them to make 'bricks without straw,' "they being unable from poverty to clothe, feed, and keep their children at school all the year round."

HIGHLANDS.

General condition.

74. A hundred years ago every glen and strath in the interior of the north-western Highlands was inhabited by a numerous population of small tenants, who, isolated from all communication with the external world, lived in patriarchal simplicity upon the produce of their crofts, while their cattle roved at will over the moors of the adjacent mountains.

The introduction of the sheep has entirely changed the old order of things. As early as the end of last century, Dr. Walker, in his "Economical history of the Hebrides and Highlands," notices the decrease of population in parishes bordering on the Lowlands, and ascribes it to the establishment in these districts of extensive grazing and sheep farms. From these outside parishes the new system of agriculture soon advanced into the interior; the precarious cultivation of corn crops in valleys where untimely frosts and uncertain suns reduced to a minimum the probability of a successful harvest, was finally abandoned, the land thus rendered vacant was reserved for the wintering of sheep, and its ancient cultivators either retired to the coast or emigrated to colonial and foreign countries.

75. It is hardly material to the purposes of my present inquiry to discuss the question as to how far this change was or was not beneficial to the labouring classes. It is certain that in many cases they clung with affectionate regret to their old homes, and it is equally true that the Highland peasant, who is given a comfortable house instead of a miserable hovel, often considers himself aggrieved by the destruction of the wretched roof which has sheltered him so long. Agriculture in the interior of the Highlands must have been conducted under the most adverse circumstances, and although there is at present great poverty, and even frequent destitution among the crofters along the west coast of Ross and Sutherland, they have this great advantage over their ancestors in the interior, that communication with the great labour markets of the Lowlands is decidedly easier to them, and that enterprise and energy have some chance at least of striking out a new line of life and commanding eventual success.

76. The influx of fresh inhabitants in the shore side districts must have originally had the effect of overpopulating a country, whose natural resources are extremely scanty, and this disproportion between the capabilities of the land and the requirements of its occupiers has since that time been enhanced by a further subdivision of crofts and a further rise in the population.

Yet during the same period the means of subsistence have diminished; about 30 years ago the import of barilla duty-free annihilated the trade in kelp, and deprived the peasantry of the west coast and the Hebrides of almost half their livelihood; the failure of the kelp trade was followed by the failure of the potato, and these serious afflictions have been accompanied by a gradual deterioration in the local fisheries. It would appear, therefore, that the ordinary rules of political economy are here reversed, and that man propagates his species in proportion to the inadequacy of means to support it.

Influence of the herring fishery.

The herring fishery is, I believe, responsible for this anomaly, and its influence in that respect may be estimated by the following extract from a very able and interesting paper kindly written for me by Sir Kenneth Mackenzie (Evid. 181). Speaking of the herring fishery, he says,—"At about 17 lads "first go to it, and after three or four years' experience several of them obtain from an owner a boat "and nets on becoming jointly bound to fish for him at market prices (or something less) until the "boat and nets are paid for. Owners of property they now feel entitled to marry, but as the land is "fully occupied, they have still to remain with their parents or seek a house beyond the parish. The "fortunes, however, are bound up in their boat, their shares in her are not saleable, and if they have "not fallen heirs to their fathers' crofts, they probably become squatters, as already explained, before "their original debt to the owner has been paid off. Notwithstanding the most stringent rules against "the occupation of one holding by two families, and occasional enforced removal, the population, I "believe, still continues to increase."

Its profits.

78. I have obtained some statistics, through the kindness of Mr. McIver, agent to the Duke of Sutherland, relative to the herring fishery, prosecuted in the autumn of 1869 on the coast of Caithness and the Hebrides by crews from the parishes of Durness, Edrachilles, and Assyut (Evid. 144, 157, 163). From these it appears that out of seven crews who went to Wick from Durness, only one made any profit out of their trip, the arrears of debt to the curers, due from the preceding year, having in the case of the other six, swallowed up the whole proceeds of their fishing. The amount of arrears which each crew has to wipe off at the beginning of any particular season must of course differ to some extent, but inasmuch as they all embark upon the enterprise under the same conditions, it is only by some unusual stroke of luck that any material variation can be created in the vast majority of cases, and I think that I am justified in assuming from the figures which will be found in the Evidence (Evid. 144), and the remarks of the ground officer that a take of less than 40 crans at the Wick fishing (at 22*s.* per cran) would be a dead loss to the crew, and that more than 50 crans would be required to make the venture a profitable one to each individual after all expenses had been paid. Applying this test to the statistics from Edrachilles and Assynt (Evid. 157, 163), it appears that out of 19 crews of say five men a piece, from Edrachilles, four made no profit from their trip, and three actually lost by it, while of the remaining 12, the profit must in three cases have been a very small one. From Assyut again, 44 crews went to the Wick fishing, and of these, the results must in five instances be reckoned among the first or lowest class, in 11 among the second, and in 9 or 10 more among the third. I have cited these figures to illustrate the extremely speculative character of an employment, which, although not in itself agricultural, is the most striking feature of agricultural life on the coasts of Caithness and

North-Western Highlands; and it so happens that I am enabled to furnish some additional proof that ve not overestimated its vicissitudes, in the evidence of the skipper of the boat which made the take of all from Edrachilles (Evid. 151), from which it will appear that in spite of the 140*l.* then zed by his crew, they are still in debt to the curer for 65*l.* V.

I have included in one district all the Highland regions which I visited, because any further sub- ion of the subject must have been sufficiently minute to leave a separate place for the peculiarities most every glen in the county, but there is of course considerable variety in the material circum- es of the peasantry in different localities. Such parishes as Lochbroom and Gairloch represent most indigent conditions of life on the west coast, where demand for labour scarcely exists, the soil ay and unproductive, the crofts small, and arable farms of any size extremely rare; on the other , in the northern parish of Durness the soil is of a better quality, and the lobster fishing furnishes erably profitable occupation for about three months of the year (Evid. 142, 167); again, travelling er south, agriculture is found under more favourable circumstances in Glen Urquhart, and farms arious size interspersed among the smaller holdings furnish employment to a numerous population, lastly, on the banks of the Spey, the Strath is so broad and fertile that it presents many of the acteristics of a purely Lowland district. Variation in the circumstances of different districts.

Habitations.

. In a report upon "the state of the Highlands and Islands of Scotlands," published in 1851, John McNeill thus describes the condition of the crofters and their cottages:—"Their houses ected by themselves are of stone and earth or clay. The only materials they purchase are the ors, and, in most cases, rafters of the roofs, on which are laid thin turf covered with thatch." . . . . t one end of the house, often entering by the same door, is the byre for his cattle; at the other e barn for his crop. His fuel is the peat he cuts in the neighbouring moss, of which an allotted ortion is often attached to each croft. His capital consists of his cattle, his sheep, and perhaps, one r more horses or ponies, of his crop that is to feed him till next harvest, and provide seed and inter provender for his animals, of his furniture, his implements, the rafters of his house, and robably a boat, or share of a boat, nets, or other fishing gear, with some barrels of salt herrings, or undles of dried cod or ling for winter use." Progress of improvement.

1. After a lapse of 20 years this description now presents a faithful picture of agricultural life upon West coast, only under its most favourable circumstances, and although much has been done and tinues to be done to improve the habitations of the peasantry, the intrinsic difficulties of the case ear to oppose an insuperable obstacle to any general and permanent change for the better. On the trary, an increase of population, unaccompanied by an increased cultivation, has burdened the land h more than it can support, the barn, which originally served for the cattle, is now converted into a elling-house for a fresh generation (Evid. 187), the cottages, rarely containing more than two all rooms, are crowded to excess (Evid. 175, 180, 188, 189), and the croft itself has often to feed a quatter," in addition to its regular tenant. Meanwhile, the sheep and stock, for which the crofter a right of pasturage on the hills, have died off, and not having sufficient capital to replace the whole nber, he must be content to share his right with a neighbour; part, even, of the small piece of land ich he holds is uncultivated, and the course of deterioration is yet more strikingly perceptible in the alor and misery which often characterise the interior of his cottage (Evid. 156, 188, 189).

82. Even supposing that a landlord had sufficient command of capital to enable him to deal with the ormous amount of household property which sometimes exists upon a Highland estate (Evid. 181), almost impossible hypothesis, such are the circumstances of the people that the tenants of the proved cottages would not be able to pay him a rent proportionate to his outlay, so that the Govern- nt loans would be of no use to him. Sir Kenneth Mackenzie says, "a decent cottage, with the necessary offices, could not be erected by a landlord of durable material and construction for less than 70*l.* or 80*l.* at the very lowest estimate, and the rents would be doubled were such a building erected on each croft, and four per cent. charged on the outlay. But the crofters can scarcely pay him rent now, and would have no means of meeting this extra charge, it would therefore swallow up the entire rental and the landlord would lose the fee simple value of his property. There are but few proprietors who could afford to improve cottages on those terms. They preclude the use of public advances by impoverished landowners, and I think it may be assumed that when land is subdivided, as it is in Gairloch, the system of cottage erection now in use is the only one that will be found practicable" Evid. 181). Natural obstacles.

83. On the Duke of Sutherland's estate, it is the custom to aid all small tenants wishing to rebuild giving them lime, timber, glass, and in many cases money, so that practically they get their new use for nothing except the cost of their own labour, yet, even under circumstances so exceptionally vourable, there remain in the Parish of Assynt, out of 489 houses, 187 unimproved huts, while of the 59 which are said to possess chimneys, many have doubtless no other qualifications for comfort Evid. 165).

The truth is, that the cottages are fully on a level with the circumstances of the people, and any nprovement to be lasting, must commence, either with some fresh development of the resources of ne country or the exodus of a considerable part of its population.

84. Upon estates situated more inland, which either have not been completely "cleared," as the hrase goes, for sheep or deer, or which contain occasional hamlets of crofters, the same difficulty resents itself, only in a less degree, but even where improvement upon a large scale is practicable, as far s the natural circumstances go, it is artificially hampered by the present state of the law of entail, which events proprietors from laying out any considerable sum upon their estate, except at enormous ersonal sacrifice to themselves (Evid. 192). And here again, where money is borrowed under the Act f Parliament for that purpose, the same complaints are reiterated of the oppressive conditions exacted y inspectors, who, in the words of Mr. Cameron, of Lochiel, M.P., "have in building one fixed law for the Highlands and Lowlands, although the conditions of the two portions of Scotland are ssentially different, and what is a necessity in the one place becomes a useless luxury in the other Evid. 192). Artificial obstacles.

V. Bothy system.

85. A modified phase of the Bothy system prevails in Strathspey, but the comparatively small si of the farms, the facility of procuring labour from neighbouring towns and by railway, and th frequency of crofts in all parts of the district, combine to restrict the system within reasonable limit and I do not think that it calls for any remarks from me here (Evid. 223, 224, 228).

Labour.

Scarcity of demand.

86. The scarcity of demand for labour presses very severely upon the population of the Weste parishes. The cultivation of sheep farms requires very few regular hands, and the extra labour at t times of clipping and smearing the sheep furnishes employment only for a limited number, and during limited period (Evid. 142, 173, 196, 200). Each of these operations lasts for about three weeks, t former in the month of June, and the latter at the end of October and beginning of November; duri April and May, the crofter is engaged partly in laying down the crops upon his croft, and partly, if h is an enterprising man, in the herring fishery at Lewis (Evid. 189), in July and August he is away the Caithness fishing, and the middle or end of September sees him at home again reaping the harve of his croft, but during the remainder of the year he must live in enforced idleness unless he can mak up his mind to leave his home again in search of work at a distance (Evid. 169, 181).

87. On the Duke of Sutherland's estates the construction of roads, dykes, and other works has bee undertaken upon a considerable scale with a view of relieving the necessities of the people (Evid. 14 and in Gairloch many have found temporary employment upon the Skye railway, but notwithstandi these exceptions, the general rule remains that on the West coast the supply of labour is very great in excess of the demand for it.

Wages of shepherds.

88. The shepherds are undoubtedly a well-paid class, their cottages which are very superior to tho of farm servants, are situated sometimes in the inhabited glens, but more often in wild regions destitu of any other population. It is usual for each married shepherd to board an unmarried one, who h however a separate "hirsel" of his own, independent of his companion (Evid. 132), and each "hirse appears to represent upon an average about five or six hundred sheep. The married shepherds recei in money, sheep, cows, and allowances, sometimes an equivalent to as much as 60*l.* per annu (Evid. 60), and, including the usual perquisite of "fallen meat," can seldom get less in money val than 45*l.* a year, while the single men have about 20*l.* a year and their board (Evid. 132, 173).

Wages of farm servants.

89. The wages of farm servants and the general conditions of their employment, both on the fe arable farms which exist among the mountains, and in Strathspey, suggest no peculiarities whic require further comment in addition to the remarks already made on these subjects in the two previo districts (Evid. 173, 210, 214, 223, 224, 228).

Employment of women.

90. Women are employed as hirers wherever there are farms for them to work on, and are paid fro 9*d.* to 10*d.* a day. Those so employed are generally unmarried, belong to the families of the neigh bouring crofters, and are occupied in the same kind of work as the women of Caithness and East Ross (Evid. 141, 168, 208, 224). It follows however from the scarcity of arable farms that the numb of women engaged in this capacity must bear a very small proportion to the population, while on th other hand upon the crofts a great part of the cultivation is performed by the women of the famil The land is usually tilled with the "cæs chraom" or crooked spade, and this rude species of han plough is wielded by the man, who plies it with hand and foot with great dexterity, while the wom follows with a lighter implement to complete the work (Evid. 170). The men too are often absent, that the harvest work is occasionally performed entirely by the women and children, while at oth times of the year the women harrow and rake in the seed, take the peats home from the moss, an carry the sea-weed, which is used for manure, in creels poised upon their shoulder from the shore the crofts. "Though these are heavy kinds of work the women do not seem to suffer from the "labour" (Evid. 181).

Education.

Tone of feeling.

91. There appears to be considerable variation in the tone of feeling with respect to education in th different parts of the Highlands, and this variation I have found to follow the same rule which distin guishes it upon the eastern coast, so that it is in those districts where the general conditions of life a most unfavourable that parents exhibit the greatest degree of apathy and indifference on the subject.

In the parish of Durness, where, as I have already mentioned, the people are tolerably well-off, th Rev. Mr. Grant says,—"The parents are most anxious to send their children to school, and th "attendance is generally very regular" (Evid. 142). The ground officer also says,—"I find th "whole of the parents inclined to give some education to their children" (Evid. 145); and in a return the number of days on which children attend school in the same parish, it is worthy of notice that th poorest district, on the shores of Loch Eriboll, is also the one in which the attendance is most irregula In the next parish of Edrachilles, a poorer district, I find complaints of a less satisfactory tone (Evi 147, 148, 149), and the return shows great irregularity of attendance (Evid. 158); and here again it the most indigent district of Kinlochbervie (or Oldshoremore) (Evid. 167) which is conspicuously th worst in both respects, while Assynt resembles Edrachilles in its intellectual as well as in its materia condition, the existence of more enlightened feeling being confined to the comparatively wealth district of Loch Inver (Evid. 159, 160). On the other hand in Glen Urquhart and Strath Spey whe the people are decidedly better off than in any other thickly populated part of the Highlands which visited, there appears to be a strong and universal desire among parents to do what they can for th education of their children (Evid. 208, 221, 225), although the number of small arable farms whic exists in both of those districts creates a considerable demand for herds, so that parents have an induce ment to keep away their children from school and might no doubt make money by so doing.

Influence of poverty.

92. The influence of poverty as an obstacle to education is conceded by all the witnesses whos opinions I have collected, and even where complaints occur of carelessness and indifference on the pa of parents, these complaints are accompanied by an admission that the material circumstances of th people are at least partly responsible for a condition of things so unsatisfactory (Evid. 147, 152, 17 183, 184, 194, 202, 204). The Rev. Mr. Macleod, Ullapool, says,—"The general feeling among th "parents is as a rule decidedly favourable to education, but there are exceptions, especially in the ca

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families who have sunk very low in their circumstances. I should say that anxiety to send children school varies in degree very much according to the material condition of the parents" (Evid. 170). he Rev. Mr. Matheson, Gairloch, also says,—"Where there exists on the part of the parents any ant of the appreciation of the benefits of education, I attribute it more to their dire poverty than any other cause" (Evid. 184).

Physical difficulties.

he inability of parents to provide sufficiently good clothing and shoes for their children to go to ol in, which even in the Lowland portions of my district is a source of frequent difficulty, is a more s obstacle to education in Highland parishes, where storms are more severe, and the nature of the nd renders schools less accessible to all the scholars attending them. It is true indeed that the ulation of the West coast are so grouped in townships along the shore that each hamlet offers a enient centre where a school can be placed in a position easily accessible to a large number of unding cottages (Evid. 183), but this division into hamlets or townships is often carried so far an extravagant number of schools would be required to bring education to the door of every ge.

Gairloch there are no less than 19 schools for a population of 5,449 persons, and these figures in round numbers, the proportion of one school to every 250 persons of all ages (Evid. 181), but pite of this apparently abundant supply of the means of education Mr. Macintosh, schoolmaster, lew, and inspector of poor for the parish, says,—"This number is inadequate to meet the require- ents of the population in consequence of the isolation of many of the districts. The population lies most entirely along the coast, and is divided among 30 different townships which are more or less eparated from each other. In the case of almost every school there are some children attending it ho have to come very long distances, often as much as four miles, which is too much for the young ildren" (Evid. 185).

he parish of Loch Broom is less abundantly provided with schools, and the manner in which the Loch des the population upon its shores renders those which do exist more difficult of access, and accordingly n told that there are three districts totally unprovided (Evid. 171), and as many as 400 children who ive no instruction of any kind (Evid. 172), but at the same time it is stated by another witness t "many of the schools are, and must necessarily be, some distance from the homes of the scholars, nd this could not be prevented unless there be as many as 30 or 40 schools in the parish" id. 169).

Employment of children.

4. Employment of children for hire is limited within my experience of the Highlands, to their upation as herds upon the small farms in Glen Urquhart and Strathspey, and if there are instances such employment in other districts, they are too exceptional to be worthy of remark. Nor do I nk that in these two districts themselves the employment of children is of a nature to call for legis- ve interference, although, after they come to 10 or 11 years of age their attendance at school obably seldom exceeds 5 months in the year, and is sometimes less (Evid. 208, 221, 226). The Rev. . Cameron, Glen Urquhart, says,—"I do not think that any system of compulsion would work well ere, as the parents are ready to do as much for their children in respect of education as they can ossibly afford" (Evid. 208). Mr. Ross, inspector of poor, Strathspey, "I do not think any kind of ompulsion is required here to induce parents to educate their children" (Evid. 219). The Rev. . Shaw, Laggan, Strathspey, says,—"If children are kept away from school more than they ought to e, I do not think that agricultural employment is in any way responsible for their absence, and I do ot think that any application of the principle of the Factory Acts would be beneficial here." v. 225.) And Mr. Macdonald, schoolmaster, in the same parish, corroborates this view:—"I do not hink that an application of the principle of the Factory Acts would have any effect here, except, erhaps, in a very limited nnmber of cases" (E. 226).

95. Throughout the remainder of the North-Western Highlands it is certainly not by employment for e that children are debarred from availing themselves of the means of education. (Evid. 142, 146, 7, 152, 153, 169, 183, 191, 194); and the assistance which they give to their parents in the cultiva- n of the crofts could hardly, as I have already remarked, be brought within the scope of any trictive measure.

Practicability of a compulsory system.

96. In those districts where the school attendance of the children is unsatisfactory, I have usually nd among landowners, ministers, and teachers, a strong feeling in favour of some system of com- lsory education, although it is frequently admitted that any universal application of the principle of mpulsion wotld be attended with considerable difficulties. (Evid. 148, 169, 181, 183, 185, 186, 191, 2). Highland schools however possess, in this respect, one advantage over English schools, in the sence of any religious obstacle to compulsory attendance, for although "the schools are denomina- tional, there is no doctrinal difference between the denominations, and differences of opinion on ecclesiastical polity are gradually ceasing to cause the profound sectarian jealousies they at one time did" (Evid. 182). Nor is this feeling confined to members of the Established and Free urches; it is even shared by the Roman Catholics, who, in districts where they are unprovided with teacher of their own, willingly send their children to the parish school (Evid. 200, 204, 207).

97. Assuming that the application of the Factory Act principle would be futile and impracticable, e question arises of how far a measure of direct compulsion would be adapted to the circumstances of e district. It appears to me that the manner in which such a measure would operate would be a mple inversion of the principle of the Factory Acts, for as these Acts indirectly secure the attendance children at school by imposing a direct penalty upon their employment, so would a system of com- lsory education in the North-Western Highlands indirectly prohibit parents from employing their ildren upon the croft, by directly compelling them to send the children to school. That this striction would often fall very hard upon the poverty-stricken crofters of the west coast is sufficiently ain, and I infer that it would be found necessary in the event of legislation on the subject, to intrust me local body with discretionary powers of compulsion instead of laying down a general and arbitrary le which might often be necessarily harsh in its application. But, in the words of Sir Kenneth lackenzie, "in remote and rude districts it will be very difficult to find officials fitted to fill those positions," whereas, "incompetent officials might either render the law an instrument of oppression, or leave it a dead letter" (Evid. 182). And this difficulty would be aggravated by the unfortunate eudism in ecclesiastical matters which exhibits in these parishes the incongruous spectacle of a eneficed minister without a congregation, and the minister of the people without a benefice.

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98. Sir Kenneth Mackenzie proposes an educational rate, to be levied partly upon property an partly on children of school age (Evid. 182), but I do not see how such a rate could be levied in country where the people seem already unable to pay the smallest school fees (Evid. 184), as practical it would only be a round-about way of compelling parents to pay in another form the fee which it is present found impossible to exact from them.

Influence of education.

99. The impulse which an increased supply of schools has already lent to emigration is ve remarkable (Evid. 162, 169, 171, 189, 191), and in many instances the parents themselves appreciat the fact that their children's future prospects depend upon their starting in life with a good education as, in the words of one of them, "they would be beggars without it" (Evid. 150). An illustration wi be found in a letter from Mr. Fraser, schoolmaster of Golspie (Evid. 133), of the career which educati throws open to the families of intelligent crofters, and if such instances must be classed as exceptio (Evid. 181) they give us at least some measure of the possible, and furnish some criterion of the late capabilities of the Highland peasantry.

Education among shepherds.

100. Among the shepherds, who form the only representatives of an agricultural labouring class most of the inland districts, there exists a remarkably high tone of feeling with respect to educatio and in spite of the physical difficulties which they have to contend with, they usually manage to secu a fair amount of instruction for their children. It is frequently the custom among them to club togeth and hire a teacher, who is boarded in rotation at the houses of his employers, where he teaches th children of the family with which he is living at the time and any others who may happen to be with reach, while in cases where the shepherd is in a less inaccessible position but yet not within actu reach of a school, the children are often sent to board at the house of some friend in the immedia neighbourhood of the school (Evid. 135, 136, 159, 175, 193, 203).

101. A reference to the evidence collected at Altnaharra, in the wildest part of the interior of Suthe land, will convey some idea of the difficulties under which education is conducted in such localiti The district contains an area of about 400 square miles and a population of about 150 persons, livi for the most part in isolated cottages. The school is attended by 15 scholars; some of them have come as far as five miles from their homes, but that distance does not appear to deter even girls of years old in weather unusually severe. During three months of the year, from December to Februa inclusive, the storms are so incessant that the school is shut up, and the teacher gives lessons at hon to each family in turn, but for the remaining nine months it is open, and the attendance of the childre is described as being as regular as the weather will permit (Evid. 136, 137). The instruction giv at schools of this description is often of a very rudimentary character, for the number of childr which can be brought together at any given spot is necessarily very small, and the parents cann therefore afford to employ a high class teacher, but it is to be hoped that some measure of Sta assistance may before long be conceded to supplement the laudable efforts which they have alrea made of themselves under circumstances of such unusual difficulty.

Conclusion.

105. I have endeavoured in this Report to establish some coherence between the different branch of the inquiry, and I will now briefly recapitulate the results already arrived at, and indicate th connection which appears to me to subsist between them.

106. In the arable district upon the east coast I have found deficiency of quality in the cotta accommodation accompanied by a high stage of educational acquirement combining to create occasional scarcity of labour, while the progress of improvement is retarded by the existence of cro too small to maintain their occupants, and too large to leave them at liberty to take regular servi with farmers. Where these crofts are most numerous, Bothies are established on the arable farms, a the absence of any accommodation for married farm servants creates an artificial demand for the sm holdings, and maintains the crofting system, which is also perpetuated on a great part of the coast b the precarious profits of the herring fishery. In another part of the same district it appears that cro have disappeared, but have in most parts been replaced by the Bothy system in its most pernicio form, and that the immoral results of that system are confessed and lamented by nine-tenths of perso qualified to speak on the subject. Lastly, I have found that, in spite of a zeal for education whi is shared by the overwhelming majority of the lower classes, poverty creates difficulties, and sometim engenders indifference, and that this excessive indifference is limited, with rare exceptions, to the tena of the small crofts. The problem which presses for solution appears to be a redistribution of labo in proportion to the demand for it, and that problem would be more than half solved by any chan which could combine the erection of good farm cottages with the destruction or amalgamation small crofts.

107. In the Highlands generally I find it to be equally true that poverty is the great obstacle, if n the only one, to education. The habitations of the people, although bad, are on a level with their circu stances, and every effort is made by landlords to relieve the necessities of their tenantry, but the pop lation is so utterly out of proportion to the resources of the country that emigration affords the on hope of permanent relief. Education has already had the effect of encouraging this emigration, a any legislative measure which, partly by coercion and partly by the multiplication of schools, co bring sound instruction within the reach of every child would confer an inestimable boon upon t district.

108. Finally, there is no ground for imposing any legal restriction upon the employment of wom in agriculture, and the employment of children for hire is confined to exceptional portions of t district, and does not, even then, interfere appreciably with their education.

It now only remains for me to express my deep sense of obligation for the kind assistance wh I have invariably received from all classes in the prosecution of this Inquiry, and to subscr myself,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

December 29th, 1870. C. WALTER CAMPION.

EVIDENCE.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

The question of providing a fair supply of labourers' ttages is one of such general importance that we em it desirable to insert some further testimony in ntinuation of the notices upon the subject in our st report (§§ 334–354 and Appendix, pp. 150–158). In that Report and the Appendix we called attention a new application of Portland cement concrete, in ıbs of a peculiar construction, invented by Mr. enjamin Nicoll and mentioned with much approval Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., as a juror at the Paris xhibition, and we expressed the opinion that if that vention fulfilled what it promised in regard to onomy and durability, it would afford the means of ilding commodious cottages at a cost upon which ordinary cottage rents would pay a full per- ntage.

Several gentlemen gave Mr. Nicoll the opportunity erecting specimens of his work. The following is account of some of the results:—

Mr. Chadwick informs us that the gardener's lodge, nstructed for him by Mr. Nicoll at Park Cottage, ast Sheen, has, upon the whole, satisfied his expecta- ons. "The vertical slabs and also the roofing generally are water-tight and answer completely. The cottage on the whole is damp-proof, and I think that the superiority of the principle is established. Much was promised as to the non-conducting power of the roofing, and as regards heat and cold it is equal to a double roof of lath and plaster. The flooring, with wooden slabs set on bitumen, which I feared would crack and break by the expansion of the wood, does not, and answers to the complete satisfaction of the inmates. Now as to defects. There is a corner in one of the rooms where moisture is let in from bad jointing, and there are small defects of a like sort at one or two other points, but these are clearly defects of workmanship, not only in the jointing but in the mixing of the concrete. It is palpably from a defect in the mixing of the concrete if any damp or moisture is let through. Where the concrete is properly mixed it is sufficiently water-tight to serve for water tanks. For its general success, therefore, the application of Mr. Nicholl's principle of cottage building appears to me to require better superintendence than has been given to it. The gardener and his mother who occupy the cottage say that it is a very comfortable one, and the mother has evidently been in better health in it than she was in the brick cottage." (Dec. 1870.)

The Hon. Captain Egerton, M.P., has had a pair of cottages built by Mr. Nicoll at St. George's Hill farm, near Walton-on-Thames. Captain Egerton has forwarded to us an account of what the tenants think of them. They say that "the walls are quite dry, and "no damp seems to penetrate, and the floors are damp-"proof." They consider the cottages "well arranged "for a working man, better than they usually are" and "warmer in winter and cooler in summer" than an ordinary cottage. The washable walls are "good "for a cottager, because easily cleaned with a wet "sponge and flannel, requiring no fresh colouring at "any time." In these cottages there were also "defects of workmanship." The roof slabs let in the wet, and "although Mr. Nicholl's people might possibly "have succeeded in making the roof water-tight" Captain Egerton thought it better to have the roof covered with tiles at once. There were a few other defects of detail in the chimneys and the windows which need not have occurred. Captain Egerton's conclusion is that "where a good many buildings of "the sort are required," where "the materials are "plentiful and near at hand," and the defects above noted avoided by good workmanship, cottages may be built at the cost stated by Mr. Nicholl. (Dec. 1870.)

Mr. Tremenheere employed Mr. Nicholl to construct a cattle house and cart shed on a farm about two miles from Penzance. The imperfect mixture of portions of the concrete caused the wet to penetrate, both in the roofs and on the sides, in several places. The rest of the building is quite dry. Other errors in detail arose from unskilful superintendence. A miscalculation as to the carriage of materials caused the cost to Mr. Nicoll to exceed his contract price. (Dec. 1870.)

Mr. Nicoll gave us the following account of his proceedings since 1868, and the future prospects of improving and perfecting his plans:—(July 1870.)

"Since the account given of my invention in the Commissioners' Report of 1868, I have had a great number of applications to build cottages on my plan. Applications were also made to me for the construction of a great number of buildings of a larger description than cottages. The application for cottages came from land agents and owners of landed property in many parts of the country. The applications for buildings of a larger description were for schools, chapels, farm buildings, ranges of sheds for manufacturing purposes, rows of workmen's houses, and a great variety of other kinds of building. The letters produced are the vouchers for these facts. They show that if the plant at my command had been equal to it, I could have taken contracts offered to me to the amount of nearly 30,000*l.*, chiefly for cottages. If the applications made to me to know whether I could execute buildings of a specified kind (chiefly larger than cottages) within a certain time, had been turned into contracts, the amount of work would have been upwards of 18,000*l.* more. Unfortunately, the plant at my works near Clapham Junction was of a limited nature, and circumstances prevented its being sufficiently extended to enable me to undertake large contracts. The cottages, however, which I have constructed since the autumn of 1868 are the following:—

1. A row of seven cottages which were commenced in the summer of 1868; these have two rooms on the lower floor, and two rooms above.

2. A lodge for Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., at the entrance to the grounds of his villa at East Sheen, consisting of four rooms, all on the ground floor, with a small court behind for coal shed, &c., &c., walled in with slabs. This has the flues and the hot closet on the plan of Mr. Douglas Galton and General Morin described in Mr. Sharpe's evidence in your Report of 1868.

3. A cottage with two rooms on the ground floor at New Hampton, close to the triple cottage, erected in the summer of 1868, according to the plans of the Central Cottage Improvement Society, and referred to you in your Report of that year.

4. Additions to a lodge at Mr. Wigan's villa at East Sheen, consisting of two new rooms and out-buildings, with alterations and improvements to two old rooms.

5. A double cottage for the Hon. Captain Egerton, M.P., on his property at Hill Farm, Chobham Road, about two miles from Walton-on-Thames.

"Of buildings of a superior description, I have in hand a large villa, with coach-house, stabling, &c., near Virginia Water, for Mr. Land; and a cattle house and cart shed for yourself in Cornwall. But the experience I have gained with these would prevent my undertaking any larger kinds of building than cottages, until I could carry them into effect with a more complete plant, and on a more extended scale.

"While the cottages above referred to were in progress, I saw my way to simplifying the construction and therefore of giving more accommodation, while at the same time reducing the cost without any sacrifice of strength and durability. The model now before you of six rooms, all of the same size, shows a group capable of becoming either three cottages of two rooms each, or two cottages of three rooms each, or one with four, and one with two rooms. By keeping the sizes of the rooms uniform, I should be able to manufacture all the slabs of the same dimensions, so that they would be interchangeable, roof slabs included. This would enable me to open or close communication between the rooms without the least difficulty, and to enlarge or contract the plan at will, including all the conveniences which ought to be attached to a cottage. The width of all the slabs, whether for walls, roofs, partitions, flues, doors, or windows, is the same. The lengths for wall and partition slabs would all be the same; the length for the roof slabs, windows, &c., would all be uniform. They are consequently as I said before interchangeable. This reduces the process of preparing the ironwork to the greatest simplicity and certainty, and obviates the necessity of numbering the slabs. It will also enable us to keep the iron for the slabs, and the joiners' work, &c., in stock; and the putting the whole together, including the asphalting and concreting on the spot, will be so simple that it can be done with one class of workpeople. A porch, or a verandah, is easily formed by a continuation of the roof, with upright supports. The hot-air cupboards, flues, and stoves, on Mr. Galton's and General Morin's plans, are preserved, with some improvements of detail suggested by our experience with Mr. Chadwick's lodge, where they were in part applied for the first time. The simplifications in construction above specified would enable us to put up groups of cottages, with rooms of the uniform size of 9 ft. × 9 ft. and 9 ft. high to the spring of the roof (12 feet up to the point of the roof), at a cost below that named in your Report of 1868, for Plan No. 2, and although the dimensions of the rooms are rather reduced, the conveniences afforded are greater.

"As to the strength of the individual slabs, the following is the certificate forwarded to me from Mr. David Kirkaldy's testing and experimental works, the Grove, Southwark Street, London, dated 26th October 1868.

"Results of experiments to ascertain the resistance to a gradually increased thrusting stress of two patent metallic concrete slabs received from B. Nicoll, Esq.

"Slab, No. C. 1347, length, 6′ 5″ × breath, 2″; thickness, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; ultimate stress, 44,915 lbs. = 20 tons.

"Slab, No. C. 1348, length, 6′ 5″ × breath, 2″; thickness, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; ultimate stress, 45,870 lbs. = 20 tons 5 cwts."

"The stress was applied lengthways to the slabs."

Another mode of building cottages with Portland cement concrete, has been described to us by Messrs. Hooper and Corpe, architects, 5, Park Prospect, Queen Street, Westminster:—

"We have done a great deal of work in Portland cement concrete. We turned our attention to the use of concrete in building about three years ago. We are applying it both to large and to small buildings. We have every confidence in the strength and durability of Portland cement concrete, even for the largest buildings. Within the last few years the manufacture of Portland cement has been so much improved as to make it entirely trustworthy. Formerly the cement used was formed from the lias limestone; it is now made of what are called hydraulic limes, from their readily setting under water; and their strength, when properly manufactured, is enormously greater than the old kind of cement, as is shown by Colonel Scott, R.E., of the South Kensington Museum, in his paper on the different kinds of concrete, of which you have given an abstract in your first Report. It is called Portland cement from its similarity in colour and appearance to Portland stone, and as compared with the best Portland stone in regard to strength, it will, after being set for six months, bear an equal crushing weight, but after being set 12 months, it will bear double the crushing weight, and it continues to harden with age.

"The first houses we constructed of Portland cement concrete were at New Hampton, close to Hampton Court. They were two villas of seven rooms each. In these villas we made two cisterns of the concrete in each, one for rain, and the other for the Company's water. They were placed over the ceiling of the kitchens; the concrete was 4 inches thick; they are about 6 ft. × 3 ft. × 2 ft. deep. They were finished about three years ago, and there has been no sign of leakage or damp on the exterior or on the ceiling.

"We then built five houses with shops at Twickenham; another row, with four houses and shops, and a pair of villas, also at Twickenham. The row of four houses has flat roofs of concrete 3 inches thick; they are 24 ft. by 14 ft. in one slab. Until the concrete set they were carried by the ordinary ceiling joists and rough boarding, which was removed when it set, and it now supports itself. There has been no symptom of cracks or leakage.

"We have since then constructed a villa at Basingstoke, of 13 or 14 rooms in two stories; a small villa at Ilkley in Yorkshire, all on one floor; a warehouse at Shipley, near Bradford, five stories high, the floors, roof, and stairs all being also of concrete, the walls 15 inches thick at the base. This is stronger than 18 inches of brickwork, and than 2 feet of rough stone walling. The ground and first floors are 12 inches, and the upper floor 9 inches. The floors consist of concrete slabs 20 ft. long by 3 ft. 6 in. wide, and 6 in. thick, and will carry 200 tons. We have in hand additions to Lodden Court, Beech Hill, near Reading, for C. B. Roupell, Esq., consisting of a large drawing-room and four bed-rooms; also a large house at St. Margarets, near Ware, Herts, for J. E. Ker, Esq.; and several agricultural cottages for — Alkins, Esq., at Haxted, near Eden Bridge, Kent. Two of them will be completed in a fortnight. They consist on the ground floor of living room, 12 by 13 by 9, kitchen, 12 by 8, with lobby, pantry, oven, hot-house, and W. C., and cesspool and rain-water tank, both of concrete; on the upper floor, of three bed-rooms, 12 by 10 by 8, 10 by 10 by 8, and 9 by 7 by 8, with large cupboard on landing, outer walls 6 inches thick, party walls 9 inches, flues 7 inches in diameter. The roof is of plain tiles. We had to lead the gravel for the concrete five miles, and it cost us 5*s.* per cubic yard. There were also concrete steps and walling in front. Nevertheless we have executed the whole for 195*l.* for the pair. Some leading was done by the tenant (*i.e.*, of cement, woodwork, &c., from the railway station) to the value of about 3*l.* The exact cost of these two cottages has therefore been a little under 200*l.* From my experience as an architect I am able to say that they could not have been built with the ordinary materials under 240*l.*

"For the large buildings we employ a small steam engine (about 3 horse-power) for the crushing, mixing, and hoisting. This ensures the mixing being perfectly done. In the mixing for small buildings I have to depend on trained and careful workmen. Our apparatus for constructing the wall work is of a very simple kind. We build 2 feet perpendicular at a time. The shifting of the troughs all round in building a pair of cottages does not take more than two hours. We can therefore build with great rapidity; and to facilitate the drying and consequent setting of the material in the centre of the wall, we introduce a small quantity of refuse brick or broken porous stone. These cottages therefore will be perfectly dry, and can be safely inhabited much sooner than those of brick or stone.

"According to the cost of obtaining gravel, burnt clay, furnace ashes, broken stone, &c., the proportionate cost of a building will somewhat vary. In Yorkshire we are not only getting the furnace ashes

ıd clinkers for nothing, but are paid 4*d.* a load for ie privilege of shooting it; and refuse stone we get r 6*d.* per cubic yard for the cartage. On the whole ıe buildings we have constructed and have in hand e executed at a cost of from 20*l.* to 30*l.* per cent. elow the cost of brick and mortar. The great saving the walling, on this we effect a saving of from 30*l.* 50*l.* per cent. as compared with brick, with the lvantage to the owner of a material more durable an brick and perfectly dry.

"Proposals have been made to us for building a ry large concert hall at Huddersfield, 200 feet by 70 d 40 feet high to the plate of the roof (to hold ,200 persons), and also for a church, parsonage house, ıd schools in the east end of London. I shall have o hesitation in undertaking buildings of this scale ith Portland cement concrete walls. I have had great deal of experience as an architect. While nder Mr. Thomas Cubitt I was engaged on Osborne House and in the enlargement of Buckingham Palace, and many other large works. I have been in business for myself for 15 years, during which time I have executed very many large buildings, among them the hospital barracks for the Guards. With this experience I have no hesitation in saying that I greatly prefer Portland cement concrete as a material for walls to any thing else; and as to its use in roofing, there is an instance in the roof of Park House, Albert Gate, the whole of which is of Portland cement concrete, laid flat, and which is as sound now as when it was put up by Mr. Cubitt 16 years ago.

"We are prepared to contract for cottages on any of the plans in the appendix to your first Report, for the sums there mentioned, in any part of the country, provided we had a sufficient number to make it worth our while. At a great distance from London we should not be willing to undertake less than two pairs." (Aug. 1870.)

DIET OF THE RURAL LABOURING CLASSES.

The following remarks on the diet of the rural abouring classes, by Mr. Julius Jeffreys, F.R.S., have been addressed to us by that gentleman. They are the esult of many years observation and experience upon his and other subjects of sanitary science in this and other countries. It is of interest in regard to Scotland n account of the evidence given to some of the Assistant Commissioners of the injurious results apprehended from the tendency to abandon the old nourishing diet of the Scotch peasantry.

"It may be taken as a rule that the average dietary of the labouring population in the purely rural districts of the southern half of England may be described as follows, namely, that beef or mutton are so rarely tasted by them that they may be said to form no part of their diet, nor are they a necessity, though to be desired; that bacon is not partaken of more than, if so often as, once or twice a week, and not in any proportion amounting to a meal; and that bread and cheese form the main food of adults.

"These two last articles of diet suffice to sustain the healthy in bodily and mental vigour if good of their kind, and sufficient in quantity; and if occasionally varied with other diet, and accompanied with a due proportion of butter, where the cheese is not made with new milk. But both the bread and cheese are too commonly wanting in both quantity and quality.

"The poor man's cow being for the most part in those parts of England a historic blessing of the past, milk enters but little, often not at all, into the diet of village children, even in infancy.

"The farmer's once-skimmed milk (all that could be desired for children) having been "skimmed sky-blue," is commonly given to his pigs. Weaned infants in many villages have to draw nourishment mainly from a pap of bread and water; the bread often made of flour from which the miller has extracted the best of the wheat, and the water often obtained from an impure source—a small pond or ditch, supplied by the surface drainings of, at best, manured land, and not unfrequently by drainings from manure heaps placed by the farmer close to the water source of a row of cottages.

"I know a large parish in Suffolk, mainly dependent on ditch water, in which, during certain seasons of the year, the administration of a vermifuge would expel from the bowels of many, perhaps half of the children, worms (*lumbrici*) many inches in length.

"I have seen the effect to be a discharge, from the mouth, of a creature more than a span long, with fainting sickness and fright in the little sufferer, caused by the writhings of the worm before and after its emission.

"Within a few days of this observation, I visited a village a few miles off, I believe on similar soil, the proprietor of which had beneficently and admirably housed his hereditary charge—the toilers on the soil and their families. *There*, every labouring family appeared to possess a good cottage, and every cottage or two a good well; there, the mothers stared with surprise upon being asked if any of their children were troubled with such worms. The contrast between the healthier countenances of the children and the puttied faces of many of the former village gave evidence of the happier lot of the little ones of Culford.

"But the *sustenance* of the peasantry at all ages bears no due proportion to the toil to which they are reared, and the privation is sadly and needlessly aggravated by the distances which many of them have daily to walk, through the decay or actual destruction of cottages.

"I have heard of many instances in which, before the termination of a lifetime of labour, men have, through this cause, been compelled to perform a foot-penance equalling, in many a case, a journey once round the world, and in some, even twice! and in some thrice!

e.g. A superfluous walk, of a labourer to his work, of four miles a day (two out and two home) for 300 working days, would amount to 1,200 superfluous miles in a year; this for, say, 40 working years gives a total of 48,000 miles, or, in round numbers, twice the circumference of the earth.

"To add this to ploughing or digging, or other *standing* work all the day, and every day, may well produce that aspect of premature senility, the furrowed countenances, bending gait, and leanness so prevalent among them, and remarked by foreigners.

"Inadequate nutrition, combined with constant hereditary toil, produces a hereditary effect on the intellect which, though little recognized, is in England of surpassing extent, and much to be deplored.

"The contrast between the dulness of our village youth, placing them below the average of mankind, and the intellectual vigour of the classes above them rising superior to the average, is truly remarkable. Its only and sufficient cause is to be found in the one I have named—sustenance wholly inadequate for supporting muscular labour and mental vigour also.

"The Celt, while in a state of natural indolence interrupted only by occasional feats of exertion, shows smart enough wits even though poorly fed. The still lazier Bengalee requires, in his hot climate perhaps, no more food than he easily obtains, and is remarkably apt as a scholar. As a child he would occupy a high position in one of our village schools.

"After a generation of daily labour as a hod-man, the Irishman loses (though then better fed than our peasantry) much of his national smartness.

"With respect to the English labourer, almost every ou nce of his food, beyond what is absolutely required

to support the vital functions, has long since taken the direction of muscle-forming and muscle-driving—a drift of the food which he inherits, and imparts to his offspring as a constitutional legacy. At the close of a day's labour, while the Celt or Bengalee will be sitting in conversation, if not lying on his back, the English labourer, while yet of a vigorous age, may be seen playing at bowls or even cricket—the game of greatest exertion—his national choice !

" The cultivation of the intellect involves a large consumption of nervous force; requiring the breaking up of a large quantity of food to sustain it.

" In the hereditary thinker of many generations, the intellect is commonly expanded at the expense of the bodily development, until both give way, and the family becomes extinct, unless saved in time by a marriage with a powerful animal of our race, which restores the equilibrium between the mind and body.

" We sometimes see a great power of mind and body combined—a deep thinker and discoverer who is also an athlete—a rare sight, and requiring the hero to eat like a horse to sustain both.

" Even in a prolonged examination for competitive distinction the sustained mental effort and pressure of mind and memory, required for success, partake of a combination of intellectual with vital force not at the command of the delicate in health, who may yet possess intellects of a far higher order in penetration and originality.

" If we draw from these reflections any right inferences respecting the immediate objects of our concern—our village labourers and their families, our surprise must surely be excited at all that their superiors expect to obtain out of the scanty pabulum apportioned to them.

" As sucklings they have to draw breast-milk from fountains, how adequately supplied might puzzle the physiologist to explain in numerous cases.

" When weaned, they have to perform a duty of great national importance—an importance which can scarcely be exaggerated, that of laying the foundation of the sturdy frames which the empire requires to serve its interests in all manners of ways.

" Does not water more than milk, and too often water alone, form the liquid portion of the materials the infant-constitution has to be built with?

" In childhood milk has disappeared from the board, and its place is ill-supplied, if supplied, by a scraping of butter or cheese, and now begins work. To scare crows and weed a little are within the hereditary boundary of the intellect. In some minds struggling to expand themselves, in girls perhaps more than boys, some book-knowledge may be implanted; but it is with most a very up-hill work, and it is the complaint of schoolmasters that what is with much difficulty implanted is nevertheless soon forgotten.

" Is this not a necessity of nature? As such, is it otherwise than desirable? We know the danger, frequently the destructive consequences, of urging or even encouraging the willing minds of precocious children, the nutrition of whose brains is not advanced enough to sustain intellectual efforts.

" In the child of the labourer the brain refuses to be mentally stretched, (it is accustomed to be physically stretched) beyond its powers. The race, already in many districts, lean, stunted and prematurely decrepit, would be in danger of breaking down altogether if the schoolmaster could be for a time as successful as he desires.

" There are a few clever boys who have not inherited the necessity of much labour on little nourishment, or whose constitutions have resisted the muscle-ward drift of all their food. These may be apt pupils, and may raise themselves above the necessity of common labour; but as to the bulk of our peasant children, it is surely desirable that with the present inadequate nourishment no great stress should be laid upon their mental powers.

" I feel unable to close my sight against the evidence afforded in the fact, that the present children of England are remarkably slow in learning, and quick in forgetting what they learn, more especially when compared with their superiors of the same race—evidence that nutrition must be falling short of the demand made upon it.

" It is more profitable for the interests of all that the positive obligations of the present should be accepted, avoiding as futile any comparisons with the past. But one might join issue with those who point to the wheaten bread now eaten as a proof of superior feeding to the oat and barley-meal consumed by labourers in our earlier times. Accompanied with their home milk in those days such meal, if good of its kind, was food greatly superior to the dry, milkless, sophisticated bread of the modern baker. Moreover, there was superadded to the former an amount of flesh-meat unknown to any village labourer of the present day.

" The pastures and woodlands of England were far more extensive in proportion to the population then, and more absolutely extensive. It is true that scarce seasons occurred more often through defective husbandry than now, and that the country can now support a much larger population, but these are not the question.

" The question is, at which period the food in quantity and nutritive quality *bore the smaller proportion to the labour performed;* also at which period peasant children and infants were least scantily nourished in ordinary seasons.

" There can be little doubt that when every cottager could keep a cow, with its contingent of pig and poultry, and when animal food was more abundant, and labour less continuous, the sustenance was better proportioned to it and to the infant-wants depending upon it.

" But, as already remarked, comparisons are out of place when the due requital of labour is the question in view. Were it possible to prove that greater adversity prevailed in earlier days, or in other lands within the bounds of modern civilization, that were a poor reason for countenancing the continuance of removable adversity now.

" One great staple of human sustenance, scarcely second in importance to corn, animal food in all its forms, has for a long period been yearly decreasing in proportion to our population, rapidly increasing as it is.

" The price to which meat has risen invites the employment of so large a portion of the pastures of the country in its production, as to have induced a scantiness of dairy produce, milk, butter and cheese, which is severely felt by the poorest of the population, especially by children.

" The importation of living animals is too costly to reduce materially the price of meat. For a cheap abundance we must look to the importation of *dead meat* from distant lands, especially from the southern hemisphere."

The dietary of agricultural labourers in many countries on the continent is given in the " Reports " of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Agents " abroad respecting the condition of the industrial " classes in Foreign Countries," made in compliance with a circular from the Earl of Clarendon in 1869, and presented to Parliament in 1870.

From the notices of the food of labourers in agriculture, embodied in several of these Reports, it appears that milk, butter, cheese, fat, meat, and a greater variety of vegetables and of farinaceous food than are commonly used in this country, as well as salad herbs enter more or less into the dietary of a considerable proportion of the agricultural labouring class in Prussia, Bavaria, Hesse, Austria, Russia, Sweden, parts of Italy, the Danubian Provinces, and among the Mussulman population in Turkey. As regards Austria, Mr. Lytton says that, " as a general rule, the agricultural labourer is well " fed, and the quantity of food which he has the

reputation of consuming has given rise to the proverb, 'Was der pflug gewinnt, das foisst der 'gesind,' (what the plough makes, the ploughman takes." (p. 523.) The standard of the agricultural labourer's food is also very high in Bavaria and Hesse, and, among the "farm servants" who are hired by the year, in Prussia. (pp. 414, 637.)

But in order that the English agricultural labourer may be able to profit by any greater facilities that may be opened to him for obtaining a more varied and more strengthening diet, either from the importation of preserved meat, as above adverted to, or from other sources, additional pains must be taken in elementary schools for girls, to instruct them in those simple means by which the continental peasantry make their ordinary articles of food more palatable and more nutritious than can be accomplished, except in rare instances, by the agricultural labourer's wife in this country.

RETURN OF THE LOANS SANCTIONED BY THE INCLOSURE COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, under the several Improvement Acts administered by them (*see* List attached hereto) for the Agricultural Improvement of Land in Great Britain, from the Year 1866 to 31st December 1870, inclusive.

Description of Works.	England.			Scotland.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Drainage and improvements other than buildings.	1,061,120	13	4	382,219	1	0
Farm houses, farm buildings, and alterations and additions to farm houses and buildings.	524,238	6	0	157,789	1	0
Labourers' cottages -	183,725	15	0*	19,484	0	0†
Total - - -	1,769,084	14	4	559,492	2	0

* England - 1,265 cottages.
† Scotland - 147 do.
1,412

Remarks on the above table.

From the year 1863, when the loans under the sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners commenced, to 1866, the sums taken by England and Scotland respectively, could not, the Commissioners informed us, be readily ascertained.

From a previous return, obligingly furnished to us by the Commissioners, and given in s. 215 of our Second Report, it appeared that the building of cottages under any of the Acts administered by the Inclosure Commissioners (see List annexed) was proceeding, from 1863 to 1866, at the rate of 127 per annum. The rate from 1866 to 1870 has been, as appears by the above table, 282 per annum. The rate has therefore considerably increased, but the total number per annum is still small, from the causes adverted to in s. 65 of our Report.

According to the previous returns, as adverted to in our First Report, s. 330, the average cost of cottages built under the loans sanctioned by the Inclosure Commissioners up to 1866, was 143*l.* for each. The average cost of the 1,412 cottages in the above table is within a fraction of 144*l.*, *i.e.* (183,725+19,484=203,209÷1,412=143·9).

LAND IMPROVEMENT ACTS,

Under the Control of the Inclosure Commissioners for England and Wales.

COMPANIES' ACTS.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LAND DRAINAGE AND INCLOSURE COMPANY.
11 & 12 Vict. cap. 142.
Offices: Bedford Circus, Exeter, and 34, Parliament Street, S.W.
Frederick Brodie, Esquire, Secretary.

No power to erect buildings under this Act.

THE GENERAL LAND DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.
12 & 13 Vict. cap. 91.
Offices: 22, Whitehall Place, S.W.
Arthur Milman, Esquire, Secretary.

THE LANDS IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.
16 & 17 Vict. cap. 154. 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 84.
22 & 23 Vict. cap. 82. 26 & 27 Vict. cap. 140.
Offices: 1, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.
Granville R. Ryder, Esquire, Managing Director.

THE SCOTTISH DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.
19 & 20 Vict. cap. 70.
23 & 24 Vict. cap. 170.
Offices: 20, Hill Street, Edinburgh.
John Ronald, Esquire, Managing Director.

THE LAND LOAN AND ENFRANCHISEMENT COMPANY.
23 & 24 Vict. cap. 169 and 194.
Offices: 22, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.
Thomas Pain, Esquire, Managing Director.

PUBLIC ACTS.

PUBLIC MONEY DRAINAGE ACT.
9 & 10 Vict. cap. 101.
10 Vict. cap. 11.
10 & 11 Vict. cap. 38 and 113.
11 & 12 Vict. cap. 119.
13 & 14 Vict. cap. 31.
14 & 15 Vict. cap. 91.
19 Vict. cap. 9.
Offices: 3, St. James's Square, S.W.

No power to erect buildings under these Acts.

LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1861.*
24 & 25 Vict. cap. 133.
Offices: 3, St. James's Square, S.W.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND ACT, 1864.
27 & 28 Vict. cap. 114.
Offices: 3, St. James's Square, S.W.

LIMITED OWNERS RESIDENCES ACT.*
33 & 34 Vict. cap. 56.
Offices: 3, St. James's Square, S.W.

Inclosure Commission,
3, St. James's Square, S.W.,
Feb. 8th, 1871.

* These Acts do not come within the provisions of the return.

LONDON:
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COMMISSION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (1867).

APPENDIX PART II.

TO

FOURTH REPORT.

EVIDENCE

FROM

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

AND

ANALYTICAL INDEX to REPORTS I., II., III., & IV.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1870.

[C. 221.—I.] *Price 4s.*

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EVIDENCE

ACCOMPANYING

THE REPORTS OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. NORMAN'S REPORT.

[I have arranged the evidence accompanying my report as follows, viz.: — Section A. contains miscellaneous evidence; B. contains evidence relating to education; a good deal which relates to education will, however, be found in other portions of the evidence, but so mixed up with evidence relating to other matters that I have been unable to separate that relating to education from the rest. C. contains the evidence of persons belonging to the agricultural labouring class. D. contains all the more important answers given to the questions contained in the printed circulars which I distributed. The evidence contained in each of these sections is again subdivided into the portions relating to each particular county, and these subdivisions are printed in the alphabetical order of the counties to which they relate, viz.: Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Forfarshire, Kincardineshire, Morayshire, Nairnshire. The evidence relating to each county is printed according to the alphabetical order of the places from which it has been obtained.—F. H. N.]

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Cawdor - - - W. Stables, Esq.

Question 3.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Alford - - - R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.
Birse - - - Mr. Alex. Milne.
Ellon - - - Mr. T. F. Jamieson.
Forgue - - - R. Simpson, Esq.
Huntly - - - John Wilson, Esq.
Kincardine O'Neil - Major Innes.
King Edward - - Mr. W. Dawson.
Old Deer - - - James Russell, Esq.
Rayne - - - W. Leslie, Esq.
Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.

BANFFSHIRE.

Grange - - - James Lumsden, Esq.
Inveravon - - James Skinner, Esq.
Mortlach - - - W. Cantlie, Esq.

FORFARSHIRE.

Inverarity - - Rev. Patrick Stevenson.
Inverkeilor - - Rev. James Hay.
Kinnell - - - W. Goodlit, Esq.
Liff and Benvie - Mr. James Smith.
Newtyle - - - Andrew Whitton, Esq.
Maryton - - - Charles Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Ternan - P. Davidson, Esq.
„ - Mr. J. Davidson.
Fettercairn - - Lt.-Col. Wm. McInroy.
Kinneff - - - Arthur Glennie, Esq.
Laurencekirk - - David A. Pearson, Esq.

MORAY.

Drainie - - - Mr. Thomas Yool.
Speymouth - - Mr. J. Geddes.
Spynie - - - Alexander Lawson, Esq.
Urquhart - - - Rev. Gordon Ingram.

NAIRN.

Cawdor - - - W. Stables, Esq.

Question 6.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Forgue - - - R. Simpson, Esq.
Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.
Ellon - - - Mr. Thomas F. Jamieson.
Forgue - - - Robert Simpson, Esq.
Huntly - - - Mr. John Wilson.
Kincardine O'Neil - Major Innes.

Question 7.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Birse - - - Mr. Milne.
King Edward - - Mr. Wm. Davidson.
„ - - Mr. George Barclay.
Old Deer - - - James Russell, Esq.
Rayne - - - W. Leslie, Esq.
Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.

BANFFSHIRE.

Inveravon - - James Skinner, Esq.
Mortlach - - - Wm. Cantlie, Esq.

FORFARSHIRE.

Inverarity - - Rev. Patrick Stevenson.
Inverkeilor - - Rev. James Hay.
Kinnell - - - W. Goodlit, Esq.
Liff - - - - Mr. James Smith.
Newtyle - - - Andrew Whitton, Esq.
Maryton - - - Charles Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Ternan - P. Davidson, Esq.
„ - Mr. James Davidson.
Kinneff - - - Arthur Glennie, Esq.
Laurencekirk - - D. A. Pearson, Esq.

MORAY.

Speymouth - - J. Geddes, Esq.
Spynie - - - A. Lawson, Esq.
Urquhart - - Rev. Gordon Ingram.

Question 8.

FORFARSHIRE.

Inverarity - - Rev. Pat. Stevenson.
Kinnell - - - W. Goodlit, Esq.

MORAY.

Urquhart - - - Rev. Gordon Ingram.

Questions 9, 10, 11, 12.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Alford - - - R. F. O. Farquharson. Esq.
Birse - - - Mr. Alex. Milne.
Ellon - - - Mr. T. P. Jamieson.
Forgue - - - Robt. Simpson, Esq.
Huntly - - - Mr. John Wilson.
Kincardine O'Neil - Major Innes.
King Edward - - Mr. Wm. Dawson.
„ - - Mr. George Barclay.
Rayne - - - W. Leslie, Esq.
Strichen - - - Dr. Gavin.
Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.

BANFFSHIRE.

Inveravon - - James Skinner, Esq.
Mortlach - - Mr. Wm. Cantlie.

FORFARSHIRE.

Carmyllie - - The Land Steward, the Guynd.
Glamis - - - Andrew Ralston, Esq.
Inverarity - - Rev. P. Stevenson.
Inverkeilor - - Rev. J. Hay.
Kinnell - - - Wm. Goodlit, Esq.
Liff and Benvie - Mr. James Smith.
Newtyle - - Mr. Andrew Whitton.
Maryton - - Chas. Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Ternan - P. Davidson, Esq.
„ - - Mr. J. Davidson.
Fettercairn - - Lt.-Col. MacInroy.
Laurencekirk - - A. Pearson, Esq.

MORAY.

115. Drainie - - - Mr. T. Yool.
116. Speymouth - - J. Geddes, Esq.
117. Spynie - - - Alexander Lawson, Esq.
118. Urquhart - - Rev. Gordon Ingram.

NAIRN.

119. Cawdor - - - Wm. Stables. Esq.

Questions 13, 14, 15.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

120. Alford - - - R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.
121. Birse - - - Alex. Milne.
122. Ellon - - - Mr. T. Jamieson.
123. Forgue - - - Robert Simpson, Esq.
124. Huntly - - - John Wilson, Esq.
125. Kincardine O'Neil - Major Innes.
126. King Edward - - Mr. G. Barclay.
127. Old Deer - - James Russell, Esq.
128. Rayne - - - W. Leslie, Esq.
129. Strichen - - Dr. Gavin.
130. „ - - - „
131. Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.

BANFFSHIRE.

132. Grange - - - James Lumsden, Esq,
133. Inveravon - - James Skinner, Esq.
134. Mortlach - - Wm. Cantlie, Esq.

FORFARSHIRE.

135. Carmylie - - The Land Steward, the Guynd.
136. Glamis - - - A. Ralston, Esq.
137. Inverarity - - Rev. P. Stevenson.
138. Inverkeilor - - Rev. J. Hay.
139. Kinnell - - - W. Goodlit, Esq.
140. Liff - - - Mr. James Smith.
141. Newtyle - - Mr. Andrew Whitton.
142. Maryton - - - Charles Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

143. Banchory Ternan - P. Davidson, Esq.
144. Fettercairn - - Lieut.-Col. McInroy.
145. Kinneff - - - Arthur Glennie, Esq.
146. Laurencekirk - - D. A. Pearson, Esq.

MORAY.

147. Drainie - - - Thomas Yool, Esq.
148. Speymouth - - J. Geddes, Esq.
149. Spynie - - - Alex. Lawson, Esq.
150. Urquhart - - Rev. Gordon Ingram.

NAIRN.

151. Cawdor - - - W. Stables, Esq.

Questions 16, 17, 18, 19.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

152. Alford - - - R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.
153. Birse - - - Mr. Alex. Milne.
154. Ellon - - - Mr. T. F. Jamieson.
155. Forgue - - - R. Simpson, Esq.
156. Huntly - - - John Wilson, Esq.
157. King Edward - - Mr. Dawson.
158. „ „ - - Mr. G. Barclay.
159. Strichen - - Dr. Gavin.
160. Tarland - - - Dr. Robertson.

BANFFSHIRE.

161. Grange - - - James Lumsden, Esq.
162. Mortlach - - Mr. Wm. Cantlie.

FORFARSHIRE.

163. Glamis - - - Andrew Ralston, Esq.
164. Inverarity - - Rev. Pat. Stevenson.
165. Inverkeilor - - Rev. James Hay.
166. Kinnell - - - Wm. Goodlit, Esq.
167. Liff and Benvie - Mr. James Smith.
168. Maryton - - Chas. Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

169. Fettercairn - - Lieut.-Col. McInroy.

MORAY.

170. Drainie - - - Thomas Yool, Esq.
171. Speymouth - - J. Geddes, Esq.

NAIRN.

172. Cawdor - - - W. Stables, Esq.

Questions 23, 25, 26.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

173. Alford - - - R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.
174. „ - - - Deposits by Farm Servants.
175. Birse - - - Mr. Alexander Milne.
176. Ellon - - - Mr. T. F. Jamieson.
177. Forgue - - - R. Simpson, Esq.
178. Huntly - - - John Wilson, Esq.
179. Kincardine O'Neil - Major Innes.
180. Rayne - - - W. Leslie, Esq.

BANFFSHIRE.

181. Inveravon - - James Skinner, Esq.
182. Mortlach - - Mr. W. Cantlie.

FORFARSHIRE.

183. Carmylie - - The Land Steward, the Guynd.
184. Inverarity - - Rev. P. Stevenson.
185. Kinnell - - - W. Goodlit, Esq.
186. Liff - - - Mr. J. Smith.
187. Newtyle - - - A. Whitton, Esq.
188. Maryton - - - C. Lyall, Esq.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

189. Banchory Ternan - P. Davidson, Esq.
190. Fettercairn - - Col. McInroy.
191. Kinneff - - - A. Glennie, Esq.
192. Laurencekirk - - D. A. Pearson, Esq.

MORAY.

193. Drainie - - - T. Yool, Esq.
194. Speymouth - - J. Geddes, Esq.
195. Spynie - - - A. Lawson, Esq.
196. Urquhart - - Rev. G. Ingram.

NAIRN.

197. Cawdor - - - W. Stables, Esq.

MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

FORFARSHIRE.

198. Inverkeilor - - Rev. J. Hay.
199. Inverarity - - Rev. P. Stevenson.
200. „ - - „
201. „ - - „
202. „ - - „
203. Summary of labour returns.

EVIDENCE.

A.—MISCELLANEOUS EVIDENCE.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Aboyne.

1. *Dr. Keith.*—I have practised here since 1862, nd am well acquainted with the poorer classes. Neither women or children are employed in any field work which is injurious to their health. The only work which children do is to herd cattle, and that is very light work. The ploughmen are often badly lodged in the lofts over the stables, but they are perfectly healthy. They like sleeping over horses, but won't sleep over cows; in winter the exhalations from he horses add considerably to the warmth of the sleeping places. None of the labourers or farm servants eat meat; their food consists of oatmeal and milk and vegetables; they sometimes have venison given them by the landowners. The small crofters often keep pigs, but generally sell them, and don't consume the meat themselves.

The cottages are tolerably comfortable; but many are built with clay instead of lime, and they are always damp in wet weather. They are not generally overcrowded, but sometimes they are so when lodgers are taken in. This is done in a few cases where extra labourers have to be accommodated for temporary purposes,—as in the case of the erection of new buildings.

The smaller farmers generally dine with their servants; but the larger do not. The only prevailing disease here is "*the itch;*" that is a contagious disease, and does not arise from any local circumstances or peculiar diet.

Alford.

2. *Dr. Garden.*—I have been agent for the Aberdeen Town and County Bank here for 22 or 23 years, and have occupied a farm of 140 acres in the parish since the year 1837. I am well acquainted with the habits of the agricultural population in this neighbourhood. I feel sure that all the farm servants before they marry and have families have ample opportunities of saving money. Besides their food, they receive on an average about 20*l.* in money; at the age of 17 or 18 they would probably be receiving 18*l.* a year; and they have nothing to pay for out of this but their clothes; I think they could clothe themselves for 6*l.* or 7*l.* a year; 10*l.* a year would certainly be sufficient for both clothing and pocket money. I can only guess what proportion do save, but I don't think that more than 1 in 50 do; many are very extravagant, and anticipate their wages; and of course those who have parents, &c., dependent upon them are unable to save. I don't think any of them save anything unless they begin young. I don't recollect any of them saving who began to save later than 18 or 20. They never begin to save after marriage; but many who have saved money before marriage continue to do so afterwards; and I have known instances of men who have had money left them after they were married who have then begun to add to it; and I have known others do the very reverse, *i.e.* spend whatever has been left them at once. I have known men with three or four children continue to save if they have begun to do so before; they do not readily draw out anything from their deposits, but occasionally draw out a small sum if they want to apprentice a son or provide for a daughter. I knew one farm servant named George Smith, who died at the age of 70, and left nearly 1,100*l.* I was his executor; he was never married. He was very thrifty, and continued to work as a farm labourer until within a few weeks of his death. He left 100*l.* to a boys' school in Alford, 100*l.* the Aberdeen Infirmary, and his relations got the rest. I think that farm servants who have continuous employment are in a better position than any occupier of less than a pair-horsed farm, which in this district would require 50 acres at least. A man who has 30 or 40 acres might keep a small horse or an ox, and get carting to do when he has no occupation for his horse on his farm, but as a general rule farm labourers should not occupy more than five or six acres; they can get that amount of land worked by a neighbouring farmer, and repay him by their personal services; but they can never give services of sufficient value to repay for the working of 10 or 12 acres. There are not quite enough cottages for married servants on the farms in this neighbourhood, but there are not many instances of husbands being separated from their families. This want where it exists is being remedied. I have not observed that the poor law has had the effect of diminishing the desire of saving on the part of the farm servants; but their independence and self-respect has been seriously impaired by it. Before 1844 you could hardly induce a person to accept an allowance from the kirk session; at the present time they press to be put upon the poor-roll. During this period wages have increased greatly. In 1837 I gave my overseer 14*l.* a year. I now give him 27*l.* The allowances are the same, and his duties have not increased.

Ballater.

2. (b) *Rev. John Middleton.*—I have been minister of this parish for 21 years. The farms in the parish are generally small, and the work chiefly done by the farmer himself with the assistance of a ploughman.

There are few crofts, and the tendency is rather to diminish the number that still remain. A circumstance, in my opinion, much to be regretted, inasmuch as families reared about a holding where something is *produced*, even though the production be small, are always trained to more careful and thrifty habits than about a household where the *expending of earnings* is the only school for training to habits of care taking.

A portion of land in the higher districts of the parish which had been under cultivation fifty or sixty years ago, has passed again into pasture land. This has occurred in cases where there had been a number of small holdings with a *common right* to hill pasturage. Those common rights have generally been abolished, and large grazing substituted. Hence, the isolated patches of cultivation which existed under the old system have disappeared.

Farm work is conducted by:—1st, ploughmen, generally unmarried, who sleep on the premises and are boarded in the farm kitchen. In very few cases are there cottages connected with farms in which married ploughmen could be accommodated.

2nd. Young women who attend to the dairy department under the supervision, and very often with the direct assistance, of the farmer's wife. These women work out of doors in harvest, in the haymaking season, and in cleaning the turnip fields. Occasionally they are employed in lifting and storing turnips in late autumn or winter; very unsuitable work for most females.

3rd. Boys and girls, the children of the farmer when of suitable age, who take the cattle to the fields and herd them throughout the day.

Aberdeenshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

Illegitimacy is unfortunately not uncommon in the parish. Many causes might be assigned for its frequent occurrence. One cause I have no hesitation in saying is the difficulty which young people find in obtaining house accommodation. Were the *croft system* restored so that a ploughman, for example, after having been in service for a few years, might look forward to such a possession as within his reach, I am of opinion that such an object in prospect would tend to make them careful in every way to husband his means and to maintain such a character as would recommend him in the eyes of the proprietor or his agent. As things stand, there is nothing to be gained by steadiness and respectability beyond the position of a farm servant or day labourer. Hence the young men are reckless and indifferent as to the reputation they acquire.

The population of the parish generally has decreased, the measure of that decrease being the increase of the village of Ballater. In the beginning of the century there was no such place as Ballater village. Its population now may be about 500, while it is very questionable whether the gross population of the parish may at this moment be equal to what it was seventy years ago.

The village depends mainly on the visitors who come to it in summer. It has been for a considerable number of years a favourite resort. With few exceptions, the village population are poor, and the demand for provisions during the summer months when the place is full of strangers renders the cost of ordinary provisions, such as butter, milk, eggs, &c., very high for the ordinary residents.

The attendance of children at school is all that could be desired up to 10 or 12 years of age. In the case of the poorer class of parishioners the children are removed from school as soon as they can do anything for their own support, *i.e.*, generally to keep cattle in summer in the case of boys, and to do little bits of household work and go errands in the case of girls. As far as they have it in their power the parents are most anxious to keep the children at school. The schools are all under government inspection, and are favourably reported of.

Birse.

3. *James Burness*, farmer and factor to Mr. Farquharson, of Finzean.—The farms in this valley are small, only two or three contain as much as 100 acres each. There are a great many crofts, and the crofts are not being consolidated into large farms. The crofters build their own houses on a 19 years lease, Mr. Farquharson supplying the slate and wood. Boys and girls of 12 upwards are employed in herding during summer (the crofters may occasionally take them as young as 10), and at the age of 15 they hoe turnips. The crofters are bound by their leases to crop their land in the same rotation as the larger farmers. The children are engaged for herding either at Candlemas, when they are engaged for nine months, or at Whitsuntide, when they are engaged for six. They receive about 1*l.* or 30*s.* and their meat. The crofters' children don't work much for their parents, but their wives do. Women are not much employed on the small crofts, because there is not much work to be done, but they are employed a good deal by the larger farmers. The small crofters always work out for hire; occasionally a man with 30 acres will keep horses for himself, but not if he has less land than that. Women who work out are engaged in all sorts of farm work, except horse work. I know what the people about here think about the school; they think it has been badly managed; they think that the master has too much to do, as he has to teach and preach too. [The master at the school in question was a minister, and conducted the service at a neighbouring chapel.] The people are not indifferent about education, but complain that this place is worse off for a school than other places.

4. *William Harper*, occupier of 56 acres, Ballogie, Birse.—I have one female servant, who sometimes works out; one of my daughters also works out. Formerly women "wrought out" far less than they do at present. When I was young they stayed at home and made a good deal of money by spinning. I think a good deal of immorality is caused by their working out so much and associating with men. The church exercises some control over the morality. One woman in this parish has a bastard child now three years old, whom the minister will not baptise because she will not give up the name of the father. I employ one boy of about 10 years old; he herds in summer, "and meats and mucks" the cattle in winter. He can read, but cannot write; I have prayers generally in the evening, and he often reads the Bible to me.

Coldstone.

5. *The Rev. George Davidson*, minister.—I have resided in this parish since 1843, and have been minister since 1852.

Women are only employed to a small extent in agriculture. They are employed to about the same extent on the smaller as on the larger farms; but on the small farms it is generally a member of the family and not a hired servant who does the work. On the large farms a female servant is generally engaged at Whitsuntide to work out during the summer months, more particularly at turnip hoeing and harvest; on the smaller farms a servant is generally engaged to work either in-doors or out as required. They are not generally engaged in severe work; their longest hours are caused by their having to milk, besides working for 10 hours. They are not generally employed with horses. It was remarked to me as an unusual fact in my parish this morning that a female servant had been sent out to harrow.

Children are employed during the summer months from the age of 10 upwards; they are engaged for eight or nine months, and get about 3*l.* and their meat during that period. After the age of 14 they are hired for the whole year. Girls are not often hired out for the summer months.

The servants are generally hired at the feeing market at Tarland. The market is held about five weeks before the time of changing places. That arrangement is very inconvenient, because a servant who has arranged to change his place, does not trouble himself to give satisfaction to his old master between the market and the time when he goes to his new place. The masters would willingly give up the markets, but the servants will not. They often misbehave at the markets.

There is ample school accommodation in this parish; and I think the attendance is good. I don't think there is any child in the parish of the age of 10 who cannot read and write decently.

Many of the cottages are very meagre and poor in appearance, but the occupiers like them and would prefer them to better accommodation. They are not generally crowded. The amount of illegitimacy has greatly increased; 30 years ago a woman would have been ashamed to having an illegitimate child, and now they do not care at all about it. Formerly the employers and servants lived together as in one family, and then the servants were anxious not to lose their master's respect, and now the two classes have become quite distinct, and there is but little sympathy between them. At the present time on the smaller (two horsed) farms the farmers and servants generally dine together in the ben end of the house, but on larger farms the farmers generally dine in a separate room. I think that the excessive illegitimacy in this county is due partly from the men and women being associated together both in the kitchen and in the fields, and also to a great deal of oatmeal being consumed here, which contains a great deal of phosphorus, and has a tendency to inflame the passions.

Fintray.

6. *Mr. W. Warwick*, factor to Sir W. Forbes.—
m well acquainted with all the land between this
ce and Aberdeen, and to a less extent with that
ards Meldrum and Ellon. The farms vary between
and three pair-horsed farms. There are a fair
mber of crofts, most of the crofters are farm
ourers. The farmers are not permitted to sublet
rtions of their land in crofts. The land is farmed
the six shift. Scarcely any boys or girls are
ployed. The inspector of the poor has been ask-
the farmers to take boys of 10 or 12 years of age,
t they won't do so, they don't employ them before
ut the age of 13 or 14. A fair proportion of
men are employed on every farm. They are mostly
ed by the half-year. More are hired during the
mmer than during the winter half-year; and a con-
lerable number are employed for harvest only. The
men who go out to work are, as a rule, single
men, but occasionally in harvest a married woman
es engage for a few weeks. I do not see that there
any cause to complain of the employment of women
the fields about here. It is not the general prac-
e to let cottages with the farms. Most of the farm
rvants are unmarried men; they are lodged on the
emises and take their meals in the kitchen; there
e very few bothies. The farmers do not hire many
bourers from the villages; almost all the work of the
rm is done by half-yearly servants. Ploughmen get
om 10*l.* to 12*l.* in money and food and lodging, an
orra" man 8*l.* to 10*l.* for the half-year. There is a
eing market at Inverurie, but a great many servants
e hired privately without going to the market.
lmost all the cottages in this parish belong to the
ndlords; a very few have been built by the tenants.
hey are generally let by the year for from 2*l.* to 3*l.*
ith a garden, the rent is paid half-yearly.

There are in this parish the parochial school, a side
hool, and a female school; there is no part of the
opulation of the parish residing out of reach of a
hool, and there is no employment to prevent chil-
ren attending school if their parents choose to send
em.

Women who work out get 5*l.* to 6*l.* a year, with
od and lodging; and those who engaged for the
arvest only get 15*s.* a week for gathering, which is
e only work they do in harvest, except assisting to
rk the sheaves into the carts.

There are one or two men here who hoe turnips by
ontract, at 10*s.* an acre, and bring women, perhaps
alf a dozen at a time, with them to do the work.

Forgue.

7. *R. Simpson, Esq.*, Cobairdy.—There are but
ew crofters in the neighbourhood. There are not
any cottages on the farms. On one of my farms I
ave built two together; each contains a kitchen,
cullery, and bedroom on the ground floor, and another
edroom and lumber room upstairs. The two cost
00*l.*, that did not include the carting which was done
y the tenant, and the stones, which I took from an
ld dyke in the field where the cottages were built.
The occupiers do not object to there being no bed in
he kitchen. I would have built another pair, but
uel is dear here, and the people break the fences.
Most of the families of farm servants live in Huntly.
I farm 100 acres. I have one married servant who
as no cottage, but whose family lives 1½ miles off;
e himself sleeps on the premises, and prefers that to
going home every night.

There are five schools in this parish; in the spring
of 1865 there were 381 scholars in attendance at
these schools, and the number has increased since
then, besides about 20 who go to school in other
parishes.

I have lived here for 35 years, but I was brought
up at Alford on the Don, where my father had a farm.
I recollect he used always to go to the farm kitchen
on Sunday evenings to read the Bible, or a sermon,
with the servants, and to catechise them; all farmers
did that then, and a good many do now. At that
time too they used to dine with their servants. There
has been a great change in those matters since the
Free Kirk was established; formerly all attended
the same kirk, and felt a mutual sympathy for one
another; that feeling has been destroyed, besides
which the members of the Free Kirk object to prayers
being *read*.

Huntly.

8. *Mr. Macpherson*, inspector of the poor.—I
have been inspector here for nearly two years. I am
also collector of rates, and am well acquainted with
the population of the town. A considerable number
of the families of farm servants live in the town, when
the farm servants themselves are in service. They
usually take one room in a house, with perhaps a
little closet behind, for which they pay from 30*s.* to
50*s.* a year rent; most of them have a small garden
attached, which their husbands work for them during
their periodical visits. They have very little to live
upon, and are obliged to send their children out to
service as soon as possible; boys can get a place
herding sheep on the hills from the age of 10 upwards.
I have known boys go out as young as 9, but they
cannot get permanent places before the age of 14 or
15; boys can get about 30*s.* for the summer months
when they first go out, and 4*l.* to 5*l.* when they first
go out for the whole year. Girls can get places at
in-door service at about the age of 14, and they can
then earn about 25*s.* to 30*s.* The wives of the farm
servants make a little by going out to work in the
summer, if they have not any young children to keep
them at home, but 3*l.* is the most they can earn at
harvest. The husbands are not generally at service
at a greater distance than five miles from the town.
The women also make a little by knitting, but they
cannot make more than 8*d.* a week at this work. It
often happens that girls who have had illegitimate
children in the country, and cannot get support from
the father of the child, come into the town and throw
themselves upon the rates. The outworkers certainly
have more illegitimate children than domestic servants.
There are two feeing markets here, there are not
nearly as many brawls and fights at them as there
used to be, but there is still a great deal of drinking
and immorality. There are three registries in the
town, and they are considerably employed, but far
more female than male servants are hired at them.
Most of the farm servants after they reach a certain
age come and live in the town and work as labourers;
labourers are now getting 15*s.* a week, and a great
many of them ultimately come upon the rates.

Inverurie.

9. Meeting at Mr. Gordon's house, Manar; present—
J. Gordon, Esq., of Manar.
Dr. Thompson, medical practitioner at Inverurie for more than 50 years.
Mr. Stevens, Conglass.
James Henderson, farm labourer.

Most of the farms in this neighbourhood are two-pair horsed farms, there are also a few larger farms containing 300 to 600 acres. There are not many holdings smaller than pair-horsed farms, but there are a few groups of crofts, more particularly under the hills. The land is wrought on the five or six course system. No boys or girls are employed under 13 or 14 years of age continuously, but a few are employed under that age on crofts under 20 acres, as herds during summer; when employed as herds they are generally engaged during the six months, but the herds are usually the children of the crofter on whose land they work.

Very few women are employed; they are sometimes employed in pulling turnips, spreading dung and weeding, hoeing turnips, haymaking, harvest, potato gathering. The female outworkers are most of them hired by the six months; many of them work sometimes in-doors and sometimes out, as they may be required. They receive about 3*l.* or 3*l.* 10*s.* for the

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winter six months, and 5*l.* for the summer six months, they always live in the farmhouses. Neither women or children are employed in any unhealthy occupations. Henderson thinks that boys should be employed rather younger than they are, in order to learn their work.

The farms servants are hired by the six months. The wages of horsemen are 10*l.* to 12*l.* for the six months, a man of 16 to 20 has from 6*l.* to 9*l.* They live either in bothies or in the lofts, and take their meals in the kitchen. Dr. Thompson thinks the bothies objectionable, because there is not a sufficient variety of diet for the bothymen; and Henderson thinks the bothies very demoralising. The bothymen are never under the eye of their master, and there are not the same opportunities of reading in the bothy as in the kitchen. There are generally one or two cottages on the farms, for which a rent of about 2*l.* is charged, and there are generally gardens attached to these cottages. Married men also have fuel allowed them. Mr. Stephens gives two bolls of coals ($3\frac{1}{4}$= 1 ton), and 4 loads of peat, and the use of the horses to drive sticks occasionally. There are not many cottages occupied by farm labourers except those on the farms. Many of the cottages are very bad; they are built on the but and ben form, very seldom a third place behind; and sometimes a room in the roof, but the room in the roof is very unwholesome, hot in summer and cold in winter, and not ventilated; they are undrained, and the rain often comes through the roof. There are often more than one family in a house, one family in each room, and where the family is large the rooms are much crowded. These cottages belong to people who have built or bought them on speculation. Most of them have very small gardens; rent 3*l.* to 4*l.*; Henderson pays 3*l.* 10*s.* for a cottage with two rooms.

There are feeing markets at Inverurie, at Martinmas and Whitsuntide, and two minor markets at Candlemas and in July for the harvest-men. The married men who have houses on the farms are generally engaged two months before the market day. Not above half as many servants are engaged at the markets as used to be so engaged. Many are engaged privately, and many at the registers. Feeing markets have been established for about 40 or 50 years. Dr. Thompson recollects when there were none, they were established on account of the difficulty of hiring farm servants. There is not much drinking and dissipation at the markets now; the railroad takes the people away early. Henderson thinks that they cause a greater increase in the poor's rates than any other institution.

There are schools within reach of all the population in the neighbourhood, but a great many of the parents are indifferent about education, and neglect to send their children regularly. The children of agricultural labourers attend more regularly than others. Those who have bad houses belong generally to the lowest class of the people, and are more negligent in sending their children to school than others. There is a very large population in Inverurie, which supplies labour for several of the surrounding parishes. The building of cottages in these other parishes has been discouraged from a fear of increasing the poor rate.

10. —— *Fowler*, grieve to J. Gordon, Esq., of Manar, Inverurie.—Mr. Gordon's farm contains nearly 700 acres. It is farmed in various ways, and in no regular course: 13 servants are employed upon it, who are hired by the half-year, viz.: six horsemen, three cattle men, two shepherds, two "orra" men, besides the grieve. These are single men, and are lodged and boarded on the premises, with the exception of one man who has a wife and cottage, and has an allowance of milk and meal. Besides the above seven labourers are employed who live at Inverurie, distant three miles, one of them has a croft. They receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day and no allowances.

Four women are employed all the year round, and about a dozen in summer in hoeing turnips and weeding grass and oats; all have 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, except during harvest, when they have 3*l.* for the whole of harvest, and are fed. No work is done by the piece. The women who work here are all unmarried. The labourers who come from Inverurie (men and women) work from 6 to 11 and 1 to 6. In winter they work during daylight, and have one hour for dinner. Boys are never employed under 13 or 14 years of age. I have been here 27 years and have only known one man and four or five women who could not read and write. I know this because they always have to sign receipts for their wages; 10 to 12 men have been constantly employed during the whole of that time. The men who are boarded here have their breakfast at 5.33, consisting of brose; dinner at 12, consisting of potato soup or broth, or rice and milk, and always milk and cake to finish up with; and supper at 6.30, consisting of porridge, or kale, or bread and milk or cheese.

[On this farm a room was provided for the labourers (men and women), who came from Inverurie, to take their meals in. The servants who lived on the farm were provided with a sleeping place in the upper part of the steading, in which was a separate iron bedstead for each man; and another room down stairs for them to sit and take their meals in. Both the sitting and sleeping room were looked after by a woman who had charge of the poultry, and who also cooked the servants' food.]

Kincardine O'Neil.

11. *Major Innes*, of Learney.—I have a considerable number of crofters upon my property. Labourers are very anxious to have crofts, particularly for the purpose of enabling them to keep a cow; I think it is important to maintain crofters in order that their families may keep up the supply of labourers well instructed in farm work. A great many crofts are taken by small tradesmen and dykers.

I generally supply the crofters with slate and wood for their houses, and they build the rest, and I give them 10*l.* for their interest in the house at the end of their leases. A crofter has to pay about 5*l.* a year for enough land to enable him to keep a cow, if the croft has already been brought into cultivation, but less if he has to improve it himself. I let crofts at that sum, but they would probably fetch more if put up to competition.

I pay 3*d.* an hour all the year round to the labourers I employ; they earn about 15*s.* a week in the summer, when they can work 60 hours in the week, and on an average they earn 30*l.* a year; I give no allowances.

Peterhead.

12. *Mr. Andrew Boyd.*—I have the management of several estates in the north-eastern portion of this county, and receive altogether nearly 30,000*l.* a year in rent. There are a great many crofts, and the farms vary in size up to about 300 acres. On one estate, out of 557 agricultural tenants, only 113 pay more than 40*l.* a year each. The 5-course system generally prevails, but the stronger land the 7-course. In the 7-course two white crops are taken after three years grass. Sometimes a 6-course rotation is followed, taking only one white crop after three-year-old grass. We give all countenance to the crofts where they exist and are properly managed; we think them very useful as the producers of labour. They all have leases. I think that a croft should rarely exceed 10 acres. Where they are under that size the occupier seldom has a horse; over that they have horses, two neighbours having each one—thus raising a pair; and if they have not enough work they plough, &c. for others who require them. They think they are better off with a croft than working as labourers without one, and I think so too; it is a great thing for the family to have milk. In this district generally the larger farms have one or two cottages upon them, but not nearly as many as there should be, and some of the lesser farms have such cottages also. A great proportion of the villages in the district are peopled by the families of farm ser-

ts; the fathers being themselves living on the
ns where they work. I have very rarely had in-
ces of cottages which are let with the farms being
by the farmers to any persons except their ser-
ts. Married women don't generally work; they
do a little temporarily, but unmarried women
commonly employed in summer. They are hired
vanted, and paid by the day; shortly before har-
they make arrangements for their harvest work.
ring which time both men and women are hired
the whole harvest, and are lodged by the farmer.
ink the feeing markets are objectionable; they
attended by all the inferior servants and some of
better ones; I don't think they are less attended
n they used to be, and are more noisy than they
. I think the employment of women out of doors
bjectionable, because it is impossible to separate
m from the males; they cannot work alone; and
hould be remedied if it could, but I cannot see how
an be done; the labour of the country could not
provided without them, and I don't see how they
to live without work. There is no work for small
ldren among the larger farmers, but they do a little
ding on the smaller farms; but, on the whole,
re is very little work for children under 13 or 14.
A great many cottages in the villages belong to
culators, to be let from year to year; some of them
very well kept and neat and clean. I think that
a general rule the cottages cannot be complained
in a sanitary point of view. I am procurator fiscal,
I often have to visit the country villages; the cot-
es in the villages do not generally have gardens;
netimes small patches of ground attached. The
t for cottage accommodation in the villages for a
m servant's family would only be about 30*s.* or 2*l.*
ngs are not employed here. There are a few
hies here, but as a very general rule the farm ser-
nts have their meals in the kitchens. I know of no
trict in the neighbourhood which is out of reach of
school; but I have found the parents apparently
y indifferent about education. I have often known
tances of the parents declining to buy the books
cessary for their children to use, and of children
ing at school themselves without books and depend-
on others.

. Extract from a letter from Mr. Andrew Boyd, of Peterhead, dated 4th June 1870.

"With respect to servants' cottages it may be held
at there are few farms of 100 acres in this district,
which there are not some one or two cottages for
rvants; and that farms of 50 acres in some instances
e so accommodated.

"There is scarcely a parish in this district where
ere are not one or more villages. There are no
wer than 17 fishing villages, besides a number in-
nd; and when besides it is considered that the
assifications of rents and deductions allowed are so
rious, it will be seen that it is impossible to approxi-
ate nearly to anything like a reliable answer to your
uestion, as to the effect of villages on the *rate* of
sessment. I applied to the intelligent inspector of
oor here to see if he could assist me, and the only
ing he could do was to furnish me with the state-
ent I send you herewith, showing the cost of each
auper per week in different parishes, which I see he
as extended beyond the district. I remarked that
here were considerable differences in the rate of
xpense. These he was unable to explain. I may
otice too that the difficulty is occasioned by the fact
hat while in Fraserburgh, a seaport with about 4,500
nhabitants and a fishing village, and having all the
dvantages expected from a legalised poor house, the
ate is 6*s.* 2½*d.*; in Peterhead, a much larger seaport,
ith about 9,766 inhabitants, and without a legalised
oor house, the rate is only 6*s.* 1¼*d.*"

[I have copied the following table, which gives the
er-centage of paupers to the population, and the cost
er head of the population of maintaining the paupers
n certain parishes, from the statement referred to by
Mr. Boyd in the above letter.—F. H. N.]

14. Parishes containing one or more villages.

Name.	Population.	Per centage of Registered Poor to Population.	Cost of maintaining Poor per Head of Population. £	s.	d.
Cruden	2,743	6·30		6	1
New Deer	4,385	3·42		2	8
Old Deer	5,174	7·46		7	2¼
Ellon	3,913	6·16		4	11
Fraserburgh	4,511	7·82		6	2¾
Huntly	4,329	6·09		6	6¼
King Edward	2,843	6·93		5	11
Longside	3,008	8·24		7	3½
Lonmay	2,142	4·43		5	1¼
Methlic	2,157	5·78		5	0
Peterhead	9,796	7·40		6	1¼
Pitsligo	1,890	5·76		4	11¾
Rathen	2,554	5·01		5	0¼
Slains	1,266	4·50		5	0¼
Strichen	2,472	6·63		6	3¼
Turriff	3,693	6·41		6	8½
Tyrie	3,043	6·44		7	0¾
St. Fergus	1,608	5·03		4	10¼
	18)61,527	18)109·81	18)5	2	11
	3,418 3/18	6·10		5	8 11/18

Parishes not containing villages.

Crimond	892	4·37		4	0½
Logie Buchan	762	2·36		4	3¾
Monquhitter	2,580	5·27		5	0½
Tarves	2,509	4·62		4	7
Udny	1,668	4·07		5	4¾
	5)8,411	5)20·69	5)1	3	4½
	1,682	4·13	0	4	8

15. "Dear Sir, "June 10, 1870.

"In writing to you I overlooked your question about bank deposits by farm servants, although I had been thinking over it. Of course there are no commands at my command, although the fact might be correctly ascertained, enabling me to give more than a general opinion on the subject. That opinion is, that many of the farm servants (I shall not say so much of labourers, although the latter as a class are generally in a more comfortable position than labourers residing in towns), have deposits of considerable amounts, ranging up to 150*l.*, and in some cases more; and in these is based their desire to get small holdings, out of which spring the strength of the agricultural interests.

"While I can scarcely venture an estimate of the proportion of farm servants and labourers who are in the habit of saving money, my opinion is that it is at least as high as in the class of tradesmen of the same annual income.

"Yours faithfully,

"F. H. Norman, Esq. "And. Boyd."
"Peterhead.

16. *Mr. Laing*, occupier of 235 acres.—My farm is mainly a dairy farm. I have lived here 29 years, and am well acquainted with the system of agriculture in this neighbourhood. These are a good many farms of from 200 to 300 acres in Buchan, and not many crofts. I employ none but married men, because I have cottages on my farm; but as a general rule unmarried farm servants are employed who live on the premises; they generally sleep in the lofts above the houses, which are far too small, dirty, and badly ventilated; or, if there be what is called a chamber provided in the steading, it is too often a damp place with an earthen floor, and without a fireplace, and containing two or three or more beds in the same apartment, although in some of the more recently erected buildings more comfortable places are provided; fireplace, wooden floor, dry, and ventilated. I employ a

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good many women ; they hoe and spread manure, and lead the carts to and from the yard in the harvest and hay time ; they also do a great deal of work in the barn at the thrashing mill, or assisting at the thrashing out of the crofts ; they gather stones in the spring on the surface of the land about sowing time ; and they milk the cows. I pay them 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, except during harvest, when they have 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* They never have food allowed them. The females of course do other harvest work, such as gathering and raking.

I give my ploughmen 18*l.* a year in money, and a house rent free, 6½ bolls of meal, and 2*s.* a week sap money ; the ordinary allowance for sap money is 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* I also cart their peat home for them, and sell them milk at 8*d.* a gallon, which is about half what I charge for milk in the town. In addition to the rations mentioned the yearly servants are paid 2*s.* per week extra during harvest. The women whom I employ are either the wives and daughters of my ploughmen, or widows, to whom I let cottages at about a third of a fair rent on condition of their coming out to work for me. A few boys and girls of about 12 years of age are engaged by the farmer by the six months, but very few ; as a general rule they don't do much work before the age of 15 ; many more were employed 20 years ago when there were fewer fences than there are now.

The cottages are all built with a but and ben, and a small closet ; the accommodation is generally sufficient for one family, and it is not the custom for two families to occupy one cottage. The rent is about 2*l.* to 3*l.* a year. In the town there are quite enough schools ; but in the parish of St. Fergus the school accommodation is rather deficient ; although I have reason to believe this, I am not personally intimate about it. There is no agricultural work for children to prevent their attending school.

The farm servants are generally hired at the feeing markets at Longside, Mintlaw, Ellon, Methlic, New Deer, Strichen, Turriff, &c. &c. The married men by the year, and the single men by the half-year ; but whenever I want a man my grieve can always hire one privately, because married men are anxious to come to a farm where they can get a cottage. But all the servants go to market, whether hired or not.

Rayne.

17. *William Leslie, Esq.*, of Warthill. — I have property in the parishes of Rayne, Fyvie, Insch, Premnay, and Oyne, and was formerly M.P. for the county. I have always been in the habit of living upon my property during the last 22 years. The farms in this neighbourhood are of various sizes, but in addition to the farms there are a considerable number of crofts ; I have on my property as many crofts as I have farms. I consider the crofts of great value for the purpose of supplying the country with a class of respectable servants ; and constituted to bring up families of a lower but respectable class in habits of self-respect and independence. The most profitable quantity of land for a crofter to hold is six acres of *good* land ; the crofters pay rent at as high a rate relatively as the larger farmers, but the system is expensive on account of the expenditure which it entails for buildings. The house and byre necessary for a croft costs 150*l.* at least, if well built, slated, and lath and plastered ; and for this no adequate interest can be obtained in the rent which is paid by the crofter, but the advantage of the system is indirect, as affording the means of supplying the large farmer with better labour than they would otherwise secure. The crofters are bound to crop their land on a five or six shift rotation ; they don't generally have leases. Practically a croft of that size leaves the crofter free to devote almost the whole of his time to working as a farm labourer in the neighbourhood. The farmer for whom he works usually performs such horse labour and cartage upon the croft as may be required from time to time for such sum as may be stipulated between the parties. I have also, in addition to the crofts ; 11 cottages for labourers ; these have gardens attached to them ; and both in the case of these houses and the crofts, I consider it essential that the holding should be directly from the landlord, and that the cottages should not be let with the farms. Farmers who have cottages with their farms are apt to be too severe in their terms when they engage servants. I have known frequent instances of this being the case.

During harvest extra men and women are called on to assist. There are extra feeing markets in July at which the extra harvest hands are engaged. These people sleep on the farms where they work, and the accommodation provided for them is wholly inadequate. They generally sleep in the barns and sheds on the premises.

Strichen.

18. *Dr. Gavin*, surgeon. — The system which prevails about here, of the wives and families of the farm servants living in the villages, while the husbands are out at service, is most injurious to the family. The wife and children generally have not more than from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a week to live upon after paying rent, clothes, and fire, and suffer from insufficient food. I am attending two children now for indigestion, and their mother told me that their ordinary food was meal (as bread or porridge) and treacle ; they could not get milk. The farm servants themselves are sufficiently fed ; their food is plain but wholesome, it consists chiefly of brose and potatoes, and occasionally Scotch broth. There is a greater variety in their diet than formerly. I think that the bothy system if well managed, would be preferable to the kitchen system ; the men should not be obliged to pass all the evening in the kitchen with the maid servants. But the bothy should be for the unmarried only, and have a separate sleeping place for each man, washing accommodation, and a spare room attached, but with separate access, which could be turned into an hospital to meet a case of accident or disease. It could be used in harvest time for additional hands ; and thus prevent the risk of contagious disease being introduced among the ordinary servants. The married men should live with their famalies in cottages on the farm. On most of the farms the servants sleep either in a loft above the stable, or in a place contiguous to it, and often separated from it by only a thin wooden or insufficient partition, the atmosphere of the stable pervading the sleeping place, and not unfrequently the only access to it is through the stable. In the new farm-steadings the sleeping apartment is better than this. In those known to me each men would have, speaking generally, and in round numbers, 500 cubic feet of space. There is some provision for ventilation which the old had not, but I think the accommodation still insufficient, there is none for washing nor for cases of illness, and I object to so many sleeping in one room, however good it were. Diarrhœa has been very prevalent here during the last 20 years among the children of farm servants. We have epidemics of it among all classes, but it is constant among these children. I think it is caused by want of milk, (milk is more difficult to get than it once was), improper food, and bad management on the part of the mothers. Rheumatism occurs among the older people ; the itch has been very common lately ; this disease can be easily cured, but it is very contagious, and easily communicated in crowded dwellings. Consumption is not common. The population of the parish is 2,470 ; in 1867–68–69, one agricultural labourer, and the widow of one died of pulmonary consumption. As a general rule, the cottages have no pigsties, and no pigs are kept. In the villages each room is generally occupied by one family. They are greatly crowded. It is difficult to buy milk, the supply is inadequate ; the price of new milk now is 3*d.* a Scotch pint and of skim milk 1½*d.* The box bedsteads form quite a hot-bed of disease. They were intended to be used when there were no partitions in the cottages, and are

injurious now that the cottages are divided separate rooms; I have sometimes found shelves into them for the children. Whenever fever irs I have the patient moved from the bed on to floor; people are getting more into the habit of g iron bedsteads now. I see no harm in the dren doing the work they are accustomed to do he fields about here, except on account of their cation. Women are not unhealthily employed, they are demoralised by certain kinds of field s. In itself hoeing or harvest work is not unable for women; their houses are undoubtedly less fortable than the houses of those who have been estic servants; domestic servants make the best s. I don't think that the cottage accommodation rorse in this parish than in the surrounding shes.

9. [Dr. Gavin was kind enough to obtain the following information for me, with respect to the income expenditure of women whose husbands were in ice, and who were themselves living with their dren in a town.—F. H. N.]

STATEMENT by Mrs. A., who has one child.

Income.				£	s.	d.
Husband's wages	-		-	20	0	0
Expenditure.	£	s.	d.			
Clothes of family	- 3	0	0			
Shoes for do	- 2	0	0			
Carting peats	- 0	10	0			
Rent of house	- 2	10	0			
	£8	0	0	8	0	0
				£12	0	0

there remained, after deducting necessary exses, 12*l.* equal to about 4*s.* 7½*d.* per week to spend ood for two persons; oatmeal for the year cost 3*l.*

STATEMENT by Mrs. B., three children.

Income.				£	s.	d.
Husband's wages	-		-	18	0	0
Expenditure.	£	s.	d.			
Clothes -	- 4	0	0			
Shoes -	- 3	0	0			
Peats -	- 0	10	0			
Rent -	- 3	15	0			
	11	5	0	11	5	0
				£6	15	0

say 2*s.* 7*d.* per week for food for four persons, of ich oatmeal for the year cost 6*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

Dr. Gavin stated that the women in both these tances were very industrious and contrived to make th ends meet, and that their testimony was perfectly iable.

20. *Mr. John Sleigh*, factor to Mr. George ird, Strichen.—I have lived here since 1826, with e exception of eight years in Aberdeen, and am ll acquainted with the system of agriculture, not ly in this neighbourhood but generally throughout berdeenshire, Banffshire, and part of Forfarshire, well as the bondager system in the south of Scotland. ne farms here vary very much in extent, from 10 250 acres. There were formerly a great number crofts in the neighbourhood, but of late years, since e price of labour and manure has increased as uch as it has, it has been impossible for the small ofters to live, and they have been simply breeding o a race of paupers, and consequently a great many the crofts have been consolidated; a great number new steadings and farmhouses have been built, and me of the old crofter's houses have been left standing r the accommodation of the farm servants. The rm servants are all lodged in the steadings, and often happens that this is done, even in the cases here the farmers have cottages on thier farms, on rpose for the accommodation of his married servants. he man himself will be lodged and boarded by the farmer, and his wife and family will occupy the cottage. The reason of this is that the farmers think that their servants are better fed, and more useful servants when thus provided for, than if they lived at home and divided the whole of their earnings with their wives and families; but the result is, that their families are often very badly off; an ordinary ploughman here gets about 20*l.* to 24*l.* a year, and after the sum necessary to feed the children is deducted, very little is left to provide everything, clothing, lodging, rates, and school fees. There are a considerable number of large villages in this neighbourhood, they are a perfect nuisance; they are inhabited in a great measure by the families of farm servants who live in great poverty. The women don't work out here much, I am acquainted with the bondager's system in Roxburghshire, and think it far preferable to the system which prevails here. The whole family are better off there than they are here. On Mr. Baird's home farm all have their own cottage; and I sell meal to them at a rather reduced rate. One man with wife and five children has had on an average five and a half bolls; another with wife and three children two and a half bolls; another with wife and three children had three bolls. These families would have far more than the families of servants who live in the farmers' houses. The children do not work out much about here, but the parents are so poor that many of them are obliged to send out their children in the summer at from 10 to 12 years of age, if they are strong enough to do the work; in those cases they get about 1*l.* or 25*s.* and their meat; the girls don't go out much before 12 or 13. I think that it is a very healthy thing for children to go out. I don't think there is any harm in employing women out of doors in fine weather, they are not often employed in wet weather. They wear long dresses here, which are not nearly as convenient as the short dresses they wear in the south of Scotland. Many of the farms with two pair of horses have a female outworker, when they hire by the six months; they are all unmarried women and live in the farmhouses. They get from 25*s.* to 2*l.* in winter, and from 4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* in summer. This includes harvest work; there are markets in this district in May and November for the engagement of half-yearly servants, and markets in July for the engagement of harvest servants. The wages for harvest work are about as follows; for bandsters about 3*l.*, for cutters 4*l.*, and for rakers 1*l.* per scythe, and a man can rake to four scythes; a tradesman generally does the raking. The women get 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* The above are in addition to board. The children earn money by taking the work of the orra men, going errands, &c., so as to relieve abler-bodied persons. In this estate, I make it a rule not to place the men's sleeping apartment over the stables, and make fireplaces in all; but as a general rule, the sleeping places are over the stables. I have engaged a great many men in feeing markets, and have always got good servants. The only demoralising thing at the feeing markets is the bad quality of the spirits; it is not generally the case that you see men drunk, you may see a few. The railways have made a great deal of difference in the markets, because they take away the men at regular times; there are no bothies here. Most of the cottages in the villages are perpetual feus, at 5*s.* for half an acre, the proprietor being bound to supply an amount of moss worth about 10*s.* to 15*s.* The original feuars have ceased in the majority of cases to occupy these cottages, and the cottages are now in the hands of persons who let them for the highest rent they can obtain. The cottages in Strichen let for about 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* per room, with a small garden of about 20 poles. The rent at Strichen is as high as it is in other villages, because fuel is so cheap. There are perpetual feus only in the villages of Strichen, New Pitsligo, and Stewartfield; Old Deer is built on leases as also New Deer. The population in the parish is 2,472, and there are only 8,000 acres altogether, of which rather more than 7,000 are arable.

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TARLAND.

21. Paper received from *Dr. Andrew Robertson, M.D.*, of Hopewell, factor and commissioner for Her Majesty the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, for the estates of Balmoral, Abergeldie, and Birkhall.—Has resided on Deeside and Cromar for more than 50 years, and is intimately acquainted with both valleys; he farms at this time about 500 acres. The agriculture is mixed, chiefly the raising of cattle and sheep, and the fattening of both, for the markets in the south; the crops are barley, oats, and turnips, chiefly the two last are cultivated.

The majority of the farms are what is called one-pair horse farms, varying from 50 to 60 acres. There are also a few of large extent, but one-fourth of the value of the rental of the district is in two-pair horse farms, about 100 acres. There are a considerable number of small crofters, they are located chiefly at the base of the hills, where there is waste ground, which they trench and bring into cultivation. The extent of these crofts may be from three to six and eight acres; the rent is merely nominal for a number of years. These crofters have seldom leases or written agreements of any kind, but a tacit understanding exists, that they will not be disturbed in their possessions which they have improved. Their great ambition is to keep a cow, which they contrive to do by raising a few turnips, potatoes, and oats upon the land they have brought under cultivation.

All farms of one, two, and more pair of horses are let on leases of 19 years. On the larger farms a *foreman* is kept, his duty being to superintend the necessary work of the farm, and direct the other servants. Ploughmen are uniformly hired for six months, the terms Whitsunday and Martinmas. To each ploughman a pair of horses is given, which he grooms, feeds, and works. The wages for the six months vary according to character, from 8*l.* to 10*l.*, 11*l.* and 12*l.*, exclusive of his food and lodging. If he lives in a bothy (of which we have few) he receives six and a half bolls of oatmeal, and one (Scotch) pint of milk daily. When milk is scarce he receives from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a week, this is called *sap money*. Beer is generally purchased with this money. Few of the ploughmen are married; when married they have to leave their wives and families in some neighbouring village, or wherever they can procure a cottage for them. The large farmers prefer a married man for a grieve or foreman, and generally find him a cottage and grass for a cow.

Upon the large farms where cattle are fattened to any extent a cattle-man is necessary, who feeds the animals, clears out the byres, cuts or slices the turnips, straw, &c.

Servants prefer going to a feeing market to be engaged to being engaged at home, they look upon it as a sort of holiday. These markets are most objectionable; they are the source of drunkenness and wickedness of every kind. The writer has offered his servants two holidays instead of one if they would avoid these markets, but they would not agree.

ANDREW ROBERTSON.

22. *Mr. Henry Ross,* assistant to Mr. Andrew Ross, agent to Lord Aberdeen, Tarland.—I have been living here for more than 10 years. In the district of Cromar, which comprises the parishes of Tarland, Coull, and Coldstone, and is entirely surrounded by hills, there are fewer than six farms containing as much as 200 acres each; the remainder contain various amounts of land. They are farmed on the six course shift, *i.e.*, three years grass, turnips, oats, and barley. The country is pretty well fenced, and very little herding is necessary; it is chiefly wanted in the small enclosures adjoining the village.

A good many women are engaged to work in summer, but not in winter, there is very little for them to do in winter.

There are three schools in this parish, one in Coull and one in Coldstone. I know of no population in this district who have no school accommodation within access of them. I think the population take advantage of them. There is no work in the fields to prevent children attending school up to the age of 13 or 14.

Very few farms have cottages attached to them for farm servants; as a rule the servants are unmarried; the places where the servants sleep are very bad, but they have their meals in the house and are well enough fed. There is no scarcity of labour in this district, but the cottage accommodation would be insufficient if more married men were employed. The cottages are built on the but and ben plan, and are kept clean and tidy.

There is a market here twice a year. I dare say that a good deal of drinking goes on, but there is not often a breach of the peace. It would be very desirable for the cottages to have rather more accommodation.

TARVES.

23. *Mr. Alexander F. Douglas,* factor to Lord Aberdeen, Haddo.—Lord Aberdeen's property comprehends the whole of the parishes of Tarves and Methlic, and parts of the parishes Fyvie, New Deer, Ellon, and Udny. I have been factor since 1864. The farms vary in size from 10 to 300 acres. There are about 950 tenants on the estate, and a great many crofts; most of the crofts were originally improving crofts, but almost all the land here has now been brought into cultivation. Most of the crofters work for hire, either as farm servants or labourers; when the crofters hire themselves out as farm servants they leave their crofts as a residence for their wives and children, and get other persons to do the necessary labour upon them. The crofts are rather diminishing in number. I have not found that the best farm labourers are bred on the crofts. I have found that in many cases the children of crofters are kept at home under pretence of working on the crofts, when there is really not enough for them to do, and they turn out to be useless sort of people. There are cottages let with some of the larger farms, but not in sufficient number to supply all the necessary labour by means of married servants. The unmarried servants are hired by the half-year, and live partly in bothies and partly in the kitchen. I rather prefer the bothy to the kitchen plan, because the servants have become so particular that it is very difficult for their employers to satisfy them if they have to provide them with their food. I don't think that the respectability and usefulness of the servants themselves is at all affected by their living in the bothy or the kitchen.

The wages for an unmarried servant are in money 10*l.* to 11*l.* per six months, and their food if in the kitchen; and if in the bothy a Scotch pint of new milk a day and six and a half bolls of meal a year. The married men have their cottage rent free (in which case a small deduction is generally made from the wages, perhaps about 2*l.* to 3*l.*), and the same allowance of meal and milk as the bothy men. They farm either on the five or six course shift. The crofters under 10*l.* of rent do not have leases, but it is understood that they shall retain possession of their croft for 19 years, unless Lord Aberdeen wishes to resume possession for purposes of improvement.

A few boys may be employed under 13 years of age for herding, but no girls. I don't think that any boys under that age are hired out, but they may be employed by their parents. The women work a good deal. They go out in harvest, turnip hoeing, and seed time; they are not generally hired out by the half-year as outworkers, but it is understood that the female farm servants go out to field work at the busy times when wanted. There is a feeing market in July for the harvest hands; men get 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*, and women I think about 3*l.* 3*s.*, and their food. The greater part of the harvest hands are lodged o

premises, unless their homes are very near. They ep in the barns or somewhere on the steading. ere are no villages to speak of in this neighbourod. The married farm servants are not necessarily vided with potatoes and fuel, that is a matter of arate bargain. I don't think that the employment romen out of doors necessarily leads to immorality. illegitimacy may perhaps be attributable to the nber of crofts and small farms in this county, ause the people live more together on the small n on the larger farms. I make it a rule that the ages which go with the farms should be occupied the farm servants only.

There are schools in this neighbourhood within reach all the people. The attendance at the schools is d. The parents appear to be all anxious for educan, and I think that all the farm servants under 40 rs of age have acquired a satisfactory education in ding, writing, and ciphering.

Tough.

24. *W. McCombie, Esq., M.P.*, Tillyfour.—I have d here all my life. Besides this farm I rent a farm the parish of Alford, and another in the parishes of ochel-Cushnie. On the whole I farm between 00 and 1,200 acres of arable, besides hill pase. The farms in this neighbourhood vary between out 50 and 250 acres. There are a few larger than t, and some smaller, but not many crofts. The d is farmed on the five, six, or seven course. The rried farm servants are generally engaged by the ar, and the unmarried men by the half-year. There e a few cottages attached to the farms, but not as ny as there should be. An unmarried man is eferable for taking care of horses; a married man is nerally away with his family in the evening, and es not take the same pride in looking after his rses as an unmarried man. Most of the farm sernts live in the kitchen; in that case they do not nerally dine at the same table as their master, ough they may do so in the case of a few of the naller farmers. There are a few bothies, I have one; lon't see any objection to bothies when properly anaged. Where only two or three farm servants are kept, either the bothy or the kitchen plan may be adopted, and the employer must settle according to his own tastes which of the two is adopted. The objections to the kitchen plan is that the servants are apt to complain of their food. Women are not much employed in agriculture; they are not engaged as out-workers by the year, but are only employed for particular jobs. They are employed for hoeing turnips, and harvest, and occasionally in lifting turnips &c. I never employ boys or girls, and have none at work now under 16. Women and children are not employed to a greater extent than this anywhere in the neighbourhood. Women are hired by the day (except in harvest), and receive 10*d.* a day, and their victuals, consisting of porridge and milk and potatoes. During harvest they are generally engaged for the whole period of harvest, *i.e.*, five or six weeks for 3*l.*, and their meat. Formerly we used to get them from the highlands, but now we get them from the neighbourhood. There are feeing markets in the neighbourhood before the harvest. The harvest people sleep on the premises, but the men and women are always kept entirely separate.

The earnings of an ordinary farm servant in the neighbourhood are, in money 21*l.* to 24*l.*, and his keep; an inferior man may be obtained for less. Those who live in the bothies have the same in money, and sap money; they have 1*s.* 9*d.* a week for milk, and six and a half bolls of meal a year. All the farm servants, men and women, work 10 hours a day ordinarily, 11 hours a day during harvest, and during harvest all have their food allowed them.

The whole of the population in this neighbourhood are within easy reach of schools, and some of the teachers have been eminent scholars themselves. All the children attend well, and there is no sort of field work to prevent their attending up to 14 or 15. I don't think that farmers are obliged for their own interest to look to the physical rather than the mental qualities of the servants whom they engage, but they certainly encourage education in every way.

I don't think there are a sufficient number of cottages in this neighbourhood, and the accommodation in the existing cottages is insufficient.

BANFFSHIRE.

Banff.

25. *John Hannay, Esq.*, Corskie Bank, Banff.—I ve been factor for Lord Fife for 13 years. The hole of Banffshire and Aberdeenshire are tolerably iform in character. The cropping is very similar roughout, but as a general rule the farms become naller as the hills are approached. There are a nsiderable number of crofts. There are under my anagement 440 tenants who pay less than 10*l.* each, t of a total of 742. But in addition to this 742 ere are several hundreds of persons living in villages, ho occupy a few acres each, called allotted lands, on e outskirts of the villages and towns. These are ther tradesmen, or people who make a living by eeping a few cows and selling milk.

I approve of maintaining crofts of from 15 to 20 cres in extent, so as to give the crofter full occupaon; under from 15 to 20 acres in extent, the crofts re only suitable for farm servants; the farm servants ave to live at the farm on which they work, and in onsequence of their not being able to live on their rofts, the crofts (when they have them) are very eldom well managed.

There is a great want of cottage accommodation n the farms; a very large proportion of the farm ervants who are married have to take houses in the illages for their wives and children, and can only visit them occasionally. The wives and children live n comparative poverty; this is evident from the fact hat in the parishes in which the villages are situated the poors rates are much higher than in the rural districts in which there are no villages. The cottages in the villages are generally built by persons who, having money to lay out, feu land, build houses, and let them at the highest rent they can get. Nearly all the cottages in the villages have gardens. The rents paid by farm servants in the villages are from 30*s.* to 45*s.*, generally for one room only, or one room and an attic. The five or six course is generally adopted throughout Banffshire and Aberdeenshire. Children are not employed under 12 years; except a few who are employed from the age of 10 for herding.

A good many women are employed in the neighbourhood of villages. I farm 300 acres and pay a sum equal to one-sixth of my rent to women and boys and girls (not under 14) who come out to take occasional jobs, such as hoeing turnips and weeding; but I employ fewer regular servants and more hirers than most farmers.

I object strongly to the feeing markets. I think they are very demeaning and demoralising. I think they might be dispensed with, and register offices substituted. The farmers might easily see their servants before they engaged them by fixing a day or evening to see them at the registry offices.

The earnings of a farm servant are:—

	£ s.	£ s.
In money - - -	20 0	to 24 0
6½ bolls of meal - -	5 10	„ 5 10
Milk (1 pint per day) at 3*d.*	3 5	„ 3 5
Lodging and fire - -	2 10	„ 2 10
	31*l.* 5*s.*	to 35*l.* 5*s.*

Banffshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

A woman when she works has 1*s.* a day.

The following table was supplied by Mr. Hannay :—

"Earl of Fife's Estate.

"Memoranda, 29th April 1870.

"The following is an approximation to the number of farmers and crofters in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire in Mr. Hannay's district :—

"Paying rents under 10*l.*	- -	440
" from 10*l.* to 20*l.*	-	83
" from 20*l.* to 50*l.*	-	66
" from 50*l.* to 75*l.*	-	44
" from 75*l.* to 100*l.*	-	37
" from 100*l.* to 150*l.*	-	36
" from 150*l.* to 200*l.*	-	18
" above 200*l.*	- -	18
		742

"One hundred and ten leases granted to tenants paying yearly rents of 50*l.* and upwards have this day been examined, and the result shows an aggregate arable acreage of 14,827 acres, and a total rental of 12,730*l.*, giving an average rent of 17*s.* 3*d.* per acre, and an average acreage to each farm of 135 acres.

"The size of the crofts ranges from 6 to 20 or 25 acres. The rental of those improved within the last 25 years might be stated at about 10*s.* per acre ; while in cases where the land has been arable for more than that time the average rent per acre might be about the same as the farms (17*s.* 3*d.*), or perhaps a little more."

26. *W. Coutts, Esq.*, Banff.—I have the management of between 11,000 and 12,000 acres of land, almost all of which is in this county. A great part of that land is held in pair-horsed farms, but I have also under my charge 200 to 300 small farms, on each of which less than a pair of horses is kept. The small crofters usually pay a rather higher rent per acre than the larger farmers, and the houses are generally built by the crofters themselves. I generally let crofts in the first instance at a nominal rent, and increase it gradually. About 20 years ago I let 200 acres of moor to 10 crofters, and that land now yields 60*l.* a year. It has cost the landlord nothing except the expense of making a road—about 10*l.* After the land has been improved, the crofters are bound to crop on regular rotation as the larger farmers do. The crofters are a very hard-working and careful set of men, and should undoubtedly be encouraged. I don't think any croft should contain less than 20 acres, an amount which enables them to keep one horse ; and they then borrow another horse from a neighbouring crofter and work the two crofts together. I think that the crofters farm their land quite as well as the larger farmers. The mistake which landlords too often make is in not fixing the size of farms so as to suit two, three, or four horses ; for two horses there should be about 70 acres, a four-horse farm from 140 to 150, and so on. As a general rule children are not employed under 9 or 10, and then only to herd cattle and clean the byres. I should be in favour of passing a law to prohibit the employment of any child under the age of 10 ; the climate here is damp and cold, and boys who are employed very young grow up stunted and weak. The law here considers that a boy can maintain himself after 7 and a girl after 10, and in the case of bastards relieves the parents from liability to contribute to the support of children after that age, unless any physical inability is proved to exist. This should be kept in view in legislating for the present purpose.

I do not think that it is necessary that the employment of children after the age of 10 should be in any way restricted. Nor do I think that the employment of young women requires to be regulated by law.

The great want in this district is the want of cottages on the farms. I have three on my farm of 200 acres, and the consequence is that my men remain with me and very seldom change. Most of the wives and families live in the villages, and only see the father about once a fortnight ; if the father is a prudent man his family is pretty well off, but if he lives with his family he would probably consume a small proportion of the income on which the whole family has to depend than he does at present. I have always held that on a farm which pays 50*l.* there should be one cottage ; on a farm paying 100*l.* a year there should be two cottages, and so on. But I am disposed to think more should be enforced.

Greater encouragement should be given to the building of cottages, by giving persons who have only a limited interest in landed property increased facilities for borrowing money for cottage building, and the procedure by which the erection of such cottages is sanctioned should be less cumbrous than it is at present. In addition to this, the present law of entail in Scotland gives no encouragement to tenants themselves to build cottages. The debts incurred by a tenant in tail are only personal debts, and may be repudiated by the successor after the personal property left by the tenant in tail has been exhausted. In consequence of this law I have known several tenants lose money they have spent in building houses and offices. They had built the houses and offices under a promise and obligation made by the landlord that they shall receive compensation for their outlay at the end of their lease, the landlord has died before the termination of the lease, and his successor has availed himself of his power of repudiating the liabilities incurred by his predecessor. When a farmer has no cottages on his farm he prefers his servants living off the premises, so as to be near their work, to living at a distance with their families ; but if he could accommodate the families with cottages on the farm it would be worth his while to do so, because the wives and children could come, and do come, and work at the busy times, and in harvest.

I think the school accommodation in this county is sufficient ; and the fees are very low. Under the Act 43 Geo. 3. cap. 54, the heritors have power to send poor children to each parochial school free of charge.* This power should be taken advantage of more than is usually done ; 10 is understood to be about the number which may be so sent, but the number is not fixed, so far as I can learn.

[I received the following reply from Mr. Coutts, to a letter I addressed to him asking him,—

1. What proportion of farms in his neighbourhood were provided with cottage accommodation ?
2. Whether the poor rates were higher in parishes in which there were villages than in other parishes ?
3. Whether it was common for farm labourers and farm servants to save money ; if so at what ages and what amounts they generally saved ?

F. H. N.]

27. "Dear Sir, — Absence from home has prevented me sooner replying to yours of the 21st.

"1. I cannot answer your first query with certainty, but I should think that one in three have some cottage accommodation.

"2. I answer this affirmatively,—

In Marnock, with a village, the rate is		2*s.* 6*d.*
In Fordyce	" " "	2*s.* 6*d.*
In Keith	" " "	2*s.* 2*d.*
In Banff	" town "	2*s.* 10*d.*
In Ruthven, with villages	"	2*s.* 6*d.*
In Alvagh, without village	"	0*s.* 10*d.*
In Forglen	" " "	0*s.* 10*d.*
In Or	" " "	0*s.* 10*d.*

"3. Yes. It is a matter of every day experience. From 35 to 43 the probable age ; 100*l.* to 250*l.* may be taken as the average from their own savings. On that sum they are able to enter small holdings or farms of their own, and whenever small holdings

* Dunlop's Parochial Law, p. 513, § 76.

s are in the market to let, then we have 10 or times more applying to take them.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"Wm. Coutts."

Banff, May 31, 1870."

Boyndie.

Mr. Sidney Smith, occupier of about 300 acres riepland, Boyndie.—I farm half my land on the and half on the six shift. I have two cottages y farm for married men, they are occupied by rieve and my shepherd. I employ four married the two who have not cottages live on the ises; their families live in a village 1½ miles from and the men visit them twice a week. I don't oy boys and girls under 13 years of age. I have female servant who works out occasionally. I oy extra women for weeding, turnip hoeing, harvest. Not many potatoes are grown about not more than two or three acres on any farm. women whom I employ are usually the wives daughters of farm servants and farm labourers g in the neighbourhood. The married men particular about the houses they live in, and rally come and look at them before they ge. Feeing markets are held in all the large s and villages about here; I do not see any tion to the markets. The ploughmen have 20*l.* to 24*l.* in money, besides food and lodging. grieve has 20*l.* in money, and a house, garden, v (which belongs to him), 10 roods of potato which I cultivate, and he manures. The shep- has 14*l.* a year and the use of one of my cows, a house and garden. Most farmers give a Scotch of sweet milk a day, and if no milk can be had, money is given at the rate of 1*s.* 9*d.* a week. re a ploughman has a house and garden, a ction of about 3*l.* is made from his wages. harvest work men receive from 2*l.* 15*l.* to 4*l.*, women from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* and their food. No is done by the piece, except occasionally men d "acreers" contract to cut the crop. There ld always be cottages on the farms; children are brought up in villages never see what farm is when they are young, and rarely take to it rwards. The extra harvest women whom I em- sleep in my house; the extra men sleep in a provided for them on the steading. That is the nary plan. Men who work by the week have 15*s.* eek., and women 10*d.* a day for weed gathering, 1*s.* for turnip hoeing. I know all the northern of Banffshire, and think it is managed very much have described in the case of my own farm.

Inveravon.

9. *James Skinner, Esq.*, factor to the Duke of hmond, Drumin.—I have lived here for nearly years, and have charge of property which extends all the upper part of Banffshire. The farms vary much in size; there are some as large as 300 s or upwards; the five-course rotation is generally pted, but in some cases the six. There are villages south of Dufftown, except Tomintoul. en I came here the land was in many parts held small holdings. Several farms were enlarged be- en 30 or 40 years ago, and the families who were oved from their land retained their houses and dens at a nominal rent, and received small gra- ies from the Duke. Most of those people have died out, but a few still remain and receive their tuities. There are a few small holdings of five es, and a man can manage that with the assistance the family, and go to work as a labourer, and make ood living out of it, but some of them who have t quantity get into the habit of depending too ch upon it, and then become very poor. I think that smallest amount of land a man can live on without g to work for hire is 40 acres. There are no lies here. The ordinary plan is for the unmarried vants to live in the steading and take their meals the kitchen. On my farm of about 300 acres, and on some of the larger farms in the neighbourhood, there are kitchens in the steading expressly for the farm servants, and a woman is employed to make the men's beds and cook for them. These women sleep in the farm-houses and return into the house at 9 o'clock. There are a good many cottages attached to the farms, the Duke reserves these cottages in letting the farms, and the occupiers get them during pleasure at a rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* a year, and thus retains the control of them. It is upwards of 30 years since that plan was established. There are about 320 cottages in the district under my control let in that way, and where new cottages are wanted the Duke builds them, and charges his tenants 5 per cent. on half the outlay. These cottages have a kitchen, scullery, and three small bedrooms, and cost about 200*l.* a pair, including everything. They are occupied by only one family each. None have been built in the district, but several have been built about Huntly and Fochabers. There are some married men in the neighbourhood who leave their wives and families to go out to service, but very few; that is done because they cannot get cottages on the farms on which they work; it is a very bad plan, but cannot be avoided where the supply of cottages for the married servants on a farm is insufficient. Very few crofts here have been established for the purpose of improving the land. Most of the improvements have been done by the Duke himself, under an inspector, where considered necessary; he drains and builds dykes, and charges 5 per cent. interest on the outlay; the cultivating and manuring is done by the tenants of the farms where the improvements are made, and in this way a large extent of waste land has been brought into profitable cultivation.

Mortlach.

30. *G. Gordon, Esq.*, Dufftown.—I farm 250 acres of arable land. Don't employ any permanent female servants as outworkers; but I employ women occasionally from the village for picking weeds, spreading manure, hoeing turnips, harvest, potato picking, and turnip lifting. I think some of the work they do is drudgery and unsuitable for women, such as turnip lifting; but I don't think the work hurts them physically. The children sometimes suffer. Some of the mothers go out, and leave their children in charge of other women by whom they are sometimes neglected. Some boys are employed at the age of 9 or 10 for herding, but very seldom before 12. I don't think they sustain any hardship. I think the main thing that is deficient in this county is the want of cottages; both for those who are not engaged in steading service and for the wives and families of those who are. The ground of my objection is that the family are brought up without much opportunity of seeing the father. Many farmers object to having cottages, because they think that the occupier will steal from them. I have never heard it stated that it was desirable to feed men at home because they were thus better fed than if they lived at home; but I think they are more expensive to keep when fed in the kitchen, than if the ordinary allowance of milk and meal is given to them. The kitchen plan costs about ⅓rd more in food than the other plan, and is less beneficial to the servant's family, because when the milk and meal is given in kind, the family share it with the father. I have eight men sleeping on my premises, they have a large room with a fire-place to sleep in, and have their meals in my kitchen. I put them out of my kitchen by 10 o'clock, but most of them have left before then. I would do away with having them in the kitchen as soon as possible. They have plenty of newspapers to read. I daresay a good many servants on other farms are not as well off as mine. The place which is worse off for school accommodation than any spot I am acquainted with in this neighbourhood is Beldorney, which lies between two parishes, and is about three or four miles away from a school. In this immediate neighbourhood the school accommodation is ample.

Banffshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

ROTHIEMAY.

30 (*a*). *Mr. W. J. Taylor.*—I have been trustee and manager of Lord Fife's estates for the last 12 years, and am well acquainted with Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and Morayshire. In Aberdeenshire and Banffshire the farming is chiefly directed to the breeding and fattening of cattle, and for this purpose turnips and oats are grown to a great extent, but very little wheat. The oats grown in these counties are particularly fine, and the oatstraw possesses very fine feeding qualities. Cattle are fattened in winter almost entirely on it and turnips, the use of oil cakes being exceptional. Very few potatoes are grown, not more as a general rule than are sufficient for domestic consumption. The arable land is laid out in grass in regular rotation for pasture and hay. There is scarcely any permanent pasture except the hills and parks in the neighbourhood of gentlemen's houses. The hills are either let as separate sheep walks, or are parcelled out among the adjoining farmers. They were formerly let as commonties with the adjoining farms, but are now generally divided.

Women are not extensively employed in agricultural labour, indeed scarcely at all except in harvest and turnip hoeing; young children under 13 or 14 years of age not at all. The ordinary work of the farm is done by farm servants who are hired by the six months. Extra men and women are engaged for harvest work. They receive a lump sum for the whole harvest however long it may be. Women have now about 3*l.* and men from 3*l.* to 4*l.* with food. There is no limit as to the number of hours they may have to work during harvest. Labourers who are employed for short jobs get about 15*s.* a week. The farm servants are either lodged in bothies where they cook for themselves or else they sleep in the farm buildings and have their meals in the kitchen; sometimes in the farmer's own kitchen and sometimes in a separate one intended expressly for the farm servants, in both cases a woman is employed to cook their food for them. There are a great many crofters, especially in the upper districts of these counties. They have most of them been originally established as improvers for the purpose of bringing waste land into cultivation. In some cases th crofters have been originally squatters, but in gener the waste which is for the most part moor land is le to the crofters on lease at a very low rent, on co dition of his bringing it into cultivation. The croft generally build their houses themselves. Leases quently contain special stipulations as to allowanc which a tenant is to be entitled to at the end of l lease for improvements. These allowances are cal meliorations. Where there is a change of tenan the meliorations are paid for either by the incomi tenant according to the agreement made by the lan lord and the lessee; but the better plan is for t landlord to pay for them whereby he gets the fu benefit of them in the shape of increased rent, a the new tenant is left with his capital free for th working and further improvement of the farm.

There is no tenant right in Scotland. The rent paid by the smaller tenants are rather higher in pr portion than those paid by the larger. This is owin to the greater competition among men of small capit for the occupation of land. The landlords do n incur great expense in maintaining the buildings o small occupations, because the tenants are bound t repair, and generally keep their premises in goo repair on the principle that "a stitch in time sav nine."

The married farm servants either live in cottage on the farms or keep their families in the village The number of these cottages is increasing. The are generally built either by the landlord, the tenan doing the carting, or by the tenant the landlord bea ing some portion of the expense, perhaps furnishir wood for roofing. They cost about from 30*l.* to 4 each. Great complaints are made of the feein markets on account of the drunkenness and imm rality to which they give rise. But it would be ver difficult to put them down.

In Morayshire and Nairn a considerable breadt of wheat is grown as well as oats and barley; the s is very sandy and much lighter than that of Banffshi and Aberdeenshire. The mode of hiring and er ploying labour is very similar in all these counties.

Forfarshire.

FORFARSHIRE.

ARBIRLOT.

31. *Mr. J. Collier*, Penlathie.—The only employments for which I require extra hands are for potato planting, lifting, and harvest, and turnip hoeing. The married men are generally engaged by the year, and the unmarried for 6 months or 12 months. I find that many of my unmarried men stay only six months.

The pay of a ploughman is,—	£	*s.*	£	*s.*
In money - - -	20	0 to	24	0
6½ bolls of oatmeal, at 16*s.* -	5	4 -	5	4
Milk, 1 pint (Scotch) a day, 3*d.*	5	4 -	5	4
Fire and light - - -	3	0 -	3	3
	£33	8	£37	8

Bread and beer extra in harvest.

The women are not hired by the year, but have 1*s.* 2*d.* a day when they work; no allowances. For potato lifting they have 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and harvest wages 3*s.* 4*d.* a day.

Married men have,—	£	*s.*
In money - - - -	20	0
Cow worth - - - -	11	0
6½ bolls of meal, at 16*s.* - -	5	4
2 cartloads of potatoes - -	3	0
Coals - - - -	1	0
House and garden - -	4	0
	£43	4

I give my grieve 25*l.*, the other allowances are th same. He is a man of education; but most of m men are educated men. The women whom I empl are most of them the wives and daughters of n ploughmen and labourers; but it has been ve difficult to get women to work since the factories ha been open. It is not a stipulation that the wiv should come out to work, when I engage servants.

The ordinary hours of work are from daylight dark, with two hours (11 to 1) for rest. In summ they work for 10 hours. Women the same length time as men.

I employ a good many boys and girls, but ve few below 10, for potato work, *i.e.* 10 days in th spring, and the same in autumn. In harvest the sometimes come to assist their parents, but to a ve small extent.

I do not object to bothies where they are looke after well by the farmers; but some of the farme are rough fellows and don't care whom they hire, a how they treat their men.

I have 11 cottages, they have two rooms each, a gardens. I never put more than one family into cottage; they would not stand that.

It would be a great benefit if registries could b introduced, where a servant's character could b ascertained. I object much to feeing markets becau it is impossible to ascertain the previous character the servant you hire. It is difficult to re-engage m before the market day, they all like to go ther There is not much drunkenness. I have never h to turn away a man for being drunk, and I ha

hed since 1833. They don't get drunk except on market days.

We are very well off for schools. There is a large ochial school and also a free school largely at- ed, under Government inspection. There are two female schools in the parish of Panbride, e to this parish. There is school accommodation in access of all the inhabitants of the parish. ere is no field work to prevent their attending ol, except potato planting. The potatoes are d during the holidays.

don't think that education is very important for nary ploughmen, but it is very important when y occupy places of trust.

A number of the pendicles on this estate have been d down. We used to be able to employ the nen who formerly occupied them at pressing times, many women had an opportunity of learning to k on these pendicles who have no opportunity of ning now.

I read the above statement to Mr. Alexander rie, of the Mains of Kelly, Arbirlot, who confirmed enerally, but made the following observations as result of his own experience.]

32. *Mr. Alexander Bowie*, the Mains of Kelly.—rovide a cow apiece for three of my ploughmen one day labourer, in return for which they have h of them to provide a woman to work for me all year round at 1*s.* a day. In one case the female ker is the daughter, and in another a relation of person who provides her, but in every case she ges with the man. These women have an extra at harvest, but they are not paid in bad weather. servants get about 1,200 yards of potato ground, ich is worth about 3*l.* 12*s.* My married servants not at all disposed to leave me. Some have lived e for 30 years. The pendicles were formerly sort nurseries for agricultural labourers. Most of the ndicles were let direct from the landlord. The ndicles were very comfortable and made a good ng. It is a great pity that their numbers have been luced.

Barry.

33. *The Rev. C. F. Stevenson*, minister of the tablished Church.—This is an agricultural parish h the exception of one or two factories. Several ung women are employed in the fields. I think the men are employed rather long hours; but I have t observed that any distinct physical injury arises m the field work which they do. The summer rk does not matter; but some of the winter work, ch as spreading manure, is objectionable, as well as ding carts. I have not observed that the female rkers make less tidy wives than the women who ve received a different training. I am not aware at any of the children are injured by field work; ne of the girls I see at work have the appearance being oppressed. There are no female bothies re. The cottages are tolerably good; they have ways two apartments, and scarcely any of them are habited by more than one family. Almost all the ttages have gardens, but in many cases the gardens e not attended to. The rent is about 3*l.* a year. have noticed many serious evils arising from want of ainage. I think the bothy system is most injurious to e moral character. The bothies are under no super- sion, and are dirty, and the men who live in them come rude and boorish. A farmer in this neigh- ourhood lately remonstrated with his ploughmen for ever going to church; one of the men in return for is remonstrance, played the bagpipes one Sunday, hile the congregation were going to kirk. The rmer, therefore, discharged the whole of his men. he bothies lead to immorality, because the plough- en are under no control, but they don't bring women to the bothies. There is not much drunkenness re. There are two schools here (one Free Church d one parochial), besides a half-time school for the factory children. There is school accommodation within access of all the inhabitants of the parish. I think on the whole that the attendance is too limited in point of time, but I don't know any instance of a family not attending school at all. Very few schools are under Government inspection. I think that all should be; it would be very preferable to the inspection of the presbytery.

[I read the above statement to the Rev. S. D. F. Salmund, the Free Church minister of Barry, who agreed with it, but added that he thought the rural population more advanced than the manufacturing, comparing family with family.]

Cortachy.

34. *Mr. P. M. Geekie*, factor to Lord Airlie.—The farms in this neighbourhood vary in extent from four to 300 or 400 acres of arable land besides pasture. Each farmer in the glen has as a rule a piece of pasture on the hill attached to his farm. Lord Airlie has about 30 tenants who hold less than 20 acres of land each. These farms are let to them at a higher rent generally than the larger farms. The ordinary rent for the tillage land varies between 10*s.* and 2*l.* an acre; the rent of the hill pasture varies between 1*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* The smaller occupiers generally work for the larger farmers when not engaged themselves; but if they have as much as 20 acres they can generally live on their holdings.

The work for children consists of setting potatoes, herding stock as soon as the grass begins to grow, thinning turnips with a hoe, then harvest and potato gathering. Very few are employed in scaring birds in the spring. I think about half the children of from 9 or 10 upwards are employed in these occupations. There is no contract work. The children get from 6*d.* to 10*d.* a day. The five and seven course of cropping is adopted here. The ploughmen, cattlemen, barnmen, and shepherds are all engaged by the year; but there are also a good many labourers living in the towns and villages in this neighbourhood who, assisted by women, do all the extra work of the farms. Women are not generally engaged by the year as outworkers. The bondage system does not prevail here. Although occasionally when a farmer engages a married man he stipulates that his wife shall come out to work. This is a thinly-populated district, and it is impossible to have schools within reach of every inhabitant, but the proportion of the population who have no school within access of them is very small. The feeing markets for the district are at Kirriemuir, Glamis, and Alyth; the markets are very objectionable on account of the drunkenness and dissipation which prevail there, but I don't see how that is to be remedied.

The earnings of an ordinary married ploughman are,—

	£
In money - - - -	24
6½ bolls of meal - - -	6
1 pint (Scotch) of milk a day = 2 chop- pins at 2*d.* a choppin.	3
House and garden - - -	2
	£35

The unmarried men have about the same, with the exception of the house rent. Shepherds have about the same in money, but have the advantage in the keep of a cow. The labourers receive 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week; women about 1*s.* a day, and sometimes milk. In harvest and potato gathering rather more.

Lord Airlie does not keep any cottages in his own hands, except those necessary to supply his own workmen. The ordinary rent of cottages is from 2*l.* to 3*l.*

[Mr. Geekie kindly supplied me with the following table:—]

Forfarshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

35. Cottages in 1866 on Lord Airlie's Property at Cortachy.

Parish.	Cottages.	Inhabitants.	Rooms.	Privies.
Cortachy - -	74	250	219	23
Tannadice -	21	85	49	4
Kirriemuir -	4	14	9	1
	117	438	260	18
Airlie - -	20	80	38	2
Kingoldrum -	8	40	14	—
Alyth - -	44	176	86	—
Glenisla - -	26	104	62	2
Auchterhouse -	65	319	162	21
Clunie - -	22	62	57	8
Total -	401	1,568	947	79

[The above figures show that each cottage contains on an average rather more than two rooms, and not quite four inhabitants; while there is about one privy for every five cottages. I think that as a general rule a smaller proportion of cottages in Scotland have privies, than that here indicated.—F. H. N.]

Dundee.

36. *Mr. David Small*, solicitor.—That portion of Forfarshire which lies to the north of Kirriemuir and Brechin is hilly country, and is let in large tracts as sheep-walks; all south of that is under cultivation. The system of farming is substantially the same throughout the whole district, but varies a little with the nature of the soil and the elevation. All the regular farm servants are hired in May and November for either six months or a year. The farms contain from 200 to 300 acres on an average. No rule can be laid down as to the number of cottages necessary per 100 acres. All farms have some cottages let with them, but the number varies. Formerly all the cottages were built with two rooms only, called the but and the ben; but a third room is now generally added between the other two. When we let cottages with the farms we make no stipulations as to the terms on which they may be occupied. Some are let to the ploughmen, and if the farmer has more cottages than necessary for his ploughmen he lets those which he does not want to labourers at from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*, on condition that the occupiers work for him on pressing occasions. The pendiclers or crofters are a superior class of labourers. I see no objection to the crofter system. A bothy is always attached to farm buildings. The objection to the bothy system is want of space and cleanliness, which leads to a general demoralisation and lowering of a man's tone. The bothy is under the absolute control of the farmer, and no stipulation is inserted in the lease as to the mode in which it is managed. Great efforts have been made to abolish bothies. I think they are rather on the decrease, and that there is a tendency to improve those that exist.

37. *Mr. F. Batchelor*, Craigie Home Farm, Dundee.—I farm 150 acres, on the eight-course shift; that system is practised for about two miles all round Dundee. It requires more labour and more manure than the six-course; but we can grow more potatoes, for which there is a good market at Dundee. The rotation is grass, oats, potatoes, wheat, turnips, oats or barley, potatoes, wheat.

Old men, women, boys, and girls of from 12 to 14 are employed in the same sort of work from March to November. They are employed in planting potatoes, gathering stones, weeding the corn crops (if drilled, as is usual, with a hoe; if broad cast with the hand), hoeing potatoes and turnips until July, and after harvest in gathering potatoes. The women are not much employed in the winter out of doors; sometimes they thrash and pull turnips, but they generally only milk and work in the house. Old men, women, and children are always paid by time. I sometimes send one of my men to look after them when they are at work. The women who are hired by the year are always unmarried women; but married women sometimes take short jobs at particular seasons of the year. I think that women who have been accustomed to work in the fields make as good wives as those who have not. It is very common when two women are engaged in a farm-house for them to go to work in the fields alternately by the week; I think that is done because there are some who prefer the change; but some women are rather above working out. I hire my unmarried men at the market at Dundee; there are two hiring markets on the 11th November and the 15th May. Domestic servants are not hired at these fairs, but out-of-door female workers are. They come immediately after they are hired. The fairs last one day. All the servants have a holiday on that day, and usually stay away a day or two to see their friends; that is sometimes inconvenient to their employers, especially at Whitsuntide; but the greater number of servants are hired in November, when there is less to do. The married men are hired at another fair which is held in July, to come the following November. This is done because the married men wish to make arrangements for moving before changing their place. The unmarried men have no furniture or gardens, and can, therefore, come at once. Men are generally hired by the year, and women by six months.

The ordinary earnings of a ploughman are,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	22	0	0
6½ bolls of meal - =	6	10	0
2 choppins of milk per day in winter and 3 in summer, at 2*d.* per choppin - =	7	12	6
Lodging, fire, and light - =	3	10	0
Potatoes, &c. *given* - =	2	10	0
	£42	2	6

My grieve has 28*l.* in money, the other allowances are the same.

Married men have about 20*l.* in money; they get house and garden free, but not fire and lights; either potato ground or potatoes are given, worth in each case about 2*l.* 5*s.* They keep pigs.

Sometimes married men have three choppins of milk a day all the year round, but I don't give that. The women have 6*l.* for the half-year and live in the house.

Women, old men, and boys who come to work by the week have 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. The regular holidays are New Year's Day, Whitsuntide, Stob's fair, and Martinmas. They also have a holiday at the Dundee fair (the 26th August), if we are not busy with the harvest. We are compelled by law to provide for our servants for six weeks if they are ill. Unmarried men have no furniture except their chest; and when they change their places, they fetch a cart from the new master to whom they are going, and bring their chest to their new place. All the furniture of the cottages belongs to the married men; and they have to be sent for by their new master whenever they change their place. The worst of them is the "flutting." In the bothy they have gas, which is not turned out all night; but they turn it out for themselves when they go to bed at about 10. They do not go out at night much, except on Saturday nights. I have rented this farm for 17 years, and education has improved much during that time. It is a great thing to get an educated servant; they have all been educated, more or less; but the better the education the more useful the man on the farm. I have no cottages here, and therefore cannot employ married men; but I have some cottages on another farm. I never put two families into one cottage. The first men I engaged when I came here I gave 13*l.* to; similar men now receive 22*l.*, and the allowances have not decreased.

Forfar.

Extract from a letter from Mr. George Webster, of Burnside House, Forfar, Sheriff's Clerk for the county of Forfar, to the Assistant-Commissioner, dated 4th June 1870.

"With respect to savings' banks, I made the inies I promised in those quarters to which I had ess, and so far as I can learn in places where the icultural and manufacturing labourers may be estied as about equal, the depositing bears about the e proportion. Unfortunately we don't know, and e no means of knowing, what are the relative al numbers, in a locality using the bank, of agricural, manufacturing, or other designation of ourers; but you may truly say, so far as hereabouts oncerned, that the agricultural labourers bear their and a respectable proportion to the other classes, are not remarkable or exceptional in either ."

Glamis.

39. *Mr. Andrew Ralston*, factor to Lord Strathre.—The supply of labour in this neighbourhood is ficient for the cultivation of the land, but there is a sufficient supply of cottages built upon the farms enable the farmers to house all the men necessary cultivate the farms. There are several villages in neighbourhood, such as Glamis, Charlestown, ughlastown, Jericho, which are inhabited by jobmen o work for day wages. The wages for such men ount to about 14*s.* a week, without any allowances. rd Strathmore employs between 50 and 60 of such n, and pays them from 13*s.* to 16*s.* a week. The tages in the villages belong mostly to Lord Strathre, but a good many belong to workmen, masons, ., who have feued the land and built cottages upon m to reside in themselves. These cottages are erally substantially built, and contain sufficient commodation. There are no cottages here built by culators as an investment. I think it is desirable t all the labour necessary for the cultivation of the ms should be supplied from cottages built on the m and let with the farm. I prefer this arrangement, cause the labourers who are so housed are more nveniently situated for their work than those men o live in villages. Most of the farms are within sy distances of the schools, one the most distant is out two miles distant. Neither the bondage nor the ng system exists here at all. I manage the estate Lord Talbot de Malahide, which is situated in the rish of Airlie in this county. The system of hiring d employing labour there is similar to that which evails on Lord Strathmore's estate, but there are no llages there; the whole of the necessary labour eing supplied by men who reside in the farm cottages. he labourers in the neighbourhood appear to be ntented; they are not disposed to move about much, d when they are so disposed it is due to the bothy stem. They are well-educated men and efficient orkmen. I don't know a single house about here ith only one room, except one or two inhabited by idows. There are about 50 or 60 crofters on the roperty, paying under 20*l.* a year each, but they are rincipally artisans; they farm their land well, and he system answers well, because we get our best omestic servants from among that class; but I do ot think that the croft system answers well where he occupiers have to live by their croft, except on ad land, tenants for which can often be procured on o other terms, as men with capital will never take ad land.

Inverkeilor.

40. *John Smith*, Freockheim.—I contract with the armers to do harvest work, and also to lift potatoes y the acre. I employ women and children in a gang; he children are from 8 years of age upwards. Last ear I went out potato lifting with about 30. I enerally pay the women 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and the children 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*; but last year I paid none less than 1*s.* 6*d.*; the lowest price I have ever paid is 10*d.* a day. I have never employed as many as I did last year. I have generally employed about 25. They work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and stop an hour in the middle of the day for dinner and rest. It answers better to employ women than children. It does them no harm; the children are quite willing to work. The most distant farm to which I take them to work is two miles off. Sometimes the farmers fetch them and send them home in carts. The parents are anxious for me to take out their children, and the children like to come. There are one or two other men who do contract work in the same way as I do.

41. *Mr. Anderson*, farmer of 250 acres, Inverkeilor.—I contract with a man to lift my potatoes. I pay him 12*s.* an acre. He brings boys, girls, and women to do the work; but very few boys, and no children younger than 10. They begin to work at about 8, and have one hour for dinner, and then work as long as they can see. He takes them home in a cart in the evening. He pays the women 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and the children 6*d.* and 9*d.*, the latter are often the dearest. I do no work besides lifting potatoes by contract.

42. *The Rev. W. Masterton*, minister of the Free Church, Inverkeilor.—I think that the out-of-door work has a very bad effect in making women coarse, more so than factory work. The language they use is very bad. Farmers have often complained to me that they cannot keep the men away from the in-door servants. If the outer door is locked they force their way in by some other means. There are generally two female servants in a farmer's house, one of whom works in the fields. The cottages are too few in number. Men don't marry as soon as they otherwise would, because they cannot get a cottage. The old cottages are insufficient in accommodation. If there is a third room it is not used at first, but after a time the occupiers come to use it. The regular furniture of a cottage is two beds; boys and girls sleep together until they are about 10 years old; but when there is a large family a third bed is often made up on the floor. I don't think they suffer from bad drainage. The windows are never opened; and privies where they exist never used.

43. Letter from Mr. J. Bowen, Schoolmaster.

"Inverkeilor, March 10, 1870.

"Sir,—According to promise I made you I beg to state I have called on most of the farmers in this district, and heard their opinions on the particular subjects you pointed.

1. The actual amount of earnings of an able-bodied agricultural labourer, &c.:—

They are paid as under, which is an average taken from about 20 farms in this district—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Money wages - -	19	0	0	per annum.
Meal - - -	6	10	0	
Milk - - -	6	1	8	
House garden - -	4	0	0	
Coals, 15*s.*; potatoes, 2*l.*	2	15	0	
	38	6	8	

2. Different modes of hiring, &c.—

The men are hired in open market; unmarried men for 6 or 12 months, and married men for 12 months, paid partly in money and partly in kind. The gang system prevails to some extent in lifting potatoes, with young people (C. 12, 13). The gang system used to prevail to a great extent in harvesting the corn crops, but the universal introduction of reapers has done away with it.

3. The bothy system—

The farmers in general have no fault to find with it, and can see no better substitute for it; one farmer only spoke against it . . . . . .

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

F. H. Norman, Esq. James Bowen."

Forfarshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

KINNELL.

44. *Mr. W. Goodlit*, Bolsham.—I farm 700 acres, partly in the 5- and partly in the 7-course shift. I employ women all the year. I used to have a women's bothy, Highland women used to come; but now I employ a few of the wives and daughters of my servants. I don't bind the women to go out to work, it is generally understood that they should come out to work if they can, but not half of them do come out. I should like to have two women for every 100 acres. I pay them 1*s.* a day, and 16*s.* to 20*s.*, a week during harvest, three weeks; and 1*s.* 6*d.* a day during potato lifting.

My married ploughmen earn—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money (on an average) -	20	0	0
6½ bolls meal - - -	6	10	0
Milk, three choppins all the year at 2*d.* a choppin - -	9	2	0
Potato land, 1,000 yds. - -	3	0	0
Coals - - - -	0	15	0
House and garden - -	2	0	0
Meat in harvest - -	1	0	0
	£42	7	0

The unmarried (bothy men) have—

In money (18*l.*—24*l.*) say -	21	0	0
Bothy kept up, fire and light, bedding - - -	2	12	0
6½ bolls meal - - -	6	10	0
Milk (three choppins per day) at 2*d.* - - -	9	2	0
Meat in harvest - -	1	0	0
	40	4	0

I would not have any children employed under 13, except occasionally in assisting their parents in light work, and I would have compulsory education, either by requiring school attendance or proficiency. I pay half the fees of all the children of my farm servants. I don't find my married servants at all disposed to "flit;" but the young men do move about more, they seldom remain more than one year, or at most two.

All my cottages have two rooms, and some a third. I think they are appreciated, but some of the families when they are first put into a good cottage abuse it.

LIFF.

45. *Mr. David Easson*, factor to Lord Camperdown.—The size of the farms in my neighbourhood is 150 to 350 acres. There is no permanent pasture here except what is kept for ornamental purposes. Immediately round Dundee the husbandry adopted is the 6-course, viz., grass, oats, turnips, barley, potatoes, and wheat. Further inland the grass is kept down two or three years, the rotation of the other crops remaining the same.

There are but few pendicles or crofts in the neighbourhood of Dundee, but further inland they are more numerous. The crofts are from 3 to 10 acres; they are let yearly or upon lease; the rent paid is perhaps rather more than that paid by larger farmers, but the landlords' expenses are greater where the holdings are more numerous. The smaller crofters cannot crop their land as regularly as the larger. They grow turnips rather than potatoes, and generally keep one or two cows. They do all the work of their crofts by themselves and their families, and hire but little labour, and they work for the farmers in the busy times. Where the croft is a sub-let (which is not common in this country), the crofter is often obliged by his lease to work for his superior in the busy times. The labourers are very anxious to obtain crofts inland, but not so much in this neighbourhood, where rents are too high. The crofters live about as well as farm servants, but perhaps their children are rather better educated.

There is scarcely any employment for boys and girls under the age of 13 in this district. I could scarcely point to any. From 13 to 16 boys and girls are employed in very similar employments from May to November, viz., in weeding (with hand or hoe), planting potatoes, thinning turnips, spreading manure. In this operation they distribute the manure, which has been scattered about from the main heaps by the man. At 16 boys become farm servants. In the immediate district women are not generally engaged as farm servants, but more inland it is more common for them to be so employed. Farmers do not require boys as young as 13 if they could get enough older. It answers best to employ boys of 14 and pay them more. Women and boys are not generally employed out of doors in wet weather.

I find it costs about 110*l.* to build a comfortable cottage in the district, or about 10*l.* less if built in a row. The form of cottage which I prefer has a door in the centre, one room on each side, and a small room with a window looking to the back opposite the entrance. This third room is generally used for coals, wood, &c. Lord Camperdown builds a separate pig sty and privy for each cottage, but that is not always the case with farmers. We generally put the cottages about a quarter of a mile from the farm buildings; that is preferable to placing them quite close, because the family is more private and the children do not get in the way. There is hardly such a thing in this district as a farm being out of reach of a school; but the convenience of the labourer in being placed near his work is always the matter which should be first considered. We make no stipulations as to the terms upon which the farmers let the cottages to their servants, practically the servants always occupy the cottages rent free. It is very rare for a farmer to put two families into one cottage, and where it is done, there are generally four rooms in the cottage. As a general rule no lodgers are taken in, but occasionally, when extra labour is required, as for trenching and draining, the extra labourers are temporarily lodged.

The objection to bothies is that the occupiers get out at night and are under no supervision, and the bothies are nearly always placed close to the steading in which the female servants live. In addition to these objections, as a general rule nobody is employed to clean the bothies; they become very dirty and untidy and lead to dirty and untidy habits in the occupiers. The only alternative would be to make the unmarried farm servants lodge in the cottages of the married men, but the latter would object to this.

The earnings of farm servants in the district are as follows:—

Yearly Servants.

For Ploughmen.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money, 18*l.* to 22*l.*, say	20	0	0
6½ bolls of meals, worth - -	6	10	0
Milk, 2 choppins in winter and 3 ditto in summer (per day) at 1¾*d.* per choppin, about -	6	0	0
House and garden - - -	4	0	0
20 falls. of potatoes (160 falls. in acre) - - - -	1	10	0
	£38	0	0

That is about an average calculation.

Where weekly wages are paid they are 13*s.* a week, with house and garden.

The "grieve" gets 25*l.* to 26*l.* in money, and the other allowances the same

Women when hired get about 10*l.* to 12*l.* with food and lodging in the farm house, or 1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day if hired by the day, and 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* in harvest.

Boys get about the same wages as women.

When a marriage takes place, the woman used always to provide linen and bedding, worth say 10*l.* The husband provided bedsteads, tables, chairs, &c., worth from 12*l.* to 15*l.* Formerly no marriage took place without the wife making this provision, but this

…tice is much less frequent than it was; each does …now have the separate department as formerly. …ord Camperdown pays his married ploughmen …thly, at the rate of 14*s.* a week. The unmarried …allowed 6*s.* a week as board, and the wages paid …yearly. The reason of continuing the half-yearly …in the case of unmarried men is that we thus …in a hold upon them. This plan is convenient, …use we are not compelled to keep cows; and there …difficulty in getting milk.

Mains.

5. *Mr. Bell*, the Barns, of Claverhouse.—I farm …t 350 acres. I have no permanent meadow. I …loy nine farm servants, beside one boy aged about … I employ no women by the year, but engage some …he week, from the 1st of March to the end of …ember. They are employed in planting and hoe… potatoes, and hoeing turnips; winnowing corn, … thrashing with a machine; women are paid 1*s.* 1*d.* …y, with a free house and light; in harvest they …k by the piece. They are generally Highland …men, and go home when the work is over in …ember. I have nine cottages with my farm, and … the women into one of them. I may sometimes …ploy young boys and girls for potato planting and …ng, if I happen to have a family in any of my …tages, but not otherwise. The men are hired in …y to work from the 22nd of November following … one year. They are hired at fairs or sometimes …ome. There is no great harm comes from fairs. … have had registry offices, but they don't answer. …e ordinary farm servants have in money 20*l.*; free …se and garden, equal to 4*l.* per year; and potato …und or potatoes worth 3*l.*; 6½ bolls of meal, equal …5*l.* 10*s.*; 3 choppins of new milk per day in summer …l 2 in winter, equal to 8*l.* per annum. In harvest …y have an additional 3*s.* a week for four weeks. …ey draw the 20*l.* when they want it; but are sup…sed to have it paid twice a year. They have occa…nal day's holidays equal to about a week a year; …l are paid whether well or ill. My grieve and …tlemen have rather more than that. Hours of …rk are 6 to 11 and 1 to 6 in summer, and they …gin when they can see in winter. I have sufficient …tages to supply my farm with labour except in …rvest. I have no bothy. I prefer married men, …ause the wives come to help me in harvest; but I …ve no great objection to bothies. I have had one …til the last five or six years; and have been at this …m all my life. I think the farm servants are more …eful if they have been educated; those who have …ly received the ordinary education of a parish …hool do not throw up farm work for other work; …t if they have received a rather better education …an that ordinarily given they are more disposed to … discontented with farm work; but on the whole …ere is no lack of labour. I commenced to farm here … 1844. Since then the money part of the wages has …en doubled.

Maryton.

47. *Mr. Gibson*, schoolmaster and land-surveyor.—…here are 80 on the school list, and 50 in average …tendance. The school is under government inspec…on. There are too many schools in this neighbour…ood, they damage one another. A child who cannot …alk a mile to school should not go at all, they should …ot go before the age of 6. The mothers often send …em in order that they may go to work themselves. …f the parents are pretty well off they will keep their …hildren regularly at school up to the age of 12, but …f not so well off they will begin to take them away …or potato lifting about the age of 10. The work …which they do at that age is herding cattle and plant…ng and lifting potatoes and thinning turnips. Gangs …re never employed. Children are paid from 6*d.* to …*s.* a day. The work is no profit to the parents, for …f they do their duty to their children they have to …end them to school up to a later age, if they send them occasionally to work, than if they do not. It is only the children of ploughmen who go out to work when young. I have now [Feb.] four pupils above the age of 15 who have been out to work, and saved enough money to live without work and pay the school fees for a quarter. I have four to six pupils every winter who do that. The fees are from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*, according to the class they are in, besides the expense of buying books. I have been registrar of births, deaths, and marriages between eight and nine years; during that time only two persons have failed to sign their names; one was a Highland woman, and the other a ploughman, who said he had learnt to write, but had forgotten it. Those who are continuously resident here can generally pass the 6th Standard before they leave; others about the 4th. I always set home lessons, such as sums, paraphrasing, &c. They use a dictionary for paraphrasing. The parents generally approve of the home lessons; some object to them on account of the trouble they cause to themselves. All the parents are anxious for education, and the farmers think that the better the education the better the ploughman. Women are much employed at 1*s.* a day; they are generally the wives and daughters of the ploughmen. Sometimes farmers let a few acres of land to a ploughman, on condition of his providing a bondager. Only one farmer in the parish does that, he lets out eight crofts and does the horse work on them himself. The bondagers have 9*d.* a day, generally 1*s.* 6*d.* a day when potato lifting, and 15*s.* a week during harvest, besides two bottles of beer a day during harvest. The children of pendiclers are regular at school during winter, but irregular during summer. If the wife cannot work as a bondager a woman is hired for that purpose. The croft system is a great misery both for men and women. I think women work harder than ploughmen. The hardest work women do is lifting behind a reaping machine and forking sheaves. There are bothies in the neighbourhood, there are too many men in them, and one bad one is sure to make the rest bad.

48. *The Rev. W. R. Fraser*, Maryton, minister of the Established Church.—As a general rule the school children learn their home lessons directly they get home, and won't go to play until the lessons are learnt. I was schoolmaster at Auchterhouse, where there were many crofters. Their children attended school far less regularly than the children of ploughmen. The practice of having lectures in winter evenings at the schools is being introduced into the district. The lectures take place at 7.30, and are well attended both by farmers and ploughmen. The ploughmen who come have to sup their horses at 6 instead of 8 (which is the usual hour), so as to be able to come out, but the farmers permit this. The crofters no doubt work harder than the ploughmen, but the arrangement is made quite voluntarily, and I therefore assume that the ploughmen think it advantageous. I am in the habit of visiting all the bothies in this parish. I am always well received, and do not find that the fact of living in a bothy has a demoralising effect upon the men. The cottages are tolerably good, they are comfortably built, almost all have two rooms. There are no lodgers, and no overcrowding. All have gardens. Lord Southesk gives prizes for the best kept garden. Last year the population of this parish was 396, of whom 85 were at school. The ploughmen are well able to educate their children as far as the expense goes. I do not object altogether to feeing markets. It is as bad (if bad at all, which I doubt) for the masters as for the servants. I think it would be an exaggeration to say that one-third of them who attend the market abuse it.

Oathlaw.

49. *Rev. Harry Stuart*, minister of the Established Church, and *Mr. Rodgie*, factor to Colonel Gardyne, Findhaven.—The farms here vary from about 50 to 250 acres in extent. The cropping varies, but a 7-

Forfarshire.
Mr. Norman.
r.

course shift is the most common; the great majority of the ploughmen are hired by the half year, and the married men by the year. Most of the farmers have a female outworker who lives in the house, and is hired by the year. These women are always unmarried women, but the wives and children of ploughmen also work out. The bondager system does not prevail to any extent here, but occasionally if a farmer lets a cottage to a man who does not work regularly for him, he stipulates that the man's wife or daughter should come out to work for him at the busy times. Complaints have occasionally been made that the women who are so employed do not receive the full amount of market wages, but it is not known whether these complaints are well founded; and in this district farmers very seldom have more houses than are sufficient to supply them with regular labourers; there are, therefore, very few job men. Boys and girls are employed in spring and autumn in weeding and lifting potatoes; they generally work with their parents, and these occasional employments are not sufficient to prevent their obtaining a satisfactory elementary education if they attended school regularly at other times; but the children get very independent of their parents, and don't attend regularly. Another cause of irregularity is that the married men often change places in November, and do not think it worth while to send their children to school between the time that the potatoes are lifted and the time they change places.

There can be no doubt that the field work renders women coarse, and that the cottages of field workers are less well looked after than those of women who don't work out. There are some Highland women who come down from Inverness-shire and Ross-shire to work on the large farms, but they are very well-behaved and respectable.

The cottages have improved very much of late years; all those which are now being built are very good. There is not much overcrowding; lodgers are sometimes taken in, but that is not objectionable. The great obstacle to cottage building is that the Government will not sanction the loan of money for the building of cottages except on English plans, which are quite unsuitable to Scotland [on subsequent inquiry I found that this statement was incorrect.—F. H. N.] A good cottage cannot be built under 120*l.*, and you cannot get more than 3*l.* a year for it. Bothies are a necessary evil. You must employ unmarried lads, and they can only be lodged either in the house or in bothies, or work as job men, and get lodgings in cottages. The bothies are the best of all these modes. The objection to them is that they are untidy, and the occupiers are under no supervision. The kitchen system is worse than the bothies because the lads have to associate with the maids, and because they have no separate places to dry their clothes. The lads in Aberdeenshire and the northern counties are better educated than they are here, but they are more immoral; that is because they will not marry until they can obtain a house or small farm, and have great difficulty in obtaining either of these.

50. *Dr. Adams*, occupier of 165 acres, Oathlaw.—I reap with a machine. I employ extra men and women to come out at harvest time. There are two markets held in Forfar and two in Kerriemuir about six weeks before the harvest; I engage my harvest men and women there, and pay the men 16*s.* and the women 15*s.* a week, besides milk and meal for all. I also allow them refreshments both in the morning and afternoon. They have some bread and half a bottle of beer each time. That is worth about 3*d.* a day. We make a bargain with them as to wages at the market and give them 1*s.* as "arles," *i.e.* earnest-money.

51. *Mr. Crichton*, occupier of 300 acres, Oathlaw.—All my ploughmen are married.

I also employ a "haflan" of about 16, who has 12*l.* a year and the same allowance as the men.

I employ no female outworkers in winter, but I do employ some in summer. They vary in number, according to the particular jobs to be done. I generally hire two Highland women for the summer half year. They have 5*l.* or 6*l.* in money, 2½ bolls meal during the half year, 1 pint (Scotch) of milk day, and lodging. They hoe turnips and potato I don't want women.

52. *Mr. Batchelor*, Findhaven, Oathlaw.—I pay my ploughmen from 20*l.* to 24*l.*, and give three choppins of milk a day all the year round to married men and two to single men. Also eight barrels of coal to the married men, worth 13*s.* 6*d.* The women who I employ in summer have 1*s.* and one choppin of milk per day, and 15*s.* a week during the three harvest weeks; but never meal. They work from about the middle of March to the end of October.

Panbride.

53. *Colonel Guthrie*, factor to Lord Dalhousie, Carlogie House.—Lord Dalhousie has a good many crofters; they generally pay about 1*l.* an acre, and the amount of land each holds may be gathered from the following rents:—

		£	s.	d.
1	pays - - -	18	10	0
2	„ - - -	21	0	0
3	„ - - -	20	16	0
4	„ - - -	3	18	0
5	„ - - -	8	10	0
6	„ - - -	6	12	0
7	„ - - -	6	17	0
8	„ - - -	24	2	4
9	„ - - -	13	18	0
10	„ - - -	5	0	0

These are in the Moneekie district. They have no leases in the majority of cases. They are not tied under any stipulation as to the mode of cropping; but they generally crop their land in the same way as the farmers. Some of them work for the farmers at odd times, or they keep a horse and cart and we employ them. They all seem to be comfortable, and are anxious to hold land. I have a great many applications whenever there is a vacancy. They live in about the same style as farm servants, but are more independent.

54. *The Rev. James Innes*, Panbride Free Kirk Minister.—There are no factories in the parish, but there is a bleaching field in which a good many are employed. Some women are engaged in the factories at Carnousty. Farmers, where they engage married men by the year, stipulate that the wives and daughters should come to work when required, *i.e.* for potato lifting and cleaning turnips, for 1*s.* a day. I have never seen women leading carts here, and turning manure is not usual. I have not heard of any bad results arising from the overcrowding of cottages, but where the family is large the accommodation is insufficient. I think all cottages should have three apartments. In this parish there is no want of school accommodation for the agricultural population. I think that married men when engaged on a farm should be obliged to provide accommodation for their married men, and that the cottages should have sufficient accommodation to enable them to do so, and thus bothies might be abolished. The children don't attend school long enough or regularly enough to learn the three r's well.

55. *The Rev. James Cæsar*, minister of the Established Church, Panbride.—It is not common here for women to lead carts; it only happens when farmers are busy. The women who have been employed in farm labour make, I think, the most industrious and tidy wives. I have never been able to make up my mind that the bothies were injurious to morality in this parish; I have known many most respectable young men who have lived in bothies. It depends on the farmer or grieve. If they are well looked after they are respectable; there is a great want of comfort for them. If I find that parents cannot afford to send their children to school, I agree to pay for one of the children if the parents will pay for the others; and the parents appear to be very grateful for this.

think that it would be desirable to substitute ernment inspection for that of the Presbytery; the r costs nothing, and the former is lowering the acter of education. I have inspected about four ols a year under the Presbytery for the last 25 s. The agricultural children do not attend school enough to enable them to receive a satisfactory ation. It is not as good as it used to be. That wing to the factory work. Women when they s in the fields are paid 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

Rescobie.

. *Mr. Powrie*, proprietor.—Bothies are objection- if they are badly managed, but not otherwise. y should have separate bedrooms, and the beds so ow as only to hold one. The bothy system is erable to lodging the ploughmen in the farm ses, but the latter plan is less objectionable where farms are small and the whole household dine ther than where the servants dine in a separate m from the master. The plan of lodging the unmarried men in the cottages of the married men is objectionable, but it is very little done now. The feeing markets give rise to great dissipation, but they are not inconvenient to farmers. They are held in nearly all the villages, and servants go the whole round, even although they may be hired at the first market. When they are hired at the first market they often stipulate that they shall not be expected to go to their new place before a certain day, so as to give them time to go to the other markets.

Women are sometimes employed in turning manure and filling carts, which is too hard work for them; spreading manure is very appropriate work. They are often engaged by the year to work out of doors, and receive about 8*l.* or 10*l.* and their food. They are of course employed more indoors and less out of doors in winter than in summer. I don't think that a continued diet of oatmeal and milk is desirable, a change is sometimes beneficial. The cottages are improving greatly. A good many have a third room now, and those that are now being built are very satisfactory.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Devenich.

57. *Mr. Robert Walker*, farmer and land valuer, tlethon.—All the country between Stonehaven Aberdeen is on the gneiss and granite formation. s formation is not as fertile as the old red sand- ne. My farm contains between 600 and 700 es; that is the only large farm here. The re- inder vary between 200 and 50 acres, besides a at many crofts of from 5 to 25 acres. The 5- rse shift is generally adopted, viz., two grass ps, two grain crops, and a green crop. There is onsiderable extent of moss and permanent pasture, that is being rapidly diminished. The crofts are d entirely from the heritors, most of the leases tain stipulations against sub-letting. I established ut a dozen crofters about 30 years ago. I gave m 19-year leases of small plots, of about five acres, the uncultivated land, at 5*s.* an acre. They bring land into cultivation and build a house, &c. for mselves, with the assistance of 7*l.* from the land- ner. They can build a house for about 14*l.*; one s built for 8*l.* They build the house with lime tside and clay mortar inside. The small crofters nerally receive a second 19-year lease after the piration of the first at about 30*s.* an acre, after ich the land is worth about 2*l.* an acre. They nage their crofts very well. The best farm ser nts are men who have been trained on crofts. The ofts are always tidy, but I have taken care never to crofts to any but respectable and hardworking ung men. Those who cannot afford to keep horses t their ploughing done by the neighbouring farmer, d pay for it by their own labour. They often save ough money during their lease to enable them to ke a pair-horsed farm at the end of it. I think that few crofts should be maintained everywhere for the rpose of training farm servants, and of supplying rmers with respectable hands during the busy times, stead of compelling them to employ any casual bber whom they may meet. We hire out our arried servants by the year, and unmarried by the lf year, on the 26th May and the 22nd November. also employ some crofters as weekly labourers, and y them 12*s.* a week without any allowances when gularly employed. The average weekly wages for bbing labourers is from 12*s.* to 15*s.* I have always en supplied with extra labourers entirely by the ofters, with three exceptions, when I have employed man to collect 40 or 50 women in Aberdeen, and ave used carts to bring them out, and send them back the evening. They hoe turnips. I have only done hat for three days since I have farmed. I have paid the women 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* each. We allow turf and peat for fuel. We give the servants two days after the turnips are sown to cut peat for themselves. I drive the fire for them.

Banchory Ternan.

58. *Patrick Davidson, Esq.*, Inchmarlo. — The farms in this neighbourhood are generally pair-horsed farms; there are also a great many crofts, which are mostly old holdings. The crofts are chiefly held by men who work for farmers when they have not work to do for themselves. There is a considerable population at Banchory, and a great many gardens, and employment can always be found on some of the improvements which are going on there. Very few of the farms are so large as to require hired servants. Almost all the necessary work is done by the farmer and his family. The farm servants whom I employ are most of them married. A man who wants to marry has no difficulty in finding a cottage. The rent is from 3*l.* to 6*l.*, according to the quality of the cottage and the amount of ground. They are let by the year.

Dunnottar.

59. *The Rev. H. Silver*, minister of the Established Church.

I am a native of this parish and have been minister for 25 years. I think that there is a great deal of immorality among the women who are employed in field work. There are fewer bastards among the fishing than among the agricultural population; the cause of that difference is that the fishermen have an inducement to marry early because their wives are useful to them in baiting the lines and in other ways connected with fishing.

Children are very little employed in agriculture now; the fields are nearly all fenced, so that children are not wanted for herding; and the parents complain that they cannot get them out before the age of 12 to 14. The poverty of the parents is the only obstacle to the education of the children. Where there are several children of a family at the school, the parents often apply to me to assist them in the payment of the fees. I have been cashier of the savings' bank for some time. Many farm servants have saved considerable sums which they have placed in the bank; they pay in from 5*l.* to 10*l.* every half year. The girls draw theirs out when they want a "providing." The cottages about here are pretty good; all the new ones are good; but many have been pulled down the consequence of which is that the farmers have not

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r.

a sufficient supply of cottages for their married men and are obliged to employ unmarried men who live in bothies. The married men have to come into the towns. I think this is a pity, because the children who are brought up in towns do not take to field work, and the supply of agricultural labourers is consequently diminished.

The crofts are being done away with in this neighbourhood in consequence of the expense of keeping up the buildings. There are feeing markets in this neighbourhood; they are very convenient, but lead to great immorality.

According to the best of my knowledge and belief the above is correct.

HENRY SILVER.
Minister of Dunnatton.

Stonehaven, 2nd April 1870.

LAURENCEKIRK.

60. *Mr. P. Dickson.*—The only work which children do under about 13 or 14 years of age is setting and lifting potatoes. They are never employed in scaring, weeding, or thinning turnips. They are employed about a week at setting and the same time in lifting potatoes. On my father's farm of 850 acres about extra hands were employed in lifting, at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, but I don't think that any extra hands were employed for potato setting. Children are hardly wanted for herding now, in consequence of farms being enlarged, and fields generally fenced. The almost universal rotation in this district is the 7-shift, viz., grass (two years), oats, turnips or potatoes and barley or wheat. Where the land is very light another crop of grass is taken, making a 6-shift, and on heavy clay the 7-shift is practised, viz., grass (two years), oats, potatoes or beans, wheat, turnips, barley.

I think that the average rent per acre paid in Kincardineshire (without taking the mountains into consideration) would be about 25*s.* an acre.

Moray.

MORAY.

ABERNETHY.

61. *Mr. S. Fraser.*—I have been inspector of poor in the parish of Abernethy since 1845, and was inspector for the united parishes of Cromdale, Inverallan, and Advie for nine years. I also farm about 130 acres. There is scarcely any cultivation in this neighbourhood, except along the Spey and the tributaries flowing into it. The farms are small, but we require more horses than they do in the low countries, because the winter is so long that we have to do all the work in a very short time. We farm in the 5-course generally, but not strictly so. The servants are generally hired by the half-year, and sleep in the steading, and get their meat in the kitchen, if not at the same table as the employer at any rate under his immediate eye. There are a few cases where men have houses and get their milk and meal, but there are not many cases of that; in most cases when a man marries he takes to day labour. The farmers are not desirous as a general rule of employing married men.

Women from 15 or 16 upwards work a good deal; they are engaged by the six months, and work either in or out as required; there are also a considerable number of women who live in houses of their own, and work by the day. Young boys and girls under the age of 15 are employed for herding, but for nothing else.

The farm servants who work a pair of horses have about 18*l.* to 22*l.* a year, and their bed and board. The orra men have from 10*l.* a year. A man who works by the week gets about 11*s.* a week and his board; or 15*s.* without his board, and deduction is made for short hours in winter. Women have from 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* for the half-year, or 10*d.* a day if they work by the day; and children when herding have from 30*s.* to 50*s.* and their board. There are a good many cottages let with the farms in this neighbourhood; they are not usually let to farm servants, but to labourers, with whom the farmer makes a stipulation that they shall come to work for him at the busy times of the year. The cottage accommodation has improved very much during the last 20 years; they are not allowed to build on Lord Seafield's property except with stone and lime. There are very few turf huts now. The average rent of cottages is about 1*l.*, with a small garden. Some of the cotters often have potato ground, in return for their manure. There are very few bothies in this district. I think the farm servants are sufficiently well lodged; they generally sleep above or at the side of the stable. I am not an advocate of feeing markets, but I have found them to work better than registry offices. When you engage a man at a feeing market you always have an opportunity of learning his character from his previous employer, but when you hire at a registry you have to be content with a certificate, and the certificates are not always reliable.

I think that education is as well attended to in this strath as is possible; there are numerous schools, and the people are anxious for education. I only know of two persons (one man and one woman, both old) who cannot read, but there are a great many who cannot write. It is very rare in this neighbourhood for married men to go to service and leave their families; when they marry they generally work as day labourers.

EDINKILLIE.

62. Extracts from letters from Mr. C. L. Cummin Bruce, of Dunphail, Forres, formerly M.P. for Morayshire, to the Assistant-Commissioner.

"DEAR SIR, May 14th 1870.

". . . . . When I succeeded to the property there was not a single stone and lime house upon it (with the exception of the factor's, built of stone and clay). All were housed in turf huts. I have now got them all into substantial dwelling-houses. Several amongst them are not altogether satisfied with the change, preferring the warmth and 'peatreek' of the auld house. There are several very good, intelligent and hard-working labouring men on the estate, who live in cottages near the farms of their relations, or rented from me. They have gardens (yards) attached for which they pay 30*s.* per annum.

"Wages run from 10*s.* in winter to 12*s.* and 14*s.* in summer and autumn; some take jobs of draining and trenching by contract. No children, to my knowledge, are employed under 12 years of age."

63. Extract from another letter, dated May 27th.

"I do not think the young, or females either young or old, are subject to any detriment, or exposed to any physical injury, arising from the nature of the work.

"I do not think their morals suffer from it, but it certainly interferes with their proper training for domestic duties.

"In general in this district I think there is no need of any restriction on the employment of females or children in agriculture. Children are never employed about horses, women very seldom, and only in loading during harvest.

"I don't think any 'modes of enforcing school' 'attendance' in my neighbourhood are required; the schools are good, and easily accessible. The parents anxious to avail themselves of them. In the case of labourers' families, when the father from ill health, or

causes, is only partially employed, it might be desirable that the inspector of the poor should required to report the case to the parochial board, should be authorized and required to pay the l fees for them, and enforce their attendance up years of age.

The cottages on my property are sufficient for abour required, and are conveniently situated respect to the farms. They have of late years greatly improved, and are improving where found overcrowded ; the cost of them has greatly in-ed, amounting to double what it was 20 years it varies now from 60*l.* to 150*l.*, besides wood and provided by the proprietor, whilst the rents have ined stationary. Gardens or plots of ground are hed to them, and the rents from 30*s.* to 3*l.*, paid t to the landlord, who keeps them in repair. I not aware of any evil results to morality from crowding. There are no villages on the pro-r.

Where married men live in the steading their s live with them, but are not employed in out-work.

The bothy system—

There are none on my property, except on three s in my own occupancy ; these form part of the ding, and women never are lodged in them ; I think system bad, both for employers and employed ; under the system of engaging the men only at the ng markets it is a necessity. It makes the un-ried men unsettled and unsteady. I consider these ng markets the great source of the immorality to ch you refer in Question 7 of your letter of the h. The lads and lasses meet at these jollifications, which they always go, whether desiring to change r employers or not ; they return late, and often ited by an overdose of whisky, and the results that our poorhouses are inundated with illegitimate dren. The father can seldom be made liable ; he nges his employer and leaves the neighbourhood. happily the unmarried women of the lower class 't seem to lose caste by their misadventures.

The evil arising in a great measure from the con-dation of farms, the better class of farmers not being ling to take their servants into their domesticity, nore easily seen than remedied. Might not some tem of registration office for farm servants seeking employment, with references for character from their employer, be substituted for these feeing markets? But no other system could succeed unless the fee-markets were abolished by law."

54. In another letter dated 12th May 1870, and addressed to his factor, Mr. Sclanders of Forres, Mr. Cumming Bruce expresses himself as follows :

"Unmarried farm servants live in the 'bothy.' I nsider it a bad system generally, but it can never dispensed with so long as the feeing markets are intained.

"These I consider a fertile source of much evil, the n engaged at them have no certificate of character, dom remain long in the same service, and even en they have no intention of changing their place come unsettled and dissipated. That these feeing rkets should be abolished is, I believe, the general inion of the principal farmers in Morayshire. The aller farms in Brae Moray are generally laboured the occupying tenant and his family, on all farms der 80*l.* rent, and in the upper district from 20*l.* to 0*l.* They are a remarkably respectable and indus-ious class, and are universally desirous of having eir children well educated, for which they have fficient facilities in the parish and other schools. I ve no reason to think that either women or children e overworked, they are employed mostly in turnip eing or harvest work. Boys of 10 or 12 years old e employed in herding cattle. In spring and winter ey attend school, but in Edinkillie the parish school rendered much less useful than it might be from e frequent change of the teacher, occasioned by a ystem which has been more generally introduced of late years, of allowing the teacher to leave his school for lengthened periods to keep his terms at the University of Aberdeen, when a young and less qualified substitute takes his place. This should be entirely prevented.

"Enough is certainly not done in the parish schools for the proper training of females for domestic duties."

ELGIN.

65. [Mr. Lawson of Braelossie, Elgin, Lord Fife's factor, kindly supplied me with the following paper. —F.H.N.]

SCHEDULE of FARMS, CROFTS, &c. on The Right Hon. The Earl of Fife's estates, Morayshire.

Parishes.	Crofts, &c. rented under 2*l.*	Crofts, &c. rented at 2*l.* and under 5*l.*	Crofts, &c. rented at 5*l.* and under 10*l.*	Farms rented at 10*l.* and under 20*l.*	Farms rented at 20*l.* and under 30*l.*	Farms rented at 30*l.* and under 40*l.*	Farms rented at 40*l.* and under 50*l.*	Farms rented at 50*l.* and upwards.
Alves -	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	12
Dallas -	10	6	6	7	2	2	—	6
Elgin -	47	29	25	15	12	11	3	32
Newspynie -	4	3	3	4	—	3	—	11
St. Andrew's, Lhanbryde.	30	38	16	8	6	3	3	23
Urquhart -	52	21	18	6	7	7	1	32
	144	97	71	40	27	26	7	116

"On the larger farms I should say, though I cannot say to a certainty, that there are cottages for ploughmen, on perhaps the one half, for half the number of ploughmen on the farm. These cottages have been partly built by the tenants and have been partly previously occupied by small crofters who have left, and their crofts been absorbed in the farm. On the smaller farms, where one single ploughman or so is sufficient, he lives with the tenant, who generally assists in the labour of the farm, and a cottage is not required. There are also several villages on the Fife estates, the houses being mostly occupied by agricultural labourers and a few tradesmen.

"The tenant of a large farm on which there is no bothy generally arranges with the married ploughmen, who have cottages on the farm, to prepare the meals of the unmarried ploughman, who lives with him in the house, but sleeps, for the safety of the animals, in the steading ; and for preparing these meals the farmer allows 1*s.* 6*d.* per week per man.

"Bothies were common at one time but there are now scarcely any.

"ALEX. LAWSON,
"Factor, Morayshire district."

Letter from Mr. Forsyth, solicitor and bank agent, Elgin.

66. "Fredk. H. Norman, Esq.,
"Assistant-Commissioner, Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture,
"2, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

"DEAR SIR, "Elgin, 27th May 1870.

"It affords me pleasure to have the opportunity of offering you my opinion on the points relating to the condition of agricultural labourers which you did me the honour to refer to me.

"1. I am of opinion that there are circumstances connected with the employment of women and children in agriculture, as practised here, which render it morally injurious to them. These circumstances, in regard to women, consist to a great extent in their unrestrained communication both by day and by night, during work hours and spare hours, with persons of the other sex without any effective moral supervision, and with their attention and observations more directed to the habits of cattle than those of pure or elevated civilization. The effect of such association is no new thing, and I presume the opinions of Touchstone in

Moray.

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the play of 'As You Like It' (act iii. sc. 1), are by no means inapplicable to the present day. Of course children in the same associations with people older than themselves are also contaminated, and I see no means of remedy except from such general improvements as are suggested in my fourth answer.

"These are matters with which positive law can never interfere. Bad as our illegitimate returns are, they fail to give any adequate notion of the great amount of immorality that prevails throughout this class, indeed it is almost impossible for things to be worse.

"2. I think that children may generally obtain a satisfactory elementary education. As a rule there is not, generally speaking, in this district any want of desire or ability on the part of the parents to obtain such education for them.

"3. I am of opinion that there is a great want of proper or decent cottage accommodation. The remedy for this lies at the very foundation of our land legislation. The monopoly of land is at present aggravated in favour of landlords to the prejudice of the general public, and to their own prejudice also, if they only saw it, by the laws of entail and primogeniture, and the preference which under the law of hypothec, the landlords at present hold for recovery of rent over the debts of other creditors of the tenants. These laws, and especially the last, render the landlords independent of the character, or responsibility or respectability of their individual tenants, and disassociate them, as far as the law can do, from any necessary personal interest in the tenantry or in the persons employed under them, or in their individual concerns, or in their behaviour in any way, in so far as the landlords' privileges, which are all secured independently of such considerations, are not affected.

"So long as these laws remain on their present footing, it is not in the power of tenants to make any effective improvements, and I believe that no temporizing expedients or anything short of a radical change of the existing agrarian laws will cure this or other evils incident to the present condition of land legislature.

"I attribute to it not only the want of decent cottage accommodation, but the want and retardation of many other substantial improvements; the want of investment of more capital in agriculture, the want of employment of labour in such work, and the large, and, it is to be feared, increasing pauperism of the labouring classes.

"4. From the nature of my profession it is a matter of common occurrence with me to meet with cases of immorality so gross as would not be readily believed by the public, or any who have no opportunity of seeing beneath the surface. This is so inveterate that I despair of seeing a cure until the whole system of land laws is changed. I do not believe in any other remedy. I have had occasion to know that the natural consequences of the congress of the sexes is prevented by means which might be supposed to be only resorted to in the most advanced conditions of profligacy, and that so blunted is the sense of delicacy by undue promiscuous social intercourse, that sexual commerce is looked upon with the greatest indifference, and is not regarded either as socially or morally sinful. To such an extent does this vicious system prevail, that it may be confidently affirmed, however startling the assertion, that only a very small per-centage of females among those employed in agricultural labour remain personally chaste.

"Our clergymen have generally all but abandoned ecclesiastical discipline in cases of sexual immorality, and even if such discipline were attempted to be revived, it would now be so little regarded as to be quite ineffectual. If a minister of one denomination refuse to give church privileges, the offenders just go to another *shop*. Our churches all struggle and compete for business.

"5. I seldom or never knew an instance of a day-labourer saving money, but half-yearly man servants often do so. A man of 25 may often have saved about 40*l.* or 50*l.*, and after that he can add about 8*l.* a year easily to his savings. This, however, can only be done while he is unmarried. A thoroughly frugal farm servant could, if he remained single, make himself independent by the time he reached 45; and I am of opinion that if a commercial spirit were introduced into agricultural matters by the application of commercial law to land, there would be an enormous change for the better in all agrarian matters, and none would benefit more than the landlords themselves, who in the meantime, from a narrow and contracted idea of losing prestige and political influence, have little sympathy with such proposed changes.

"I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

"DAVID FORSYTH,

"Solicitor and bank agent."

FORRES.

67. *W. Sclanders, Esq.*, writes:—I have lived here for 40 years, and have the management of the Dunphail, Relugas, Brodie, and other estates. There are a great many crofters and small farmers. Some of the crofters have leases, but not all; many of them have improving leases. On one estate there are a number of cotters who have built themselves "stake and rice" houses [*i.e.* houses framed with wood and filled up with stones and clay]; they pay 4*d.* a year for the ground on which the house stands and a garden. They have no leases. As a general rule the crofters are a very industrious hardworking set of men; a large proportion of those who have not large crofts employ themselves at roadmaking and in other ways. I know one instance of a man who occupies 30 acres, for which he pays a rent of 30*l.*, having brought up a family of seven children, and at the same time saved money; I know of his having lent 100*l.* some years ago. His eldest son has a place on the railway; the second son manages his father's farm. The father has now been dead four years. The small farms are some expense to the proprietors on account of the buildings; the occupiers are bound to keep up the buildings, but they don't do it effectually, and a considerable expense falls on the landlord. I do not think that the women who work out are more immoral than other women. I attribute the immorality in this county to two causes: (1), the want of cottages on the farms, which discourages the marriage of farm servants; and (2), the feeing markets, which lead to restless habits on the part of servants and enable them to escape from the effects of any immorality of which they may have been guilty. There is a great want of cottages on the farms; and the consequence is that many families of farm servants are living in the towns; but most of the servants are very anxious to have cottages, and generally build them on their farms. The farm servants don't drink much, but smoking is the most expensive habit they indulge in. I think that feeing markets are very prejudicial to the morals and habits of the people. They are only a modern introduction in this part of the county, and have tended to destroy the old reciprocal feeling of sympathy between farmer and servant. The farmers have made great efforts to do away with them, but the servants have clung to them. I think the bothy system is very objectionable because it leads to vice and immorality, and destroys the family relations which formerly existed when the servants lived in the house, but the men are now so difficult to please that their employers will not keep them in their houses.

No provision is made in the parochial schools for industrial work; the heritors are not bound to provide any person to teach needle work or industrial work generally, but almost all the heritors do voluntarily provide instruction of this kind.

I think no change is necessary to improve the education here; in fact many of them have more under the present state of things than is necessary for their rank in life. Industrial training is the great want.

[Mr. Sclanders, of Forres, kindly supplied me with the following table.—F. H. N.]

Moray.

Mr. Norman.

8. Deposits made by agricultural labourers, male female, in the Savings' Bank, Forres:—

		£	s.	d.	
8	deposits average	64	0	0	each.
6	,,	33	0	0	,,
5	,,	40	0	0	,,
10	,,	22	0	0	,,
12	,,	16	0	0	,,
10	,,	14	0	0	,,
5	,,	9	0	0	,,
15	,,	8	0	0	,,
20	,,	4	0	0	,,
1	,,	150	0	0	,,
1	,,	131	0	0	,,

SPYNIE.

9. *T. Yool, Esq.*, Coulart Bank, Lossie Mouth.—I ave two farms, and farm on the whole 700 acres arable, and 300 of pasture. There is a strip of ture near the sea. I grow 90 acres of potatoes. e soil on my farms varies, and I employ different ds of cropping. There is a large population at ssie Mouth, and I can get an ample supply of labour m there. There is only one other farmer in this ghbourhood who grows potatoes. I employ a od many women from Lossie Mouth, and send a cart fetch them to and from their work. I pay them d. to 1*s.* a day. I generally engage them by the ek during harvest at 12*s.* or 13*s.* a week, with beer. is understood that they must remain the whole harvest. I employ as many as I can together, the pense of supervision is thus decreased. I never gage them in gangs. I have cottages and gardens all my farm servants except two boys, and engage rried men by the year. I make no stipulation th them that their wives should come out to work, t they are always very glad to get work. A great ny of the women who work out are women who have had one or two bastards, which prevent them going to domestic work. Almost no farmer about here has cottages for their servants except myself. Some have cottages for their grieves. One of my farms, which contains 370 acres, had no cottages upon it when I took it. I converted the former tenant's house into cottages. There can be no doubt that all farms should have cottages upon them. One reason that there are not more of them is, that I think they are built too expensively. The tenants frequently bear the whole expense of 6*l.* odd per cent. when the expense is charged upon the estate, and if the cottages are expensive the sum incurred in paying off principal and interest is often greater than a tenant is well able to bear. If you have cottages you undoubtedly get a more respectable class of men than if you have not, and they do not shift as much as the unmarried; besides which if their families are half grown up they are very useful to come out to work. I never hire married men at a market; they always come and apply for the place whenever I have a vacancy, on account of the cottages. They are hired about three months before the expiration of their previous service.

I don't object much to feeing markets; they are much less objectionable than they were, owing to the trains taking the people away.

I don't think the crofters answer. I only know one in the neighbourhood who is doing well; he is a bachelor, and a very careful man. If the small farms were to be consolidated, quite as many men would be employed in the cultivation of them as at present. I think the means of education here is sufficient. I think that the cost of books is sometimes heavy. Sometimes when a new teacher comes the books are changed. I have often heard this given as an excuse for not sending the children to school. I never met any low-country people who could not sign their names.

NAIRN.

Nairn.

CAWDOR.

70. *Wm. Alex. Stables, Esq.*, factor for the Earl Cawdor, at Cawdor Castle, Nairn.—I have lived ere for more than 50 years, and am well acquainted ith the whole county. The farms along the sea ast are larger than in the higher parts of the unty, where they generally are small. The 5-urse rotation is generally adopted. There are no rge villages in the county. Formerly Lord Cawdor t all his cottages with his farms, but that plan was iven up because it was found that the farmers metimes were rather severe in their treatment of heir cottars, exacting services at various seasons ften but poorly paid for. In many cases too the ents paid by the cottars were thought too high for he accommodation afforded. Sometimes a man hose family had grown up and left their home, ould be turned out to make way for another who ad a family on whom he could rely for assistance at arm work. When any of these cottars holding under enant farmers became sick or reduced to poverty by ge or infirmity, they, and the poor generally were, as rule, kindly treated by not only the tenant on whose arm they lived, but also by their other neighbours who were in better circumstances; and in sickness or listress there was much active sympathy and interest shown in their behalf. This was the case until the introduction of the present poor law. After the farmers began to pay poor-rates they gradually discontinued to take the same interest in their poorer neighbours, referring them to the inspector of the poor for relief and assistance. There are about 200 cottages on this estate in Nairnshire, and only about 15 of them are let with the farms, at nominal rents and on condition that they are occupied by married farm servants in the tenant's employment. The rent for an ordinary but-and-ben house, with a closet, is about 30*s.* to 40*s.* a year. I do not necessarily let the cottages that do not go as above with the farm to men who are employed on the neighbouring farms, though if a cottage becomes vacant I prefer giving it to a man who either by himself or his family can supply labour on the neighbouring farms; but the cotters have all full liberty to go with their labour to the best market they can get. Most of the old cottages were built by the cotters themselves, or jointly with the farmers. Many of these are built principally of turf, and are in very bad repair. As the occupiers die off these bad ones are repaired or rebuilt, but the occupiers cling to them as long as they can. I don't think that any of the farm servants live in bothies themselves and take cottages in the towns for their families.

The average rent for the best land in the county is about 27*s.* 6*d.* an acre, and the rent of the land near the moors about 20*s.*, but in the latter case the farms, generally small, have more or less of an outrun of rough pasture or moorland attached to them. Out of 199 farms which I manage 86 pay less than 20*l.* each. I approve highly of small farms or crofters, in the upland districts especially. A great extent of land has been brought into cultivation within my recollection by means of these crofters, and I have always found them a most industrious and careful class of men, many of them prosperous. Their land is rented quite as highly as the land of the larger farms in the same locality, but the buildings eventually cost the landlord more than the buildings on large farms.

(See separate memorandum of Replies to printed Queries. Query No. 18.)

Nairn.

Mr. Norman.

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Nairn.

71. *Robert Anderson, Esq.*, Lochdhu, — I farm between 400 and 500 acres of my own land. I formerly farmed about 1,200 acres, but have given up one farm. I farm on the 5-course shift. I employ women and boys and girls (not under the age of 12) for weeding and hoeing turnips. I have not required herds since the wire fencing has been introduced. I pay all alike, 1*d.* an hour for turnip hoeing; in winter they only work 6 or 7 hours. They used to have 6*d.* a day all the year round before I came here. They have nothing extra allowed them. Women during harvest get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and bread and beer if they work after hours. I engage no women, except house servants, by the half-year, but some of the farmers in the neighbourhood who cannot, do hire women by the half-year, and pay them about 3*l.* in winter and 4*l.* or 4*l.* 10*s.* in summer. I sometimes have as many as 40 women and boys and girls working together; they do get into loose ways when they are out together like that; you often hear bad talk among them. The grieve is always with them. I only employ two labourers, they are for doing orra work, such as trenching, &c. I pay them 2*s.* a day for 10 hours' work, with proportionate deduction for loss. In harvest they have 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

The unmarried ploughmen have—

In money 18*l.* to 22*l.*

6 bolls of meal (old bolls containing 158 lbs. each; the common boll contains 10 stone of 14 lbs. each=140 lbs.)

They also have fire and lodging.

I don't give them milk, but sell skim milk to them at 2*d.* a Scotch pint.

The married men have the same in money as the single men. I make no deduction from their wages for their house.

I think that the supply of schools is generally sufficient, but I could point to a few districts in the hills where there are no schools. I have a sheep farm at Grantown, and know that district. I recollect the feeing markets being established at Nairn and Forres, the former about 16 years ago, and the latter about 30. Before that we used to hire from Elgin and Inverness. I don't just like the feeing markets, but the people have got into the habit of using them, and I don't quite know how they would do without them. We have discussed them at our farmers' club, and we all disapprove of them. The smaller farmers here meat their men, but the larger ones have either bothies or cottages.

72. *Mr. Stewart*, inspector of poor, Nairn.—I [illegible] inspector of poor of four parishes in this neighbourhood for about 20 years. I think that as a general rule the people are pretty well off, except those who have large families. As a general rule all learn to read and write, but many of them nothing more. What they do learn they learn imperfectly; and where the education is defective it is certainly due to the indifference of the parents, as there are sufficient means of education.

There are a great many crofters in this neighbourhood; they are a very valuable class of men. They bring up their families respectably, and educate them well; in fact they give them a higher education relatively than other classes.

I don't see how the feeing markets could be done away with. A little jollification and drinking goes on, but not nearly as much as was formerly the case. It is true that the feeing market here has only been established for about 16 years, but before its establishment servants were engaged at the ordinary cattle markets.

I don't think the unmarried farm servants are well lodged about here, their sleeping places not sufficiently commodious, and not well ventilated. They are sufficiently well fed, in fact they are over particular and very ill to please about their food, but they have been accustomed to sleep in the sort of place they do sleep in, and don't object to it.

The great disadvantage of separating the father of a family from his wife and children is that the income does not go as far as when they are all living together. The father requires nearly half of it to support him. The farmers do not care to have many cottages; they like to have one for their grieve, but they will sometimes knock down the others, because they don't like to have children about the farm, who they think, will destroy and pilfer; and the landlord are against building cottages, because they are afraid of increasing the rates. There are scarcely any cottages attached to farms in this neighbourhood.

There is no doubt that the women who do work are not of the most respectable class; there is a great deal of swearing and profanity heard in the fields, and the women who take to field work must become demoralised by it; their homes and children are not as well cared for as those of other women. Women who have families are often forced by want to go out; I think they are more immoral than women of other classes, and they are the class who give inspectors most trouble.

B.—EVIDENCE RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Aberdeenshire.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Aboyne.

1. *Mr. A. Gray*, master of the parochial school. —I have been here more than 13 years. The children come at the age of from 4 to 6. Some of them, about half, have learnt their letters before they come to school, and the remainder have learnt nothing; all attend regularly up to the age of about 10, and after that age the labourers' children only attend during the four or five winter months, and leave finally at about 13 to 15. The farmers' children attend constantly up to 14 or 15. The fees vary from 2*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* a quarter; for the ordinary branches the fees are from 2*s.* to 4*s.* Books don't cost them much; I think about 2*s.* 6*d.* a year until they begin to learn the higher branches. There is no difficulty about the payment of fees in this county on account of the Milne Bequest, the recipients of which are selected by the Kirk Session from among the largest and poorest families. Both boys and girls go to herd in summer, the girls either mind their parents' houses while their mothers are out, or go to service themselves. Some few children are occasionally employed in planting in the woods in winter, but not many; in fact there is no occupation for children except the herding, which thins the school. They do not readily stay away for bad weather, and are anxious if possible to attend. I know of no family who do not attend school at all; one or two parents are indifferent about education, and the more ignorant the parent the more indifferent he is; but as a general rule the parents are all anxious for their children to get on. By the time they leave school they can work sums in money and read and write fairly. The attendance during the winter months is sufficient to enable them to make considerable progress if they have had a good training when young, otherwise it is of but little use. I think it is an advantage for them to buy their own books so that they may have them to read at home. All the children here are accustomed to use a dictionary, for the purpose of teaching them the meaning

ords. I make them learn passages by heart and that a very good practice. I think that there is ing to prevent all children in this neighbourhood iring a satisfactory elementary education by the they grow up if they have attended regularly, here are a few cases of negligence, and I think it d be desirable to compel them to attend up to ge of 10 in order to meet these cases.

BIRSE.

The Rev. C. Dunn, minister of the established ch, Birse.—There are about eight Roman catholics chool here. I was a school teacher myself for years at Alford on the Don, where there were e 100 scholars in attendance. Both here and at rd the children of all demoninations join in the ers in school, and read the Bible, which is ex- ied by the master. At Alford the best Bible scholar e class was a Roman catholic. I did not generally h the catechism to the Roman catholics as to the lren belonging to the episcopalian church; but boy asked to be taught it, and I did teach it to until asked by the priest to desist. I have a class dults (both men and women) on Sunday mornings, 30 to 40 attend; and also a class for boys and in the afternoon. There is no difficulty about religious education. I know of no families here neglect to attend school; I think that all the ts in the parish can read, but some cannot write ll. I don't think that any measure of compulsion ecessary. I think that the high rate of illegitimacy ch prevails in this county is due to there being no e towns where prostitution can be concealed. In e parishes too (although not in this) the cottage mmodation is very insufficient, and where that is case the inmates become accustomed to indecent ts, and lose their self-respect. There are also not ugh cottages for the married farm servants.

Mr. Esson, schoolmaster of the parochial ol, Birse.—Here are about 55 on an average on books of this school, chiefly boys. They come at age of 5 or 6, and attend regularly up to the age or 10. At that age most of the labourers and ll farmers' sons go away for herding in summer, l leave altogether at about the age of 12. They metimes come back for a quarter if they want to rn anything for a particular purpose; one boy has urned to school lately, after having been absent for e or six years, and wants to learn book-keeping in der to go into an office; farm servants often come k for a quarter or half year in that way. The te of education of a good many of them who come k is very defective; some keep up their learning ll. They generally come without any immediate spect of profiting by the schooling, simply for the e of learning. I know of no families in the parish o neglect school altogether. The fees are 2*s.* to . 6*d.* a quarter, and 5*s.* for Greek and Latin. There two lads at Aberdeen college now who were taught re, one of whom, a son of a crofter, got a bursary rth 15*l.* a year. The parents take great interest in e home lessons, but do more harm than good if they tempt to assist their children. There are two boys the school now, both of them farmers' sons, who e learning Latin. There are some old people in the rish who cannot write, otherwise all can read and rite. The agricultural work in which the boys are gaged is not sufficiently constant to prevent their arning the three rules. There is a lending library re. The subscription is 6*d.* a year for servants, d 1*s.* for others. The most popular books are hambers's, Dickens's, and the "Cornhill."

4. *The Rev. George Law*, schoolmaster of the de school, Bankhead, Birse.—I have been master ere for two years. There is a mortification attached the school, and under the terms of the deed regu- ating it the teaching is obliged to be free for English, eading, Greek, and Latin; none learn Greek or Latin ow. There are about 90 on the list during winter; t present [April] there are about 50 and they will dwindle to 40. During winter all within reach of the school attend. Both boys and girls go away in summer from the age of 8 upwards, they get a place for six months, they begin to leave as early as March; all the children go away except those of the larger farmers. They continue to attend during the winter months up to the age of from 12 to 14. The attendance during the winter months is not sufficient to enable them to regain what they lose during summer. I know of no families in this neighbourhood who do not attend school at all; but the people have been much neglected and do not appreciate the advantages of education. I tried to get up a Latin class, but could not get the parents to allow their children to be taught. I do not think that the irregularity of attendance is sufficient to prevent the boys learning to read, write, and cipher fairly by the time they grow up. I set home lessons in some cases, they are well learnt, but I don't think that the parents assist their children in learning them; in fact one considerable farmer complained that I gave his children too much to do at night. I had a night school for adults last year; about 20 used to attend. I found that they could not read with ease and had forgotten all their arithmetic, and some had almost forgotten how to write. I think it would be desirable to prohibit the employment of children under the age of 11.

5. *Ellen Ferrier.*—I have been for five years mistress of Miss Dyce Nicol's school at Ballogie, Birse. It is attended by boys and girls, and is under the inspection of the Government. They come to school at about the age of 5 years; the girls remain at school up to about the age of 16, and boys up to about 11; many boys go from here to the parochial school. The girls are not engaged in any agricultural work which takes them away from school; nor are the boys, except three or four of the age of 10 and upwards, who go away from school for the summer six months, either for herding or to work for their parents. I set home lessons, sums, parsing, and composition. I don't think that the parents assist their children in doing these lessons, but they are well prepared. The school fees vary from 2*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, besides 6*d.* a quarter extra in winter for fire. The purchase of books costs about 5*s.* a year. The parents appear to have no difficulty in paying these fees. There are no families in this neighbourhood who don't send their children to school; and all attend regularly except those boys who go to work during the summer. When the boys leave at the age of 9 or 10 they have generally passed the 3rd and are working in the 4th standard.

COLDSTONE.

6. *The Rev. J. G. Michie.*—I am well acquainted with the state of education in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, having been engaged in teaching in each of these counties, and being a member of the Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray Schoolmasters' Association.

The whole of these three counties are well supplied with schools; in fact in several places there are too many. If there were fewer there would be a better staff of teachers to each, more pupils, and consequently better organization, more emulation, and more efficient instruction. As it is, one teacher has simultaneously to preserve the discipline of the school and superintend the work of four or five classes besides that of the one which is more directly under his instruction. This is a great defect in the organization of parish schools generally, which in most instances might be easily remedied by the addition of a *female department*. A certificated female teacher attached to the parish school would secure for the girls a thoroughly good education in sewing, cutting out, and dressmaking at a much cheaper rate than they could obtain it at a separate school. Such an arrangement would greatly conduce to the more efficient instruction of the whole school. The girls would be under the instruction of the mistress at certain hours, and under that of the master at others There would be

Aberdeenshire.

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less distraction of the teacher's attention, and more justice could be done to all the classes than is now possible under a single teacher with six or seven different classes under his charge at one and the same time. It accords with my experience that when a girl can attend school only for five months a year, and she attempts to divide this time between the parish school and some sewing school not in connection with it, the little she has learned is quite forgot before her return 10 months after. In some cases the provisions of the Act 24 & 25 Vict. cap. 107, sect. 5 have been acted on, and so far as I have heard, with the best results in every instance. By the Revised Code all participating schools must afford instruction to the girls in sewing; but where the managers do not appoint a female teacher the master is obliged to engage and pay out of his own salary some person for the sewing merely. This does not in the least benefit the other classes, nor is it by any means a satisfactory arrangement even for the girls.

I therefore think that legislation is required to make the addition of a female department in every parish school compulsory on the managers.

The school fees do not I think either prevent or shorten the attendance of children at school. The scale charged here is 2*d*., 2½*d*., and 3½*d*. per week, according to the branches taught. Higher subjects, such as Latin, Greek, French, or Mathematics are charged from 1*d*. to 2½*d*. extra. A labourer's child continuing at school for five months annually would thus cost him about 4*s*. 6*d*., or including school books 2*s*., and fuel 1*s*., 7*s*. 6*d*. as the whole expense. But this would give an exaggerated view of the real expense in Aberdeenshire; for the Milne Bequest covers the fees of (by the terms of the bequest, 25 for a year) actually about 35 pupils of this class. In a school with an average attendance of 80 only 55 are liable in fees at all. If from this number we deduct pauper children, average 7, paid for by the parochial board, and 6 from whom fees are not recoverable through indisposition to pay them, the pupils who pay fees at all are reduced to 42, or about the half of average attendance. These mostly belong to the class of larger farmers. The receipts for school fees here average about 20*l*. annually, 5*l*. of which is the proportion paid for the children of the labouring population, though they number about two-thirds of the whole scholars.

The children in this parish do not generally come to school till they are nearly seven years of age. Their parents, or elder brothers or sisters, where they have any, teach them their letters and monosyllables before they are sent to school. I think this rather an advantage to the child than otherwise. It is at this stage that parents can most help their children, and the practice of doing so gives them an interest in their education, and cultivates a good habit in themselves, and to some extent obviates the necessity for infant schools.

The children of small farmers (say of 20 acres or under), and of labourers generally, enter school at the beginning of the summer months, give continuous attendance for the next *two* years, and then attend only during the winter months for *two or three* years afterwards. The girls generally attend for two and a half years continuously, but seldom for more than two winter seasons thereafter. The children of the larger farmers attend continuously for from three to five years, and take from one to three winter seasons in addition. It will be understood that these remarks are general; examples are not wanting of labourers giving their families an education which the farmers might emulate with advantage.

The early withdrawal from school of the children of the agricultural labouring classes is the greatest obstacle that lies in the way of their receiving a sufficient education. As an example of the extent to which it is carried, I subjoin the average summer and winter attendances at this school for the last four years:—

1865.	Winter, 121.	Summer, 69.		
1866.	„ 108.	„ 72.		
1867.	„ 123.	„ 62.	Exceptional	
1868.	„ 84.	„ 72.	from an out	
			break o	
Average	109.	68.	scarlet feve	

The difference, 41, does not represent the re excess of winter over summer attendance, for from 12 to 15 young pupils enter school for the first time about the beginning of May, so that the actual excess is from 53 to 56. Thus about half the pupils attending during the winter are withdrawn during the summer. I think the same proportion between summer and winter attendances holds over all the rural districts, such as those that border on the Highlands where the farms are small. When, however, a parish contains a village the evil will be less apparent because the village children attend throughout the year; but in the rural portions the same attendances are given as here, which is a purely agricultural parish and contains no village.

In regard to the withdrawal of children from school during the summer months, I wish particularly to state *when* I think it is an evil, *i.e.*, when it takes place before the child has made any satisfactory progress in its learning. In the case of a child that is withdrawn from continuous attendance before it would be able to pass the 3rd standard, its prospect of deriving much benefit from after winter attendances is small; and I have ascertained that about two-fifths of the children belonging to the class of labourers and small farmers are so withdrawn. These would constitute about one-fourth of the whole school-going children. In the case of those who might pass in the 3rd standard, but scarcely in the 4th, before ceasing continuous attendance, the progress made during the winter is often not inconsiderable. These form the majority of the whole school-going children (about two-thirds), and comprise a large portion of the children of the average farmers, say of from 60 to 70 acres. When the winter attendance extends over five months, as in their case it generally does, most of the children would pass in the 5th standard, and some even in the 6th or more before they are finally withdrawn from school. This winter attendance is a very pleasing feature in many families. For the summer half year the young members have been out at service, and seen very little of each other. At the end of the term they assemble under the parental roof, and devote themselves during the long evenings of the next four months to the school work. I think this custom ought to be encouraged more and more. The moral effect is very good, and I have frequently got the most satisfactory educational results from it.

On the whole it is my opinion that *two-fifths* of the children of agricultural labourers in these counties are under-educated, and that the cause is their being too soon withdrawn from continuous attendance. Their withdrawal is *not* owing to the indifference of their parents as to the education they may receive, but mainly to their poverty, to their inability to keep them at home, and partly to the temptation of receiving food and wages for their services as herds at a very early age.

As to the remedy, I am of opinion that legislation is required to secure a more lengthened continuous attendance at school for the children of agricultural labourers, but of so mild a nature as not unduly to interfere with the method which the circumstances of parents really anxious to give their children a fair education have led them to adopt, namely, these winter attendances. I think a measure to compel the continuous attendance of children up to a certain age (say 10), or till they had passed a certain standard (say the 3rd); or to prevent their being employed as herds or otherwise before such attendance had been given, or such proficiency attained, would be productive of beneficial results. The risk, I apprehend, is considerable that parents would be led to think that having sent their children to school for the re-

ed time, no further responsibility as to their cation rested on them; and the consequence ht be that the after winter attendances would be er and shorter, which would be a greater evil than one sought to be remedied, because what is then uired is not so apt to be forgotten as what was ned at an earlier age.

A safer plan, in my opinion, would be to enact that ochial boards, or local school committees should uire from the masters of all schools attended by dren within the parish an annual report setting h the date of admission, and of the discontinuance attendance of all the children enrolled, with power these boards or committees to inquire into the se in every case where the education of a child or mily might seem to them to have been neglected. effect of such a measure would be to attach a ma to those parents who wilfully neglected the cation of their children, and to stimulate others give them the best education their circumstances ld permit of. A penalty, such as that for neglect the requirements of the Vaccination Act, might imposed for neglect after warning given by the ochial Board.

I am registrar of this parish and have been so for last 13 years. I have taken the following sta- ics from the registers under my charge and can ch for their accuracy.

During the last 13 years that the Registration Act been in operation, the birth registers of this ish show 352 entries and 380 signatures of in- mants. Of these entries, 203 are those of legiti- te, and 59 those of illegitimate children. The ormant in the case of a legitimate child is the her; of an illegitimate child the mother, frequently th father and mother. *Eleven per cent.* of the ths registered have been those of illegitimate ildren. The informants in 15 of the 293 legitimate ths sign by mark or require their signature to be ested, *i.e.*, *5 per cent.* of the male heads of families thin the parish cannot write. Of the mothers of e 59 illegitimate children 22 sign by mark, *i.e.* 37·3 *r cent.* of the mothers of illegitimate children nnot write their own names. Of the 28 fathers of egitimate children who appeared along with the thers as informants, three sign by marks, *i.e.* 10·8 *r cent.* of the fathers of illegitimate children cannot gn their own names.

I am also inspector of poor, and know that about e-half of the mothers of illegitimate children come a burden on the poor rates of the parish. In e course of the current year 8 per cent. of the sum pended on the poor has been directly in conse- ence of illegitimacy, and that species of immorality s been indirectly the cause of a much heavier out- y.

I therefore think that illegitimacy is a very heavy rden on the poor's funds throughout the county of berdeen; that it is connected in a very marked gree with ignorance, *i.e.*, want of education; that e education of illegitimate children is generally eglected, and that the evil thus propagates itself, and escends from parents to children. I am consequently f opinion that legislation is required to make it wful for, and binding on, parochial boards to take ch neglected children under their charge for the rpose of educating them, and to compel the parents o contribute to their support to the utmost of their eans. I believe that by so doing parochial boards ould ultimately be gainers in a pecuniary point of ew, besides that thus some means would be taken to rrest a very serious social evil.

JOHN G. MICHIE,
Parochial Schoolmaster,
Coldstone, Aberdeenshire.

CRATHIE.

7. *Miss Bower*, teacher at the Queen's Girls' School.—The girls come to this school at about the age of 6. I don't often have to teach them their letters; they have learnt them before they come. The numbers in attendance vary much. Last year the largest average attendance was 39, and the smallest 19. The causes of withdrawal are herding, sickness, and bad weather, assisting their parents and washing. One girl aged 8 went to herd last year; she was one of a very large family who have lately come to live here from Glen Muick. The school begins to become thin in April, but only one or two have left as yet [April 20th]. They don't come at all during summer after they have left. The fees are 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. I was formerly mistress at another school two miles up the river, where the attendance was worse than it is here. The girls begin to come to school regularly in November, and attend during winter up to the age of 16 as a general rule. They do not stay away from school for bad weather, unless it is very bad.

ELLON.

8. *Mr. Davidson*, master of the parochial school, Ellon.—I have been here 25 years. The children begin to attend school at the age of 6 or 7. If there was an infant school, where children might be methodically instructed, it might be worth while to send them younger; but it is not worth while to send them younger than 7 to a parochial school, where there are no means of giving special instruction to infants. The principal work in the fields which takes them from school is herding cattle, planting potatoes, hoeing turnips; but the negligence and indifference of the parents are a far greater obstacle to education than the field work. The married men here have not enough wages and cannot properly provide their families with food and clothing; and I always find that where there are five or six children in a family the children deteriorate both mentally and physically, and the mothers become careless of them. About three-fourths of the children at this school are the children of farm servants or agricultural labourers. There are not many crofters. We are put to a good deal of inconvenience in consequence of the shifting of the farm servants. We have a new set of children every Whitsuntide (the married men change more then than at Martinmas), and it is often four or five weeks before the new comers think of sending their children, and they often take them away for a week or two before their term of service is up. We have between 150 and 160 in attendance during winter, and between 130 and 140 during summer. The agricultural children leave at various ages. Very few remain as late as 13; but some of the farm lads and men come for the winter months, perhaps half a dozen of them from 18 to 20. They have generally forgot their reading in a great measure; they refuse to learn to read, but learn to write and cipher. The amount of education acquired by the children by the time they leave varies greatly; but I have been told by the minister that when the young lads and girls come to him to be prepared for the first communion, at the age of 15 to 18, many of them are deplorably ignorant.

INVERURIE.

9. *Mr. Alexander Fowlie*, master of the parochial school.—There are about 200 children enrolled here, and 150 in average attendance. From 50 to 60 are agricultural children. They attend regularly in winter up to the end of April, when the boys of the age of 9 and upwards go away for about four months. They leave altogether at the age of 14 or 15. The girls don't go out to work in summer, but leave permanently at the age of 11 or 12. On the whole all attend long enough to learn to read, write, and cipher. I am the registrar of births, &c., here, and find that about 98 per cent. can sign their names. The attendance at school is regular, except during summer. The fees are from 3*s.* to 5*s.* per quarter. Every winter about eight or ten young men of the age of 18 or 20 come back to school in order to study for some superior occupation. Occasionally, but rarely, those whose education has been neglected come.

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KINCARDINE O'NEIL.

10. *The Rev. Alex. Miller*, master of the parochial school, Torphins.—I know of about 20 children within a mile of this school who never attend any school. They live upon the estate of a non-resident proprietor. That is owing to the negligence of the parents and want of clothes. Children come to this school about 7. Some of them have learnt the alphabet before they come to school, but nothing more. A great many go out to work in the summer. They begin to fall off in March. In 1869 there were about 135 in attendance in January, and during the summer from 90 to 100. The school is not full again until about December. The boys go away more than the girls; they begin to go to herd at from 10 to 12 years of age. They continue to attend during the winter months up to the age of 14. The farmers' and tradesmen's children attend all the year round, but not one of the labourers' children attends during summer. They do nothing while they are absent during summer, but their attendance during winter enables them to regain and slightly add to what they have lost during summer. When they leave finally, at the age of 14, they can usually pass the 4th standard. There are generally half a dozen young men who come to school for three months during winter. They are usually young men who have been taught in this school as boys and been to service for two or three years. I find that they have forgotten a great deal of what they knew when at school. They can read and write, but not as well as they could when they left school, and have forgotten almost all their ciphering. They generally only learn ciphering when they come back. I think the parents take great interest in the progress their children are making, and those who are able give instruction to their children themselves; but the boys who are 12 or 14 years old generally know more than their parents. There are 14 learning Latin, 12 geometry, 5 French, and 2 Greek in this school at the present time.

KING EDWARD.

11. *The Rev. John Milne*, teacher of the parochial school.—I have been teacher here since 1852. I was also an assistant teacher at Ellon, in this county. I have about 80 in ordinary attendance at this school. The number is nearly the same both in summer and winter. The farms in this neighbourhood are large, and but few herds are employed, because the fields are fenced; but in the eastern district of the parish there are a considerable number of crofters, and the attendance at school in summer falls off considerably. The children there are principally employed on their parents' own land. As a general rule in this neighbourhood the parents do not take their children away to work to such an extent as to prevent these children getting a satisfactory elementary education in reading, writing, and ciphering. The children begin to attend school at the age of 6. I think that is quite as young as they can come, considering the distances some of them have to come and the necessity of regular attendance. They have generally only learnt *a few* of their letters before they come to school. If they leave too soon, they forget pretty nearly all they have learnt; they ought to be able to read and write with facility in order not to forget it. I think that nothing less than the 4th standard would be sufficient for that. I think there are but few who could not pass that standard before they leave, although a good many do not, owing to their being absent on the day of examination, or to their not having attended the requisite number of times. About six years ago I tested the state of education among the adult population in this parish (then containing about 2,800) through the aid of all the teachers, and the result was that I found about a dozen past school age who could not read and write, and there were a few more who could read without being able to write. The inspector of schools for the Dick Bequest states, Report 1865, p. 343, that in the three north-eastern counties, Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, population 323,000, the number of persons above 12 years of age who could not write would not exceed 1,000. I consider this parish more favourably situated than many other parishes on account of the farms being larger and better fenced.

The fees vary from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* for the ordinary subjects, and 5*s.* covers everything. With the aid of the Milne Bequest there is no difficulty in getting the fees paid. The unpaid fees don't amount to 1*l.* a year. Girls leave school sooner than boys; they are useful in the house, younger than their brothers are in the field. The greatest number of girls are between the ages of 8 and 10, and of boys between the ages of 10 and 12. When I first came here the school had been neglected for a great number of years, the attendance only amounted to about 120, and I found the parents unwilling to send their children as regularly as required or to make them learn their home lessons; but after a short time, when they found that their children were getting on well they fell into my ways, and I have never since had any difficulty with them. I have often heard teachers say that parents are always willing to assist them if they find their children are making progress. I don't think that the parents assist their children in learning their home lessons, because in most cases the parents cannot do it; but I do think that the parents take care that the lessons are prepared. I often make the scholars analyse sentences for a home lesson, and I don't think their parents could do this; and all written lessons are signed by the parents to show they have been done at home. There are now in my school 45 children of crofters, farm servants, and farm labourers; of these children four families send four each, two send three each, five families send two each, five families one each. I do not think that any compulsory measure is necessary in this parish; but there are other places not so well off, and on the whole I think that some compulsion, direct or indirect, is desirable. Of the 18 agricultural families whose children attend my school,—

7 live in houses having 2 rooms each.
7 " " 3 "
3 " " 4 "
1 " " 5 "

but many of the rooms here referred to are only closets.

I am very strongly of opinion that no greater educational boon could be given to the children of the agricultural population and all whose stay at school is short than the introduction of the decimal system of weights and measures. If the present system of different subdivision for money, weight, length, surface, capacity, &c., were abolished, and the decimal system introduced, a scholar would be as far advanced in arithmetic at the 4th standard as he is now at the 6th, and in a much better position to commence the more advanced rules of arithmetic. The 6th standard might then embrace every rule in arithmetic. To give an idea of the difficulties in the way of a pupil preparing for the 5th standard, suppose it required to divide 2 acres and 1 inch by 7, and to multiply the result by 7, and get as a final result 2 acres and 1 inch as at the commencement, the feat is one few people could accomplish in a reasonable time, say a quarter of an hour, and not many could accomplish it at all. The same exercise according to the decimal system would be easily performed in less than two minutes. To check an ordinary bill for draper's goods amounting to 4*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* would, I fear, take me nearly half an hour. No doubt from long practice at calculating such sums as $3\frac{3}{4}$ yards linen diaper at 1*s.* $5\frac{1}{2}$*d.* the draper's book-keeper would do it in much less time; but the same person might take as long to calculate the value of the wire fencing on a farm at £ *s. d.* per 100 yards, the lengths being given as measured in chains and links, as an expert land measurer would take to go over the ground. Again, many a practical farmer could tell how many quarters and bushels of grain should be to the acre of a field of standing corn, who could not measure the field and calculate its contents and the bulk of grain upon it. That these operations are tedious or difficult is almost solely owing to the

liculous division and diversity of division of our esent system. Were the decimal system introduced, n confident that I could teach children of 10 or 12 ars of age to perform such measurements and calations. Holding that with the decimal (or indeed y uniform) system a pupil could be taught as much ithmetic at Standard IV. as he now is at Standard I. I look upon all the money now paid for passes arithmetic in Standards V. and VI. as wasted. The nount of it would be 2*s.* 8*d.* multiplied by the numer of passes in arithmetic in Standards V. and VI.

Old Deer.

12. *Mr. Robert Wilson*, schoolmaster of the parochial school.—Been here since 1850. The boys come to y school at the age of about 7. They have sometimes een to other schools before they come to me, but not ten; if they have not been to any other school they ay have learnt the alphabet badly at home, but not ore. It is not good for them to attend school before 5. have had eight sons and I never began to teach them efore 5. The attendance of the poorer people is lways irregular; that is, in consequence of poverty, arelessness, and vice on the part of the parents; farm ervants' children are in general neglected, because the ather is hardly able to clothe himself and provide for his amily; the children stay away for occasional days or alf days for these causes. They begin to leave to go ut to work at 10, for the summer months: a considerble number go out to work in the summer; besides oing out to the regular work a great many go out in he mossing time (*i.e.* when the peat is cut for firing); hat is, not so much to work for hire as for their arents; the children are employed in turning the eats over and spreading them. The farm servants enerally have the privilege of cutting peats. The irst thing that takes them away is potato planting, then the peat cutting, sometimes weeding for mall crofters. I have 120 on the list in winter, and 30 in summer. They leave finally at various ages, ut generally about 13 or 14. At the age of leaving those who have been most irregular would have great difficulty in passing the 4th standard. The fees are 2*s.* to 4*s.* for the ordinary subjects; they don't buy their books, because there is a fund for them. I don't think that any are prevented from attending from inability to pay the fee; provision is made for a considerable number without payment of fees. The home lessons are not very well done; one-third of the pupils neglect them; if the father is at home he superintends the learning of the home lessons, and the children of these parents make better progress than those of others. I find that the crofters send their children very regularly, and pay the fees more punctually than other classes; they seem to be better looked after at home than other children and make more progress. There are three or four villages in this parish, and the school accommodation is sufficient throughout the whole parish, and in all parts of the county that I am acquainted with, but I know some children who never attend school at all, in consequence of not being sent by their parents.

Strathdon.

13. *Mr. Symon*, teacher of the Corgarff school.—This school is under the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. There is no school higher up the Don than this. It is within six miles of the sources of the Don, there is no population above four miles up the glen from this school, and the children come from there to attend this school. Some of the parents are in the habit of sending their children down to board with me or in the neighbourhood of the school, in order that they may attend regularly; I have had as many as three at a time boarding with me, and there is one now boarding at the adjoining town [farm] in that way. There are from 15 to 30 in attendance during summer, and from 50 to 80 in winter. They begin to go out to herd at about 8 years of age, and they attend during winter up to the age of from 14 to 16. When food is cheap young men and sometimes women come back occasionally during winter to get a quarter schooling; I generally have three or four every winter who have been out to service and want to get a little more schooling. From the time they go out to herd up to the age 14 they only attend school about three or four months a year, and it takes them six weeks out of that time to regain what they have lost, owing to their absence during summer. The children of labourers and small farmers are absent to about an equal extent, the only difference is that the farmer's children work for their parents, and the labourers' children hire out. The fees here are 2*s.* to 3*s.* a quarter. I think education is advancing here; I have had an opportunity of judging, because I have been here about 50 years, and have taught the fathers and grandfathers of some of the children now in attendance. There are no families here who neglect education altogether. By the time they leave, at the age of from 14 to 16, they can all read and write easily, and can generally do sums in vulgar fractions and practice.

Strichen.

14. *Isabella Watkins*, mistress of the female school.—This is an endowed school, no fees are paid. There are about 62 in attendance in winter and 55 in summer. About 20 of the older children go away to work in the summer and young ones come instead. They begin to leave at the age of 9 for summer work; one girl, aged 9, now in the school, has already been away to work during the last three summers for 1*s.* a week and her food; her father is a hawker. Some of my pupils live three miles off, and they are the most regular in attendance. I think it is useless for children to come to school before the age of 6. I don't know any families in the village whose children don't come to school at all.

[I also visited the parochial school, where I found 151 boys of all ages on the list and a very full room, although the day was very wet. 24 were learning Latin. The master complained of the interruption caused to education by the summer's work, and thought that in many cases the three months' attendance in winter was only sufficient to prevent their retrograding. He said that of the different classes of parents whose children attended the school, the children of the large farmers were the most regular, and those of the crofter the least so. He thought that no boys left the school without being able to pass the 4th standard.]

Tarland.

15. *Mr. James Kerr*, master of the parochial school.—There are about 100 in attendance at my school at present. They come about the age of 5, but if they live at a distance they cannot come as young as that. Some of the scholars live at a distance of three miles. The children who go to work in the fields leave at about 14 or 15. They do not generally go out to work for wages before that age, except in summer, but are sometimes kept at home to work for their parents. Some families are very careless about attending; the most frivolous matters will keep the children at home. Almost all the children here are the children of crofters; the tradesmen in the village, and farm servants, have most of them crofts. I cannot say that the crofters are more irregular than other classes, but generally speaking, the poorer the people the more irregular they are. Some of the parents send their children out to work during summer from the age of 8 or 9 upwards, and continue to do so until the children leave the school altogether; the consequence is that those children can scarcely read, write, and cipher by the time they leave, but most of the scholars by the time they leave could pass the 5th standard. The big boys often come back in winter, after they have been to work for a time, when they wish to improve themselves. Last winter I had half a dozen stragglers, some of them could hardly count at all, and they don't stay long enough to learn. I occasionally have some young men who have already

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been well educated and wanted to improve themselves. There is no night school and no infant school here. The fees vary from 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* for ordinary subjects, 5*s.* for Latin, and 6*s.* for Greek. I have a class of 14 learning Latin now; I have one girl learning Latin now, she will be a pupil teacher. I am decidedly in favour of compulsion, because the parents keep their children at home for the most paltry reasons; and there is a decided evil existing which requires to be remedied by law.

Banffshire.

BANFFSHIRE.

Grange.

16. *Mr. Gerrard*, master of the parochial school.—This school is peculiarly situated; there are no houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the school, and the consequence is that the children do not generally begin to attend school before the age of 7. When they first come to school at that age some of them have learnt their letters, but nothing more. They go to herd in summer from the age of 9 or 10. In summer about 48 are in attendance, and in winter about 74. They continue to attend in winter up to the age of from 12 to 14. The worst of the summer work is that the children are taken away to do it before they can read easily, and in that case they forget much of what they have learnt; if they could read up to the 4th standard before they went to work, I don't think the summer work would prove a great obstacle to their progress. They could generally all pass at least the 4th standard before they leave, and most of them the 5th or 6th. This is purely an agricultural district, and I have children of farmers, crofters, and farm servants. The children of small farmers (pair-horsed farms) are the best attendants, and those of crofters and farm servants about equally regular; they leave at about the same age and for the same occupations. There are a few families who do not attend regularly. I have never heard of a man being refused the Communion for not sending his children to school. The great stimulus to education is the penny postage and the cheap newspapers. I think the home lessons are of considerable value in assisting in the progress of the children. I find that these lessons are far better learnt in the case of farmers' children who are sufficiently well educated themselves to enable them to assist their children, than in the case of farm servants or crofters' children whose parents cannot do so. School fees are 2*s.* to 3*s.* for the ordinary subjects, and 3*s.* 6*d.* with geography; but farm servants children don't generally pay as much as this, especially if there are several children of a family; 2*s.* or 3*s.* a year would pay for the books. They pass from one child to another. It is not common for passages of prose or verse to be learnt by heart at the schools in this neighbourhood.

Inveravon.

17. *Mr. Scott*, Croftness female school.—I have been here nearly five years. The average attendance during summer is from 25 to 30, and in winter from 50 to 55. They generally come at about the age of 5; I think that is quite young enough for them to begin to come to school. Some few begin to go to herd cattle as young as 8, but generally not until they are 10 to 12; the girls go away as much as the boys. Some of them are only at school for about three months during winter. When they begin to go to herd at about the age of 10, they could generally pass the 3rd standard. The effect of the summer work upon the education varies very much with different children; but as a general rule I think the winter attendance enables them on the whole to make steady progress. As a general rule both boys and girls attend up to the age of 14; when they leave they can generally pass standard 5 or 6. Some of the older boys go away to attend another school. The fees here vary from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a quarter; the books would not cost more than 2*s.* 6*d.* a year at most. Some big girls sometimes come back to school to learn needlework at the age of 17 or 18; they have generally been out to service; their parents support them while they are at school. I often find these big girls very backward; but I think that those who have been out to field work have generally lost more of their education than those who have been at domestic service. I am sure that most of the parents take great interest in the progress made by their children, and the children stay away for nothing except the field work, very bad weather, and sickness. I always set home lessons and find great difference in the mode in which they are prepared, which I attribute to some of the parents assisting their children in the preparation. I only know of one family whose children don't attend school at all; that is owing to the carelessness of their parents.

Mortlach.

18. *Miss Olive Homly*, teacher of the Roman Catholic school, Dufftown.—I have been here seven years. The school is attended by children of all classes, but chiefly by children whose parents are either farmers or farm servants. Some of them come four or five miles to school, but those who live at too great a distance to attend regularly, and can afford to do so, send their children to lodge in the village. Farm servants could not afford to do that. Some of the children go out to herd from the age of 8 or 9, but they attend in winter up to the age of 12 at least, and many of them up to the age of 17 or 18. They can all read, write, and cipher decently by the time they leave; their parents won't take them away unless they can do that, and the attendance is very regular while they are at school. The fees are paid quarterly, and amount to about 3*d.* a week.

19. *Miss Hay*, mistress of the female school, Dufftown.—I have about 130 to 140 in attendance during summer and 180 to 190 in attendance during winter, but many infants attend in summer who do not attend in winter, and many of the older girls attend in winter and not in summer. They begin to attend at about the age of 5 or 6, and the attendance is very regular up to 12 or 13; at that age the girls go away during summer to herd, either on their parents' land or for hire; but they can all read, write, and cipher decently before that age. The attendance is not much affected by bad weather; some of the pupils come as far as from three to four miles to school, and attend very regularly. I have a good many children of crofters and of farm servants in attendance. I cannot say which class of parents are most desirous of education for their children. There is no indifference among any class on this point. Some few girls come back after they have been in service for two or three years, but not many. I find that they recollect pretty well what they have learnt when at school.

[Two girls in this school who had been out at work during summer had been hoeing for their parents. Two others had been at domestic work at their homes.]

20. *Mrs. Moore*, teacher of the Kininvie school, Mortlach.—I have kept this school for six years. It is two-and-a-half miles from Botriphnie and three miles from Dufftown. I first opened it as a sewing school for girls, and then the parents asked me to teach them, as there was no school in the neighbourhood, and now the children come at the age of 5 or 6 and leave finally at 12 or 13, although they often go away at 9 or 10 to work during the summer; only

ie has left to go to another school. I teach sewing, e Bible, writing, addition, subtraction, and multipli- tion, but I am no arithmetic scholar. More boys tend than girls. They are thorough in the Bible fore they leave. They generally fall back when ey go to herd cattle in summer. The fees are from . 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. I set home tasks, and e parents see that they are done. The attendance very regular. There are about 12 in attendance ring the during summer, and from 20 to 30 during inter. I am not aware of a single child of an age to tend school who does not attend. It is the custom r all the people about here to read the Bible at me every night. There is a Sabbath school in the ighbourhood.

[This school was held in one end of a but-and-ben ttage, the mistress herself occupying the other end. he house had been a crofter's house and was of the dinary construction of crofters' houses, heather and b, with lime plaster outside, unceiled, and earthen ors inside. The part where the school was held was rudely furnished with four or five wooden benches. It stood on a moor, three miles from Dufftown, up a long hill and bad road, in a place where about 40 or 50 crofts had been established during the last 30 years. The mistress was entirely dependent on the school fees for her support, but she paid no rent for the house. She was a widow, and the daughter o a schoolmaster. It struck me as a good instance of the way in which the means of education will always be supplied when really demanded. I also visited another small school in Glen Fiddich, about two-and-a-half miles from Dufftown. The master told me there were generally about 12 present in summer and 30 in winter; there were 14 present the day I was there. The minister was expected to come and catechise the children, and some of their relations had come to school to witness this examination. The master received the house rent free, and 8*l.* from the Duke of Richmond, and was otherwise dependent on fees which amounted to from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a quarter. He knew of no families who neglected education. F.H.N.]

FORFARSHIRE.

Barry.

21. *Mr. James Proctor*, master of the parochial chool, Barry.—I have been master of this school for 2 years. It is a mixed school. There are 50 on the ll now [Feb.], and from 25 to 30 in average attend- nce. In summer there are from 25 to 30 on the ll, and from 15 to 20 in average attendance. The es range from 2*s.* a quarter, if they only learn the phabet, up to 5*s.* a quarter if they learn all subjects. ooks cost them 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a year each. They ome at about the age of 4, and attend regularly up the age of 9 or 10. After that age they become regular in the spring and summer. The boys and irls are about equally irregular. After the holidays e clothes are out of repair, more particularly the oes, and the children are not fit to make a decent ppearance at school until the end of November. hey leave finally at about the age of 13 or 14, when ey go to service. The younger children, if they on't work themselves, stay at home to look after the ouse while the parents and older children are at ork. I don't think they can all read, write, and ipher when they grow up. Many can just scrawl eir names, but they fail to attain anything like real eading and writing. I have held an evening class ere for 10 years, three nights a week, and two hours ach night. It is open to boys and girls, but very few irls come. There are about 18 to 20 in ordinary ttendance, and of those about 10 attend the day chool as well as the evening school. The night- chool scholars are more advanced than the day cholars. At the evening school I teach French, erman, mechanical drawing and Latin, algebra, and eometry; three learn Latin, five French, and one erman, but these are all in offices at Dundee. Five r six agricultural children attend the evening class, ut none of them learn these subjects. I always give ome lessons, such as parsing, construction, and sums. give them nothing to learn by heart except the atechism. These lessons are tested in each class as t comes up, and takes no perceptible time. The ome lessons are generally pretty well learnt, but the arents don't superintend the learning of them. The arents are quite ready to pay the additional fees and uy the necessary books as their children advance. I now of no children about here who are not receiving ny education. I think the factory population is more dvanced than the agricultural.

Cortachy.

22. *Mr. Whyte.*—I have been master of the paro- hial school for 20 years. There are at present 45 scholars enrolled, and 42 in average attendance, but he bad weather and scarlet fever have broken up the chool a good deal. The fees are 2*s.* a quarter for reading, 2*s.* 6*d.* for reading and writing, and 3*s.* for the three r's. There is no other school to which the younger children go. They come to my school at about the age of 7 or 8 and attend regularly up to 10 or 11, and in winter up to 15. There are about seven boys aged about 11, who now come four miles to school, their attendance is of course irregular. All who can do attend, and many would keep their children longer at school than they do if they could afford to. Sometimes they come back when they have been some years at service, and I do not find that in these cases they have forgotten much except figuring. Books cost them about 4*s.* a year each. In the autumn quarter they pay for the time they attend only. I give home lessons, which are not well learnt; those who live at a distance have no time to learn them, and some have to work for their parents; one told me he had to thrash for his father. The crofters' children attend as well as the children of farm servants.

Glamis.

23. *Mr. Ross*, master of the parochial school.—I have been here 15 years. It is a mixed school; there are 85 on the books, and from 70 to 80 in ordinary attendance. There is an infant school; the children come here from that school at about the age of 7; the great majority of the agricultural labouring children attend regularly up to about 12, and occasionally, perhaps for one quarter at a time, up to the age of 14 or 15. Those who attend to this extent can read, write, and cipher decently, but there are a very few, who, either from the poverty of their parents, or from their having peculiar opportunities of work, who attend less regularly. The fees here are for reading 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, for reading and writing 3*s.*, and for all subjects, except languages, 4*s.*; books cost about 3*s.* a year. All the parents are anxious to secure an education for their children, and in some cases the farmers pay the fees for some of their servants' children. Three boys are now learning Latin, two of these are farmers' sons, and the third is the son of an artizan. One boy taught by me in this school gained the second bursary at Aberdeen. The farm work does not interfere with the education. There are a good many children of crofters; these children attend quite as well as other children. I give home lessons, and think that those lessons are of great importance in carrying on the education. In many cases the parents assist the children in preparing them. I should expect a boy of average ability to be able to read and write easily, and understand the simple rules of arithmetic at the age of 10. There are five schools in the parish. Fully one in six of the population are at school. At the last examination, in March, there were nearly 400 present, the population being 1,985.

Forfarshire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

INVERKEILOR.

24. *Mr. Bower*, parochial schoolmaster. — I have been here 20 years. I also lease a farm and employ a grieve who manages it under my inspection. This is a mixed school; all the parochial schools are. There is also a school in which girls learn sewing and knitting. That is detached from the school, but the girls attend there for one hour a day to learn sewing instead of learning sewing here. I have 160 on books and 145 in attendance at present [Feb.]. There is also a side school 3½ miles from here, to which the children who live at a distance go, the parish being nine miles long. Children come here at the age of 5, they attend regularly up to the age of 8. At that age they begin to be employed in agriculture. They then go away to plant and lift potatoes, herding, and harvest. The lifting potatoes does not take long in each farm, but the children go the round of the farms, and altogether it takes six or seven weeks; after the potato picking it is usually two or three weeks before they are supplied with decent clothes, so as to be able to attend school. In addition to these employments they are often kept at home to mind the house when their mothers are out at work. In the year 1868 there were 60 pupils in the first three classes (*i.e.*, working in standards 4, 5, and 6), of whom 16 only were regular in attendance, and of the remainder, 30 attended in winter only, leaving 14 who joined the school after the commencement of the year, and of whose attendance, therefore, no accurate account can be given. They generally get into the third class between the age of 10 and 11. The field work takes them away from school for about half the year, from March to November. The winter attendance is sufficient to enable them to make slight progress, but not much, it very rarely enables them to be put in the examination schedule, because they have not advanced to a higher standard. The winter attendance continues up to about the age of 14, when they can pass the 5th or 6th standard. No night school here. I have tried it frequently, but they won't come. The fees here are from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per quarter, according to what they learn. The books cost 2*s.* 6*d.* a year. I know of no children whose parents cannot afford to pay; if they cannot afford it the church session pays for them, but only one child is paid for in that way at present. 12 pupils are paid for out of some trust money, those who are thus paid for attend as regularly as others, although not under compulsion. I always give home lessons; they are pretty well learnt; a number of the parents superintend the learning of these lessons. I think it of great importance that these home lessons should be set; it does not take any time to test them because they are the preparation for the next day's work. The home lessons consist of spelling and arithmetic. There are nine scholars now in the school learning Latin, but only two of them are of the agricultural class.

I know of no district here where the population is out of reach of a school. I change a great many pupils every year when the servants change places, probably nearly one-fourth of the whole school. I do not very much approve of the bothy system, but do not see how it is to be got rid of, and think it preferable to the kitchen plan.

I know the whole of the district for many miles round, and know of no place where children are employed to a greater extent than they are here in agriculture.

MAINS.

25. *Mr. J. Morris*, master of the parochial school. —This is a mixed school. I have been here 26 years. There are about 140 on the list, and 120 in average attendance. They are the children of agricultural labourers and bleachers. They come at from 4 to 5 years of age. My sister teaches the younger children, otherwise they would not come till about the age of 6 or 7. The bleachers' children leave at about the age of 10 or 11, and we never see them again, unless trade is depressed, when they sometimes come in the winter. The agricultural children attend regularly up to the age of 10 or 11; at that age some go to work and come back in the winter, and attend from December to March up to the age of from 13 to 14. Others remain in regular attendance up to the age of 13 or 14, with occasional interruptions for work. The occasional employments in the field are herding, potato planting and gathering, and turnip hoeing. They begin to hoe at 10, or if they don't hoe themselves they mind the house and let their mothers go out to work. The boys and girls are employed about equally. We teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar. Of these they lose chiefly the geography and grammar by their vacations, but recollect the reading and arithmetic pretty well. At the age of 10 I should expect them to pass the third standard easily, and some of them the fourth. If they go out to work in the summer, they can generally pass the 5th standard easily at the age of 14, and some of them the 6th. The fees are 2*d.* a week for infants and 3*d.* a week for the older children. They also provide books, which cost about 4*s.* a year for each child. The parents, with some few exceptions, are very anxious that their children should have some schooling. They never complain of the expense. The kirk sessions pay for those who cannot pay for themselves out of the voluntary collections; about 15 are thus paid for in my school. They have work to do every night, about six lines of spelling, one question in the catechism, and some geography and grammar. The parents approve of the home lessons. They would think that their children were not taught at all if it were not for the home lessons, but do not generally assist their children in preparing them. The lessons are heard when I take the different classes at different times of the day. I don't make them learn pieces of poetry, but there are schools where that is done. I could never see the use of it. The farmers are desirous that the young should get education, but they don't aid it by their own exertions. They don't employ children to an extent to interfere seriously with the education. Most of my scholars live about one mile from the school. One lives 2½ miles off. There are plenty of schools about here. They are not kept away much by wet weather. They generally wear thick greatcoats and leggings. There has been no day bad enough this winter to cause a very thin attendance. The girls attend as regularly as the boys. It requires to be a snow storm or very heavy wind and rain to make the school thin. Those beyond the immediate neighbourhood bring their dinner with them and sit in the school to eat it. It is chiefly bread (wheaten bread, it used to be oat cake) and butter, and sometimes cheese and meat. As a general rule there are no evening schools. I do not see the necessity of introducing the Factory Act, and do not see how it could be worked. Since 1861 it has not been necessary for the teachers in the parochial schools to belong to the Church of Scotland. The parents never inquire to what church the teacher belongs. I have had children of all churches, Roman Catholics among the rest. They all read the Bible and (except the Roman Catholics) learn the short catechism. I never had any objection from the parents to the reading of the Bible. The Sunday-school teaching is given in the church by the ministers of the different denominations.

MONIKIE.

26. *Mr. Alexander*, schoolmaster. — I have been here for 30 years. There are 74 on the books, and now (February) about 65 in average attendance. It is a parochial school. There is a good attendance between November and the middle of March, but only half as many attend in summer as in winter. They go to work in summer from the age of 10 upwards, but a few infants come in summer who do not attend in winter. There are many pendiclers in this parish, each of whom keeps a cow, and they require a child to herd it in the summer; and if they have no child of their own they hire a child at 2*l.* and meat for six

hs. Those who thus go away remember the three well, but geography, grammar, and history are forgotten. Girls go away for herding as much s. Many continue to attend in winter up to the of 14 or 15. The fees charged are 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* arter, according to what they learn; but I never t any fees above 4*s.* a quarter, which is the fee for ing the three R's, because I think that the parents d grudge or be unable to pay more than that. y pay for the books, which cost them about 2*s.* a on the average. I give home lessons. They ot well learnt; not one in three of the parents s care that the children learn them. I know of no ren in this neighbourhood who don't attend ol; it would be reckoned a disgrace to have lren running about the place and not at school; when they have sent their children, many parents k that all further responsibility rests with the ter. I don't give them pieces to learn by heart; ed to, but dropped it, because I did not think it ed any good purpose. I thought I could be better loyed. There is no place about here out of reach school. There is no difficulty about religion. I had Roman Catholics here, but their parents er interfered. The weather must be very bad to p them from the school. There is no field work to rfere with education except the herding.

Stracathro.

7. *Mr. Cameron*, schoolmaster.—I have been ster here for 16 years. One great obstacle to the cation of the agricultural classes is the shifting of farm servants. The servants often fail to send ir children to school for several weeks after they ne to a new place. The population is very scat- ed in this parish. There is no village, and conse- ntly many of the scholars have to come long dis- ces to school. A strong child of 7 can walk three es to school, and one of 8 can do that distance easily; but bad weather often has the effect of keeping away the younger children. The older children very rarely stay away for bad weather.

The fees are 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, according to what they learn, besides buying books. The boys begin to go away for herding, &c., at about the age of 8 or 9, and the amount of work they do and the time they stay away increase as they get older; but they often attend school in the winter months up to the age of 15 or 16. The girls do not go out to work in the fields as much as the boys, but they are often kept at home to enable their mothers to go out to work. An absence from school for a month or so does not much affect the progress of the cleverer children, but it is a serious hindrance to those who are more dull. I think that they can generally pass about the 4th standard by the time they leave; some never advance as far as that; but I have never had any scholars in the 6th standard until this year, and none in the 5th until last year; but in arithmetic they are often far above the standards.

Sometimes if men do not fall in with a master at the feeing market, they come to school for three months in summer and go to work again at harvest, when they can earn high wages. They generally lodge with their parents, and make considerable progress during those three months. I had six or eight such pupils last year, and I always have some every summer, and more in summer than in winter. I teach them entirely by themselves; they generally don't read, but are anxious to learn to write and cipher. I find that when they come to me they can generally read pretty well, but cannot write and cipher. They have to begin arithmetic again from the beginning. I am registrar of births, deaths, and marriages. I find that young men can always sign, but young women and elderly men sometimes fail.

I set home lessons, but I find that the parents don't give any assistance to their children in learning them, so that they are not so well learnt as they should be.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Ternan.

28. *Mr. Dow*, schoolmaster of the parochial nool.—I have been here more than a year. ildren begin to attend at the age of 5 or 6. Those o have never been to school before know nothing; t there is a female school in the village, and those o have attended the female school can read. The holars here are composed of all classes, but chiefly the agricultural labouring class. Those who are ther raised above the labouring class keep their ildren regularly at school up to the age of 14 or 15; t labourers' children, both boys and girls, are often ken away under that age for occasional work. A w boys under 12 go away to work during the whole mmer, but not many. A good many are kept at me occasionally for a few days under 12 years of ge. At the age of 12 I think that all would be able o pass the 3rd standard, and some the 4th. They ttend in winter up to 14 or 15, and advance a little p to that age, but it takes a long time to get the rust ff them. They are all able to read, write, and cipher efore they leave school. Most of them would pass ne 4th standard. I don't think it all necessary to pply the Factory Acts to this district. The fees are rom 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* for the ordinary subjects, and 6*s.* or Latin, mathematics, &c.

Fettercairn.

29. *Mr. Cameron*, schoolmaster.—I have been master here for 18 years. This is the parochial school. There are altogether four schools in this parish; two under mistresses and two under masters. In my school there is a mistress as well as master. The parish is about eight miles long and four broad. There is also a school in the parish of Edzell adjoining the parish, which is mainly attended by children from this parish. There is a Free Church School here; the majority of the children at the Free Church School belong to the Free Church; and the majority at the Parochial School belong to the Established Church; but many chlldren who belong to the Established Church attend the Free Church School, and *vice versâ*. There is a small population at Dalladies in the south of this parish, perhaps 100, who are inconveniently situated for the schools; but the great majority are within easy access. Both farmers and labourers are desirous for education; whenever there is a good school it is well attended; but where the school is bad the attendance is not so good. Only half the children at my school are agricultural, the remainder belong to the village. The two occupations which interfere with the school attendance are turnip thinning and potato lifting; the turnip thinning takes away one-tenth of the agricultural children for one week in the beginning of June; and the potato lifting takes away rather more than that proportion for one week in September. These are the only two interruptions we have of any importance. Subject to those two interruptions both boys and girls attend pretty regularly up to 13; the tradesmen and farmers keep their children longer than that. A number of the agricultural lads come back in May for a quarter's schooling and go to work again at harvest; I usually have about six such pupils in summer; they are very anxious to learn; they don't go into the regular classes of the school, but sit in the same room as the other scholars. They can generally read, and want to learn writing and arithmetic; the men usually take in the *People's Journal*, and so keep up their reading; they have not forgotten how to write, but their hands have generally been cramped by their

Kincardine-shire.

Mr. Norman.

r.

occupations. I could point to several families who live in bad houses, and in a slatternly and untidy way and I find that the children of these families are more irregular in their attendance at school than others.

I am registrar of births, deaths and marriages; only one person has signed by mark during the last two years; some years ago the proportion who failed to sign were far more numerous. The illegitimate births in this parish two years ago amounted to 27 per cent. of all the births; that was an unusually high number. I attribute that chiefly to the intercourse of the sexes when at field work. There is an average attendance of 110 to 120 in my school and 132 on the roll. The fees are 2*s*. 6*d*. to 5*s*.; books cost about 2*s*. a year. Many labourers cannot afford to pay these fees, especially where there is a large family. The Kirk Session allows me half fees where there are two or more children in a family for five or six families. There are about a dozen of both boys and girls who attend school in winter but not in summer; they are over the age of 11.

I think that no child should be permitted to work until he can read, write, and cipher; such a law would improve the education in this county, particularly in the case of the labourers who move about much.

Laurencekirk.

30. *Mr. Keppie*, master of the parochial school, has been here about 20 years.—I think there is sufficient school accommodation in this parish. There are four schools in the village (parochial, Free Church, Episcopal, and a private adventure school.) There is also a school for all denominations at the borders of the parishes of Fordoun, Laurencekirk, Garvock, and Arbuthnot. That school is managed by a committee composed of persons of all denominations (except Episcopalians), who collect subscriptions for its support. I have generally about 130 in attendance at my school; they belong to all classes; farmers, farm labourers, artizans, merchants, and shopkeepers. Th is very little jealousy among the different classes. T agricultural children attend regularly up to the ag 12. After that age the boys, and some few of t girls, go to work in the summer months; and general they come back in the winter months up the age of 16 or 17. This winter I have some as as 18 or 19. The fees are for English, 2*s*. 6*d*., a 6*d*. additional for each branch. There are so mortifications in the parish, and some of the poor children are paid for by the Kirk Sessions out of t money arising therefrom. I think that in general t attendance of the children who are thus paid for about the same as the attendance of children w pay for themselves. My experience is, that as general rule a child of 12 years of age can read a understand a book of ordinary difficulty, be acquaint with the geography of at least the British Isles, a be able to work compound sums in arithmetic. La autumn a boy aged 12 came to school here fro another parish, he could only read words of tw syllables, and could not write at all. His father wa a ploughman, and I presume that the defect of th education arose from his having been out to fie work, or from his father having been too poor to sen him to school; but as a general rule children are no employed in agriculture in this neighbourhood to sufficient extent to interfere with their education.

I do not think that the field work is physically in jurious, but I think it has a very bad effect on th morality of women. I was registrar of births, death and marriages for 14 years, and found that the majorit of cases of illegitimacy took place among the fiel workers.

I always set home lessons; they are tolerably we prepared; I do not think the parents superintend th learning of them as a general rule; the home lesson are selected so as to work in with the day work, an lead to no loss of time.

Moray.

MORAY.

Dallas.

31. *Miss Margaret Telford*, teacher of the female school attached to the Established Church.—There are about 30 in attendance here in summer and about 65 in winter. They go to herd as young as 7 or 8, and are absent all the summer until the following November or December. I don't expect boys to remain here after 7 or 8; they should go to the parochial school then; but I have had them at the age of 10 or 12. All my pupils are the children of small farmers and labourers. The girls attend generally up to the age of 14 in winter. Many girls go to herd in summer. The attendance is good even in the most stormy weather; some who come four or five miles are the best attendants. Last winter was very stormy, but the school was rarely thin. The attendance is necessarily irregular, owing to the work they have to do at home. I don't think any girls leave before they can pass the 4th standard, and many can pass the 5th or 6th. The fees are from 2*s*. to 3*s*. a quarter.

32. *Mr. Young.*—I was master of the parochial school, Dallas, for 51 years up to 1870. There were generally from 50 to 60 in attendance in summer, and from 90 to 100 in winter. For the last two or three years female schools have been established here, which have taken away some of the younger children. The lads generally attended regularly all the year round up to from 10 to 12, and in winter until the age of 14 or 15, and a few young men occasionally attended up to the age of 20. I don't recollect any families in the neighbourhood who did not attend school at all, although some of them might be very irregular. They all endeavour to attend sufficiently constantly to enable them to read, write, and cipher tolerably, and as a general rule succeed in doing that.

Dyke.

33. *Miss England*, Kintessack school.—I hav been teacher here for four years. There are about 50 i attendance during winter and 65 in summer; abou two-thirds are girls; the big boys go to the paris school. They are generally the children of labourer and farm servants. The attendance is not ver regular, about 10 or 15 are absent every day; no fiel work takes them away, except herding and plantin potatoes; the latter is mostly done for the parents The boys don't generally stay after the age of 9 or 1 and the girls leave at the age of 13 or 14. The boy could pass one of the three lower standards when the leave, and the girls one of the three upper. The fee here are 2*s*. 3*d*. a quarter, and all the books in us in the school cost together about 13*s*. or 14*s*.

Edinkillie.

34. *Mr. Martin*, teacher of the Logic school.—Thi school is an undenominational school under Govern ment, and has been open 10 years. The parents of al the scholars are agricultural, either farm servants o farmers or crofters. The children of the sma farmers are the worst attendants. Last winter we had about 140 to 150 in general attendance, and now [May] we have only about 80. They will rise again after Whitsunday. They begin to go away for the summer work as young as 8, before they have passed the 3rd standard, and they generally stay away till Christmas; we have about four months pretty good attendance from January until May. When they come back after the summer they have lost a great deal, and the winter attendance does not enable them to make much progress. They attend in winter up to the age of from 12 to 14, and when they leave finally they can

rally pass the 4th or 5th standard. Very few before they can pass the 4th. A very few back for a winter's schooling after they have to service for two or three years; some winters I as many as six lads of the age of 15 or 16; I find are generally very backward; I don't think they ise reading after they leave; they have always heir power of reading considerably; their great e is to learn arithmetic. The summer work takes ys away more than the girls. There is a good of wood here and some of the boys go away for ng oak about this time [May]; that does not n them long, and the ordinary work is herding. e people show a very great desire for education, hey all attend more or less, but not sufficiently arly.

Grantown.

. *Mr. Saunders*, master of the grammar school.—ve been here nearly three years. There are about to 130 in attendance here in winter, and about 90 in summer; the difference in the numbers in dance in summer and winter is to be accounted for ly by the agricultural work; about one-third of cholars here are the children of farm labourers small farmers. The summer work begins after ge of from 10 to 12, and consists chiefly in herd- They are absent from May until the beginning November. The effect of the absence during ner upon a child's progress depends very much a child's capacity; if they work hard they may ble to gain ground during winter, but generally xing they can scarcely regain by a single winter's dance what they have lost by going to work g summer. I can recollect a few cases of lren who have left finally before they could work irst four rules in money, but the majority could . Those who go to work in summer generally in the country.

Spynie.

36. *Rev. Dr. Kyd*, minister of Spynie.—I have been here 18 years. The farms in this parish are all large. There is only one cotter in the parish. Children attend school regularly up to the age of from 12 to 14; they are never taken away to herd, but they may be in other parishes where the farms are smaller than they are here. Bishopmill is in this parish, it is a suburb of Elgin. At the school there, there are 250 on the list and about 230 in attendance. It is a mixed school. There were only about 40 in attendance there when I first came to the parish. Now a great many people come from the country and from Elgin to attend school there. I know all the people in Bishopmill, and I don't know of one child between the ages of 5 and 14 who is not in attendance at school, except a few who have been apprenticed at about the age of 13. They are never idle. There is no sabbath school there. There are such a variety of sects. All the cottages there have gardens. They are principally occupied by the wives and children of farm servants. The rent is from 2*l.* to 3*l.* a year for each room, with a garden. At Anderson's Institution in Elgin a free education is give to the inhabitants of the parliamentary borough of Elgin and Bishopmill. This institution holds 300; it is now full, but the people don't like to take advantage of it if they can help it, because they think it *infra dig.* They send their children there for a time, and then take them away again and send them to another school when they can afford to pay for them. There is nothing objectionable in the mode that women are employed in agriculture about here. They don't desert their families. There are no bothies in my parish. The population of the parish has diminished greatly. There were three or four villages in it; 30 families who formerly lived on the land have disappeared, and their farms have been consolidated.

NAIRN.

Auldearn.

'. *Mr. Adam Laidlaw*, teacher of the parochial ol.—I have been teacher of the school for 10 years. re are about 80 in attendance during the winter, about 60 in summer, but the difference between two numbers does not nearly indicate the actual ber who go away for summer work, because many nts come in summer and not in winter. The nts appear to be very indifferent about education; often keep their children at home for a few days, or a week, from the time they first join the school the merest trifle, and the boys begin to go away he summer work as young as 8; a few of the girls go away, but not as many as the boys. The ers' and tradesmen's children are the best attend- at school. There are some quarries in the neighrhood, and a good many children of quarrymen nd; those children and the children of farm servants about equally irregular. The parents do appear to an interest in the progress of their children; some hem assist their children in the preparation of the ne lessons, but there are a good many parents in the age who cannot read. They are quite ignorant of importance of regular attendance. I have been her at schools in Berwickshire, Roxburgshire, and th, but never knew any place where the attendance as bad as it is here. The better class of children ain at school up to the age of 14 or 15, but the rer classes leave at all ages. There are but few fters' children here. They chiefly attend another ool in the south-eastern part of the parish. The s here are 2*s.* a qnarter for reading, 3*s.* for reading l writing, and 4*s.* for reading, writing, and arithtic, 5*s.* for Latin, Greek, or French. At present y one boy learns Latin, and two French. A great ny of those who do pretend to attend school cannot d and write properly when they leave to go to service. I sometimes have as many as 10 young men and women come to attend during winter. They are always very backward.

I think that some sort of compulsion is very necessary. It is impossible to educate a population such as that which resides here without it. There are many who never come to school at all. I have offered to teach some of them for nothing, but they don't seem to care about it.

Cawdor.

38. *Mr. McNaughton*, teacher of the parochial school Cawdor.—I have been teacher of this school since 1850. I find that the scholars begin to leave to go to the summer work as young as 7 years of age, and they generally leave finally between 12 and 13. Some of them are less regular in attendance at the time when there is no work to be done than they should be, and although the summer work is over in November some of them don't return to school until the new year. There are children of all classes in attendance here; I think that the children of crofters are more in the habit of going out to work in summer than other children. Some of the large farmers who live up in the hills send their children to board in this village, in order that they may attend school; but the farm servants and labourers cannot afford to do that; there are, however, but few farm servants in their neighbourhood who have not a school within reach of them. I have known cases at times where children who might have been in attendance at school have not been so; but these cases are very rare.

Nairn.

39. *Mr. Aird*, teacher of the school connected with the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, Delnies, Nairn.—I have been here about

Nairn.

Mr. Norman.

r.

7 years. There are about 75 in attendance in winter, and 60 in summer. They are all children of parents who depend upon agriculture for support. Up to the age of about 10 the children attend school all the year round. I have not many crofters' children here, they are all the children either of farm servants or of substantial farmers; and of these two classes, the farm-servants' children are much the most irregular. There are never any signs of jealousy shown by the farmers because their children attend the same school as their servants' children. There is one market in April which takes some of the scholars away, but the principal market is in May, and they return to school about November. Some never come back to school after they first go to work, but only a few; the general rule is for the winter attendance to be continued up to the age of 13 or 14. The attendance during winter enables them to make but slight progress; most of their time has to be devoted to regaining what they have lost during summer, and when they leave finally, at the age of 13 or 14, most of them could only pass the 3rd, and but a few the 4th standard.

Young men of the age of 18 to 26 who have be out to service for a few years often come back for months' schooling, sometimes in summer but mo frequently in winter; most of them belong to a rath superior class, and have improved themselves sin they left school; they come back when they wa to obtain additional instruction for the purpose enabling them to get particular appointments. Tho who are natives of the place are, with few exceptior very desirous of having their children educated, b a good many people migrated here some years a from Barra, and they show no desire for educatio I have some Roman Catholic pupils; and some the older children come as far as four miles to sch and attend regularly.

The fees charged here are 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a quar The books may cost about 3*s.* a year on an avera but much more in the higher than in the low classes. The home lessons are pretty well prepare the parents generally encourage the preparations the home lessons, but many of the parents know l than their children and are unable to assist them.

C.—EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY PERSONS OF THE LABOURING CLAS

Aberdeenshire.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Birse.

1. *A. B.*, Ballogie, Birse.—I worked as a ploughman 25 years ago, when I was 18 years old. I then received 5*l.* for the six months; 6*l.* 10*s.* was the highest sum paid at that time, the allowances were the same as at present. Boots and clothing are much dearer now than they were then, but on the whole we are much better off. I was at school until I was 14, and am a better scholar than most. I know many men who don't know a letter. Many parents are still negligent and send their children out to herd earlier than they should. Most of the labourers read the Bible or prayers in the evening, but the farmers do not.

Fintray.

2. *James Donald*, aged 12.—I worked at herding and hoeing turnips last year for 26 weeks, I received 30*s.* and my meat. I lived at home; I used to leave home at quarter to 7 and was back at half-past 8 in the evening. I had breakfast at the farm before I went out to work, and supper there before I returned home in the evening. I brought the cattle in at 12 o'clock for dinner. During harvest I made bands and raked. I went to work at first when I was 9. We generally read the Bible at home in the evening.

2*a*. *George Singer*, aged 10.—I have been out at work the last two summers. The first year I went out I received my meat only; last year I received 10s. and my meat for 28 weeks' work. I went herding cattle; I left home at 6 and was back at 8.30. I like school better than herding.

Forgue.

3. *W. Ingles*, grieve to Mr. Simpson, Cobairdy.—I think no boys are employed about here under 14. I know the feeling of the farm servants well and think they are all desirous of education. They have ample opportunities of getting it; it is their own fault if they don't. Most of the crofters would be better off without their crofts; but a croft does a man good if it is not so large as to prevent his going to service. Farmers are not so ready to do the horse work for the farmer as they used to be; and if a man has to hire it costs him 10*s.* an acre to get the horse work done. A man should have enough land to keep a cow on; four acres will do that well, or three if the land is good.

King Edward.

4. *W. Dawson*, grieve to Mr. Alexander Sout Plaiddy.—I have been here nearly five years. M Souter's farm contains nearly 400 acres. We oc sionally employ women; they are generally the wi and daughters of crofters, the latter not unfrequen stay at home instead of going out to service, beca they have had misfortunes. I think the field work very demoralising for women; they work all day w the men and take their dinner with them unde dyke. Sometimes an industrious crofter after so time will save enough money to take a two or th pair horse farm. Very few crofters are broken by it is the highflying farmers who break. A croft would not owe any man a penny. Their wives a children work rather more than the wives and child of others. A holding of 30 acres will occupy a n continually. I don't think it answers for a man have a small croft, it is perfect slavery; he would better off as a farm servant with a simple garden. had a cattleman here who had three children of age to attend school, but he sent none, although offered to pay for two of them and give them clot so I first got disgusted with it and got rid of him. have a shepherd who is just the reverse; he two at school and pays for them. The parents generally very desirous of education, and a man w does not send his children is "spoken about." T boys who work on small farms are taken away fr school in summer from the age of 10 upwards, attend in winter up to 15 or 16. For one man w keeps up his education after he leaves school 10 not.

Old Deer.

The following boys were examined at the paroc school:—

5. *Thomas Burns*, aged 14, father a hawker.- have been to work herding in the summer for the l two years. I had 30*s.* the first year and 2*l.* last y and my board. I was out sometimes from 5 a until 10 a.m., and was then employed at weedi going errands, &c., until nearly 3, when I had din and after dinner went out weeding again unti o'clock in the evening. If I had to go out weed at 11 o'clock I had something to eat after I brou the cattle in, and before I went to weed. Six of slept over the stalls, two of whom were the farm

There were three beds. We got to the room the stable; there was a window there, and I seen it open, but not often.

James Rogers, aged 15, father a farmer.—ps three horses, but no male servant. Has four hers and three sisters. We all work on my father's . We get up at 5, and in the summer when we getting in peat at 3 a.m. I come to school after ve been for the peat, We live one and a half s from here. My eldest brother manages a pair he horses. I "sort the nowts" [tend the cattle] e morning before I come to school, and in the ing after I return home. I always work before I o school and after I return. Mother does not out, she only milks the cows. I read sometimes ny amusement. We don't read the Bible together ome or have prayers.

William Wilson, aged 11, father a shoemaker. live two and a half miles from here, and there is a ol where I live. I have been planting potatoes for father in the field for three days lately [his father ived a little land from the farmer to grow potatoes on condition of manuring it well. Not an unmon practice.—F. H. N.] I have been out to k at herding in the summer since I was nine. I 2*l.* for six months' work. Go out at 6.30 until I "sort the nowts" and have my dinner between nd 1, and take the cattle out again from 1 to 6. as at Colonel Ferguson's home farm. We read Bible at home every evening.

Rayne.

. *Charles Craig*, forester to W. Leslie, Esq., Wart- I have lived here for about 20 years. I have children. I have had a croft of six acres for 15 rs; I have always felt much better since I had it, knew a great difference directly I got it; it is a at thing to get a cow and milk for the children; s difficult to get it for them without a croft; all farm servants have meat in the kitchen, but there othing for the wife and children if they are married. It costs me about 3*l.* to get my croft cultivated; I have to give up two days at seed time, four days during harvest to my croft, and occasionally another day to keep it clean. But I work a good deal at leisure hours after 6 in the evening. There are not enough cottages about here; a man cannot get a cottage if he wants to marry. Married men have often to take one in the town for their wives and children, and go themselves into service and visit their children on Saturdays and Sundays. The heritors make a mistake in not building cottages. Men have to go on the rates, and it would be cheaper for the heritors to build cottages. Some women about here are hired by the six months as outworkers, but not women. They are women of from 17 to 30; it is not good for them to be working along with men, and it is terrible slavery work. A woman who can look after a cottage well won't go out to work; it is only them that has no hand at domestic work that will. Landlords should never let their cottages with the farms. Farmers often squeeze down the wages if they can give a man a cottage. I would always insist on the heritors retaining the cottages in their own hands. Both farmers and men are often in the habit of reading the Bible and prayers together both morning and evening; but it is not a general rule for them to do so.

Tarland.

9. *Mrs. Innes*, husband a shoemaker. I have three children at school. The eldest boy is 14, he has never been to work. I hear my children their home lessons in the evening. It takes them a good time to learn them, especially in winter. They have nothing to learn by heart except on Fridays, when they have a hymn to learn by Monday morning. My husband has no time, so I have to teach the children. My house is very small, I wish it were larger. My daughter is nearly 14, she might go to service now; I don't wish her to go out to work. I have not been accustomed to go out myself.

BANFFSHIRE.

Grange.

10. *Charles Cameron*, grieve to Mr. Lumsden, aco, grange.—I have a croft of about 4½ acres; I p one cow, but the land is poor, and I cannot grow ugh to feed the cow and have to buy food. Mr. msden works my land for me, and I never have to e a day to look after it; I do what is necessary in evenings. I paid 20*l.* to the man who had this ft before me to get it; he "improved" it [brought nto cultivation, it having previously been moor]; I y 30*s.* a year for it. I have no lease, no doubt e rent will be raised some time but I don't know en. My wife is "dowie" [an invalid] and cannot lp me much. I have my meals in Mr Lumsden's tchen; we have porridge, broth, potatoes, kale, and me "breakens" [broken scraps from the house]. r Lumsden feeds us better than most farmers. All em that are able send their children to school; ere are five schools in this parish and opportunities r all to go; all can learn enough for suchlike work, farm work, perhaps not enough for a trade. My y is now going out to service for the first time; his e is 13 and he can do practice; he will go to hool again in winter. All can afford to pay the hool fees. I had sooner have 20 acres of land and ot be a grieve than be as I am; I could live on less an 20 acres, but it must depend on the quality the land. I could manage 6 or 8 acres besides ing a grieve. A crofter whose employer will not ork his croft for him must hire; you have to give shilling an hour for a pair of horses, 10*s.* a day. y predecessor used to pay 2*l.* for getting the horse work done on this croft; my boy is not much use to me on my croft; he had better go to service. I had sooner fee a lassie for six months, she would be able to help in the house. It would cost me about 25*s.* A croft between about 8 and 20 acres is a bad quantity, because a man can neither live upon it or go away, but it must depend upon the quality of the land. Feeing markets are no great harm. The people get hearty with drink, but there are not many rows. My house was built by my predecessor, my boys went to school at 5; there are not many who keep up their education after they go to service. Mr. Lumsden has several cottages for his married farm servants; he does not deduct as much as 2*l.* from their wages for the rent of the cottage, but he is easier with them than most masters.

Inveravon.

11. *Marjory McGillivray*, Kirk Michael, father farm servant, was out once to service for 6 months for a farmer, had 35*s.* and meat; had meals in the same kitchen and sometimes at the same table as the farmer; used to hoe, herd, and help in the house. Some girls go out to work as young as 13. We lived four or five miles from where father was in service; he only came home about once a month. My mother, self, and four little sisters lived in one room and a small closet behind at Inveravon; there were three beds; nominal rent; there was a garden; age now 16; mother does not go out to work. Eldest brother 14, first went to work at the age of 11.

Forfarshire.

Mr. Norman.

FORFARSHIRE.

Inverkeilor.

12. *A. Coull*, I have been engaged for nine years in lifting potatoes with a gang.

Average number of gang 27, 6 boys and 21 girls.

Boys: 5 from 12 to 13 years old, and 1 over 13 years. Girls: 8 under 13 years, 9 between 13 and 18 years, and 4 women over 18 years.

They are paid in money only, and are employed from four to five weeks.

8 March 1870.

13. *G. Hunter*, I have been engaged for nearly twenty years in lifting potatoes with a gang.

Average number of gang 45. 12 males and females.

Males: 9 from 12 to 13 years, and 3 over 13 years. Females: 10 under 13 years, 8 between 13 and 18 years, and 15 over 18 years.

They are paid in money only and are employed from three to four weeks.

8 March 1870.

Kincardineshire.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory.

14. *Alexander Douglas*, grieve to Mr. Davidson, Inchmarlo. Not many children are employed here for farm work under the age of 12 or 13. Girls are employed more for domestic work than farm work. I don't think that the parents are willing to sacrifice the education for the sake of work. A man with a pair-horsed farm always requires a ploughman. I formerly slept in lofts over stables when I was a ploughman, it was comfortable enough; the rats ran about over the bed and you had to kick them off. I came here from Glen Berwie, in Kincardineshire; there are not many pair-horsed farms with cottages on them here, but there are there. It is much best to have cottages to put men into, because then they don't find fault with the victuals, which they often do when the farmer boards them.

Fettercairn.

15. *William Lawie*, gardener to Colonel McInroy—I have been here 28 years. Children under 12 or 13 years of age are not employed in agriculture. Formerly they were more employed for herding, but many fields have since been fenced. Children go to service at the age of 12 or 13; at that age they get 25*s.* to 2*l.* and their meat for the half year. It is not at all a common thing for children to work out under that age. Women are employed all the year, but more in summer than in winter; they are either day labourers and work for 11*d.* or 1*s.* a day, or they are yearly servants and get 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year and their meat; and where two such servants are kept they frequently work out alternately for a week. Farmers sometimes "acre" their turnips for cleaning; where they engage extra hands for that work, they pay them individually. Married women like taking such jobs by the acre, because they can go out to work for a few hours when they are not busy, and attend to their cottages at other times. Women with families don't often go out to work, except to clean turnips or for harvest, and in these cases the elder children have to be kept from school. Unmarried ploughmen receive from 18*l.* to 22*l.* in money, 6½ bolls of meal, 2 imperial quarts of milk a day, besides their lodging, fire, and light. Married men get about the same, but generally potatoes extra, and a cottage and garden instead of the bothy, and sometimes some firing allowed. If I had a son I would prefer his living in the farmer's house, if the farmer did his duty at all; but I must say that I have lived in garden bothies for many years and never saw anything objectionable take place in them, but I am aware that many are not what they should be; I have often heard the men talk in the farmer's bothies in a very loose way. Very few farmers do look after the bothies. A man who takes a lodging here pays about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week for it. The meal and milk which the farmers supply is all good. The unmarried ploughmen sell part of their meal for perhaps 2*l.* a year; they don't buy meat, but they sometimes eat bread or oatcake, but seldom tea. They don't save money. Some of their money is spent at the feeing markets. They have also the practice of meeting in villages on Saturday nights and drinking together.

I could name two or three families who don't send their children to school, but they are talked about as exceptional; they are very poor, and cannot afford to pay the fees.

Old men are often obliged to go to towns when they are past work. There were formerly many crofts here, which were let to old men who worked occasionally; they lived very comfortably then, but now often have to go to the poor rate.

Moray.

MORAY.

Altyre.

16. *John Cruikshank*, groundman to Sir W. Cumming, Altyre.—I have lived here 8 years. I think that the smallest amount of land that a man can live and bring up a family upon is 50 or 60 acres; if he does not have as much as that he had better only have five or six acres, which will enable him to keep a cow, and he can then go to service himself. If he works at some trade it does not matter how much land he has, because he can arrange his own time. There is a bothy for women here. I have heard women's bothies in other places badly spoken of, where they are under no regulation. A man may be more comfortable in a well-regulated bothy than in a farm kitchen, he has more opportunities of improving himself, and is not subject to so many interruptions. It is very bad for the fathers to be separated from their families the way they are here; but the farmers object to having the families upon their farms because they think it troublesome to have so many people about, and that they are apt to steal, which is sometimes true; but of course there is not so much for the family when the husband lives on the farm as when he lives with them. I think everybody about here has an opportunity of having their children educated, and most of them do it, but some are careless about it. I don't think that those who are careless about it are talked about for being so. I always have an opportunity of knowing whether the men employed at Altyre can read and write, there are always seven or eight hosemen there, and I don't recollect one since I have been here who could not read and write; some are no "*just fine*" at writing, but they can all make something of it. I don't think that the women who work out are more immoral than other women. They are sometimes put to work which I don't think should be women's work, such as turning dung and filling dung carts, but I don't think that the field work does them any harm.

Dallas.

7. *Mrs. Hay.*—Husband a farmer; has a two-horse farm. Family all out except a son and ghter. Keeps one farm servant and a herd lad a herd lassie. The herd lad remains here all the r. I fee'd the lassie a short time ago, and she will ain until next Martinmas if she "no taks the road." servants are no bad at taking the road; had one for 11 years. They all live in the house, man all. He has no got a wife; maybe he'll go and away when he takes a wife. A man could clothe self but poorly on 5*l.* a year.

8. *Mrs. Gordon*, Goatcraig.—This farm did con- 30 acres; with what we have taken in it may be now, besides a run for sheep on the moor. I have sons and three daughters. They have all been ught up here. We never sell corn, except three or r quarters occasionally; we want it all. This is two es from Dallas school, where my children go. ey very seldom stay at home for bad weather; the ; ones take the little ones along. I make my boys rd or do something when they are 5 or 6; I never courage them to be idle; but I never keep them ay from school until they are 9 or 10, even in mmer. We have four cows, two horses, one pig, 50 60 sheep. [I am not sure about the number of eep. This woman's husband was dead; but he had en entirely dependent on this farm for his living, d had brought his large family up upon it.]

19. — *Anderson.*—I farm 33 acres. I have 10 ildren; four of them (two lads and two lasses) are w at service. It is a long time since I have had to re servants.

[This man had also brought up a large family on a all farm.]

20. *Mrs. Finlay.*—My husband has a pair-horsed rm. He has never kept a servant permanently, but s worked very hard and done the work himself, and s only hired a man to help him occasionally, just as e wanted him. It is difficult to get anybody now; e folk who used to help us are dead. My children, oth boys and girls, were fit to help on the farm at the ge of 12 or 13, but not before. This is two miles om Dallas school; that is too far for children to go efore they are 7 or 8, but I always taught them at ome, and they could read a bit before they went to chool.

[The family of this woman's husband had had the rm for several generations.]

21. *Mrs. Mason.*—My husband keeps three horses. have had nine children; seven are living, all are out xcept a son and daughter, who live here and work n the farm. It wouldna pay if we had to hire. One f my sons is a livery-stable keeper in London. Children might herd agin they are 11 or 12, but they re no very much use under 13 or 14.

Dyke.

22. *Donald Moir*, grieve to Mr. R. Harris, Earnhill.—I have 26*l.* a year and a house and garden rent free, a cow kept for me, fuel, and potatoes. I have four children. Lads do not go to work all the year round in this neighbourhood before they are 15 or 16. Many go to herd at the age of 10. When my cow is dry I have to buy milk. The men on the farm have meal and milk and live in a bothy, which is kept clean by a woman; but the men cook for themselves. I have tried both a bothy and kitchen myself, and I think a man may be just as well off in a bothy as in a kitchen. The bothy is the easiest for the master; the men are apt to find fault with the food when they are in the house. Besides their meal, Mr. Harris gives the men as much potatoes as they like to have once a day. They generally sell about a third of their meal. They don't have meat. The woman who does the bothy lives in my house. We employ from six to 10 women during spring and summer. It does a woman no harm to go to work, but she cannot have the same chance of keeping a house comfortable as she has if she remains at home. It is very hard on a labouring man to have to take charge of a pair of horses on a farm and take a house for his family in some village; heaps of them have not much to live upon. A man needs 3*l.* 10*s.* to buy his clothes and boots. Some of them are very far back for education. There are plenty of schools, but maybe the parents are unable to keep their children at it. The fees and the price of books come hard on a good many men.

Forres.

23. *Mrs. Smith.*—My husband is a labourer; he works at all sorts of work, and is paid about 3*d.* an hour. I have two bairns; the eldest, aged 6, is at school. I don't send him to the infant school, because all the children in this close go to the other, and he goes with them. He is such a bairn that it does not matter where he goes. I pay 2*l.* 10*s.* a year for this house.

[This house, like several other houses I visited in Forres, which were occupied by persons of this class, consisted of one end of a but-and-ben house and a small closet, generally used for coal and wood; they none of them had gardens. Most of the town appears to have been built on land feued, the form originally being one simple row of houses abutting on the street, with gardens behind, and access to the gardens being obtained by a lane between every two houses. The gardens have been since built over along the lines of the lane; each lane thus formed a small close with houses on each side. This appears to have been the mode in which other towns and large villages in these counties have been constructed.]

24. *James Black.*—I work on a farm about 1½ miles off. I always live here. My wages amount to about 12*s.* a week all the year round, taking one week with another. We can hire potato ground if we like, but it is not given as part of the wages. During harvest I get from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week. The cutters and stackers are the best paid during harvest. I come home every night, and also for my dinners. I should like to have a house on the farm, but I cannot get that; there is scarcely a house in the country. I leave home at 5.30 in the morning and return at 6.30 in the evening. I have breakfast before I leave. I pay 2*l.* 14*s.* a year for this house [one room and closet and garret, no garden]. I never get contract work; a few do get that, but only a few. I have five children. The eldest is 14; she is at school. None of my children have ever earned anything. My wife very seldom goes out to work; she cannot go out with our family. I have four children at school; two are at the free school, and the other two I pay for. There are plenty of opportunities of getting schooling about here. There is no work about here for young children, but some parents don't care about sending them to school. Most of the farmers about have bothies, and give meal, but none give milk to their men; they will sell them milk if they happen to have it. It is more comfortable for the men to have their meat in the kitchen than in a bothy; but some of them kicks up such a row that the masters won't have it; the men have so much liberty that they won't submit to the kitchen. My clothes cost about 4*l.* a year, and those for my family and myself at least 7*l.* or 8*l.* a year.

25. *Mrs. McCrae.*—My husband is a farm servant at about 2½ miles from here. I don't know how much he has in money; he is paid something whenever we ask for it. He comes home on Sundays. He receives 3 bolls or 3½ bolls of meal in the six months, and he brings some of that home. He lives in the bothy and does not complain of it. My rent is 2*l.* a year. [One room and closet, no garden.]

26. *Mrs. Grant.*—My husband is a farm labourer at a farm 2½ miles from here. He has 2*s.* a day. He used to live on the farm; but he is failing a little and did not want to have the charge of a pair of horses. He goes to his work at 5, and has breakfast before that, and comes home again at about 7 and to bed at 9. He takes a little meal for his dinner with him; he has no milk, but the men in the bothy sometimes give him a little; they buy it of their master. I have lived here

Moray.

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for three years. The rent of this cottage is 1*l.* 15*s.* a year [one room and a cellar; no garden]. My husband is paid whenever he wants the money. I have three children; two boys are at school. They pay 1*d.* a week; they pay for their copy books, but not for their other books. We should be much better off if we could get a cottage on the farm; my health is failing because I am not accustomed to live in the town.

SPYNIE.

27. *Mrs. Forsyth.*—My husband is a ploughman in service at Urquhart [distant about five miles], he has 7*s.* 2*d.* a week; it is paid weekly because we are poor and want the money. I have three young children; we were not married until lately, but I had a "misfortune." My husband's clothes and shoes cost at least 4*l.* a year; he comes home on Sundays; it would be a great advantage if he could live at home; he is not going to engage any more, but will work as a labourer, because he cannot get a house on the farm. I pay 3*l.* 5*s.* a year for the house and a small garden. [This woman lived in one end of a house consisting of one room and closet behind, substantially built and ceiled, and with boarded floor.]

28. *Mrs. Cameron.*—My husband is in service; he has 18*l.* a year paid half yearly; we asked to have it paid oftener, but Mr. —— didna just like it. I have two lads and two lassies We pay 2*l.* 15*s.* for the house with a garden; my husband sleeps at home now; when he slept on the farm he only came home once a fortnight; I take in washing; I sometimes cannot send the children even to church because I have not good enough clothes for them; I could if I went and took the things from other people's houses without being able to pay for them, but I don't like to do that [*i.e.*, if she bought them on credit without being likely to have the money to pay for them]. All my children are at school; they go to work at about the age of 10; if they go younger they are neglected for something; they dinna get the education they should. The fees are 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a quarter; the books are not expensive and the teacher a good one.

29. *Mrs. McDonald.*—My husband was a shepherd, he is now a labourer. As shepherd he had 22*l.*; he went away with the sheep a good deal. He was three months at Garmouth (eight miles) and came here every fortnight. The wages are paid whenever we want money; the general rule is to pay every six months. I have six children, eldest 11; our clothes cost 6*l.* or 7*l.* a year. I would be a great deal better if we could have a house along with my husband with milk and meal. I can always buy milk in summer but not in winter. The rent of the house is 3*l.* 14*s.*, no garden. [The house contained one room, a closet and garret; a bad house.] 10 is the youngest that boys go to herd, and from 14 to 16 for working all the year, such as driving an orra beast. I cannot go to work myself.

30. *Mrs. Bain.*—My husband is a cattleman; he is getting old, about three score years and ten. He is in service one mile off; he comes home every night; he has 6½ barrels of meal and 1*l.* 10*s.* per annum for kitchen money. Skim milk is 1*d.* a choppin, and warm milk 2*d.* I have no family at home. The rent of this house is 3*l.* a year [it had a very small garden, not large enough to be of any use]. We were better off in Ross-shire, where I came from, than they are here. There they have hens and cows; wages are much higher than they used to be; but we are punished for having high wages; we have to pay for everything; the money is just taken away before you have got it. My husband's clothes cost about 3*l.* a year, and mine about 1*l.* 10*s.*

Nairn.

NAIRN.

AULDEARN.

[The following witnesses were examined at their houses at Auldearn. The inspector of the poor was kind enough to take me round to call upon them.—F. H. N.]

31. *Mrs. Davidson.*—My husband is a quarryman, he was formerly a farm servant. I have five children: the eldest is a boy, now aged 12. He went to work when he was 8, and has been at work ever since all the year round. He received 16*s.* for the first year, and last year 2*l.* 5*s.* I think 10 is soon enough for boys to go to work; they can learn to read and write pretty well by that time if they are attentive. We formerly had a cottage on the town [farm], but my husband has grown rather old and could not keep his place. We pay 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* a year for this house [one room, not floored, and a garret, which was said to be too cold for the bairns to sleep in; small garden].

32. *Mrs. Murray.*—My husband is a farm servant. I have five children, the eldest is aged 12; he has not been to service yet, but I shall get him out this summer. I think 10 or 12 is about the right age for boys to go to service according to the ability of their parents to pay for them. We pay 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for this house [one room, garret and closet; small garden, accommodation very poor; house in bad repair].

33. *Mrs. Morrison.*—My husband is a servant at a farm two miles from here. He comes home generally for the Sabbath, but did not come home for seven weeks running, because my eldest boy had the fever. He is 5. I have two children. I think that some children about here don't go to school, perhaps because their parents cannot pay for them. I should think that all those who have any care for their children would send them. I never lived in the town [farm], it is difficult to get a house there We pay 1*l.* 12*s.* a year for this house [one room and closet, and small garden; very bad house].

34. — *McKenna*, farm labourer.—Wife and five children. I earn 15*s.* a week when I work 10 hours a day, and 3*d.* an hour when I work less. My eldest son is 12. He has not been to service yet. I don't think they should go as young as that. My wife goes to work sometimes when the bairns are at school; she went once before the youngest went to school; she got another woman to look after it then or she could not have gone to work. Rent of house 2*l.* 15*s.* [a very bad house, but ben, and closet, and small garden.—One end of house not used, or, as described to me, "not sorted." No flooring or ceiling, and very little furniture].

NAIRN.

The following were examined at their houses at Nairn:—

35. *Mrs. Mackenzie.*—I have lived here two years. My husband is a farm servant about five miles off, and comes here on Sundays only; he has 11*l.* for the half year. We pay 5*l.* a year for the house and 1*l.* for taxes (three rooms, no garden, decent house; one room let off for 2*l.*); we formerly lived at Lochdhu; my husband had 22*l.* a year then, but 3*l.* was deducted for rent and 1*l.* 10*s.* for milk. Most of the farmers here give milk, but generally skim milk; if they give no milk they generally give 2*d.* a day instead of milk. I have no children; I have never been to work except during harvest.

36. *Mrs. Robertson.*—My husband is a labourer, he is old and weak, and gets about 9*s.* a week; my family are all out; my youngest boy is 12; he went out to work in the summer when he was 10, and worked all the year round last year. He was feeding cattle all the winter [a good new house; sitting-room and closet downstairs, and sleeping-room up; rent 4*l.*]

Nairn.

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37. *Mrs. Rose.*—My husband was a farm servant, is now a sawyer; I have three children, the eldest aged 6. When my husband was at service he d always to live on the farm where he worked. merly we lived in the country, we were much ter off then than we are now; we had potatoes l milk; here we have to pay for everything. I 't go to field work myself. I should have to pay nebody for looking after my bairns if I did, and t would just eat up all the profit [a very bad house, lathed and plastered, nor ceiled; the walls very up from the house being built on the side of a hill, l the wall being built against that part of the hill ich had been cut away; one room and closet; rent].

38. *Mrs. Gardiner.*—My husband is a labourer, he has about 12*s.* a week; he lives six miles off; he does not live at the farm where he works, but lodges with another man there; he pays 2*s.* a week for his lodging and cooking, and buys his own meat; it costs him about 7*s.* a week altogether. He tells the grocer to let me have what I want during the week, and he pays at the end. I have only one child; it is just as much as we can do to keep life together. I don't go to work generally, but intend to go in harvest. I shall get about 1*s.* 6*d.* a day [lived in one room in a garret very dirty and untidy, a fire burning, but scarcely any furniture; rent 2*l.* I was told this was the worst dwelling in the town, and I should think the statement must have been substantially true].

D.—CONTAINING THE ANSWERS GIVEN TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE PRINTED CIRCULARS.

Answers to Printed Questions.

Questions (1). At what ages, and at what times of the year, are boys employed in agriculture on your property or farm, or in your parish, generally?

Question (2). Are girls so employed, and if so, at what ages and what occupations?

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Alford.

1. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—(1.) In this parish about 12 years of age. In the spring assisting to lay wn the turnip crops; in summer as cattle herds, or aning turnip crops; during autumn in harvest work. .) Girls are also so employed, commencing at about e same age.

Birse.

2. *Mr. Alex. Milne.*—(1.) None so employed under , except between March and October, and between ese months they begin to work from the age of 10 wards. They are of little use except for herding; ey are generally hired by the six months, *i.e.*, from Whitsuntide to Martinmas, and get from 2*l.* to 4*l.* id their meat. Sometimes they are only engaged om Candlemas (February) to Whitsuntide. (2.) A w girls are employed in the same way as the boys, ut not one in a dozen of the boys.

Ellon.

3. *Mr. T. F. Jamieson.*—(1.) Very little employed nder 14 years of age, except for herding cattle uring the summer on those farms which have not nces. (2.) Young girls very seldom.

Forgue.

4. *Robert Simpson, Esq.*—(1.) Very seldom, under 3 at any part of the year. (2.) Not employed under 5.

Huntly.

5. *John Wilson, Esq.*—(1.) From 11 or 12 upwards, hiefly during the summer months. (2.) Yes, at the ame ages, herding cattle, and after 14 or 15, hoeing urnips, &c.

Kincardine O'Neil.

6. *Major Innes.*—(1.) From 10 years of age, and mostly during the summer months. After 14 years hey begin to be employed in winter attending cattle. (2.) Girls are not much employed at out-door work; except occasionally herding in summer.

King Edward.

7. *Mr. William Dawson.*—(1.) From 8 in summer, and go to school in winter, and when about 14 years old work altogether. (2.) Yes, about 14 and 16.

8. *Mr. George Barclay.*—(1.) Seldom under 12 or 14, and in summer principally in herding cattle. (2.) Not often, and generally by crofters as maids of all work, about 12 years.

Old Deer.

9. *James Russell, Esq.*—(1.) From 10 to 15 years of age. (2.) In farm work from 15 years and upwards.

Rayne.

10. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—(1.) From 12 upwards, and occasionally younger for herding and hoeing turnips in summer. (2.) Yes, in the same way as boys.

Tarland.

11. *Dr. Robertson.*—(1.) The are rarely employed under 10 and 12 years, and then only for herding cattle during the 6 summer and autumn months. (2.) Girls are employed about the same age, and similar work: herding a few cows in summer and autumn.

BANFFSHIRE.

Grange.

12. *James Lumsden, Esq.*—(1.) Spring, summer, and harvest. (2.) Same; age 12 and upwards.

Inveravon.

13. *James Skinner, Esq.*—(1.) Not much under 14, except for herding. (2.) Same as the boys.

Mortlach.

14. *W. Cantlie, Esq.*—(1.) I never employ any boys, but boys are employed from the age of 8 upwards, both by large and small farmers, but principally by the latter. (2.) The same as the boys.

FORFARSHIRE.

Carmylie.

15. The *Land Steward*, the Guynd. —(1.) In summer and autumn. (2.) From 14 to 18 years.

Glamis.

16. *Andrew Ralston, Esq.*—(1.) In spring, summer, and autumn. (2.) Yes, but seldom under 12 years of age; in planting and gathering potatoes and cleaning turnips.

Inverarity.

17. The *Rev. Pat. Stevenson.*—(1.) Boys are (I may say invariably) over 13 years of age before they regularly engaged and employed as farm servants. Occasionally in spring, and generally during harvest, they are employed under that age. (2.) To some extent girls are so employed. Under 13 their occupations during summer and autumn are herding cattle and lifting potatoes, but this does not prevail to any great extent.

Answers to Printed Questions.

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INVERKEILOR.

18. The *Rev. James Hay.*—(1.) Boys are seldom employed for any kind of farm work for wages under 13 years of age, except as herds, or in planting and lifting potatoes in spring and autumn. This kind of work only lasts for three or four weeks. Boys of all ages, from 8 upwards, are then employed ; but the same boy will seldom be employed at that work beyond a fortnight or three weeks. That length of time generally exhausts the work in a neighbourhood, and they never go to any distance in that employment. (2.) The same answer applies to Query 2, regarding girls.

KINNELL.

19. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—(1.) Boys are at no period of the year employed on my farm. They are sometimes employed on the large farms, and frequently on the small farms of the district, to herd cows, and do such work as they are able for, between the ages of 8 to 12 or 13. (2.) Girls are also employed in the same way ; and both boys and girls are employed at potato lifting, and assisting their mothers at harvest, where the crops are cut with the sickle, which, however, is only used to a small extent. The sickle being in a great measure superseded by the scythe and reapers.

LIFF AND BENVIE.

20. *Mr. James Smith.*—(1.) Boys are seldom or ever employed at farm work under 12 years of age. From this to 15 they generally get weekly wages, and commonly work from March to November, and attend school in winter. (2.) Same may be said of girls. They are occupied at light field work.

NEWTYLE.

21. *Mr. Andrew Whitton.*—(1.) A few upwards of 14 years of age. (2.) Very few.

MARYTON.

22. *Charles Lyall, Esq.*—(1.) I have two boys from 15 to 16 years of age employed constantly, other boys are seldom employed, unless during the time of potato planting and lifting. (2.) No girls, unless for planting and lifting potatoes.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

BANCHORY TERNAN.

23. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—(1.) Not employed as a general rule under 13 years of age. (2.) Not under 13.

FETTERCAIRN.

24. *Lieut.-Col. McInroy.*—(1.) For a few days potato lifting, and partially in summer herding. (2.) For a few days potato lifting.

KINNEFF.

25. *Arthur Glennie, Esq.*—(1.) No boys under 14 years are employed. Above that age several are all the year round. (2.) No girls under 15 employed.

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

26. *Mr. T. Yool.*—(1.) Two or three boys of 12 years of age and upwards employed all the year, and some extra hands during potato lifting in autumn. (2.) Employed lifting potatoes in autumn from 12 years of age and upwards.

SPEYMOUTH.

27. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—(1.) Commencing from 11 to 12 years of age in the parish or district generally, and employed in herding or tending small numbers of cattle and sheep during summer and winter. In the season employed in potato lifting occasionally. (2.) The same may be said of girls, but they are employed in herding and potato lifting only in summer and autumn, not in winter.

SPYNIE.

28. *A. Lawson, Esq.*—(1). 12 and upwards, spring, summer, and harvest. (2.) Same as boys.

URQUHART.

29. *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—(1.) Seldom before 9 years, and more in summer than in winter. (2.) Yes ; but more rarely than boys, and chiefly as cattle herds from 9 years.

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

30. *W. Stables, Esq.*—(1.) Boys from 11 or 12 to 14. Employed as herds from April to Martinmas. Wages 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* for that period ; live and are fed in the house. (2.) Girls sometimes employed as herds in the same way, but much more rarely ; their wages somewhat less.

QUESTION (3). To what extent are women employed ?

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ALFORD.

31. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—Women are employed at all light work connected with agriculture.

BIRSE.

32. *Mr. Alex. Milne.*—Where there is a three-horse farm (70 or 80 acres), there is always a woman in the house, and she goes out to work occasionally. They are employed in pulling and hoeing turnips, in gathering the harvest and spreading manure, gathering stones, and gathering and planting potatoes. Besides the women who are engaged by the year, the farmers occasionally engage extra women for a few weeks during the busy times. I can recollect this district for about 30 years, and I think that fewer women are employed in the fields now than was formerly the case.

ELLON.

33. *Mr. T. F. Jamieson.*—Women are employed at harvest, and in hoeing turnips, also at barn work. Their employment in the fields at other times is exceptional, and is decreasing, but it used to be very common for farmers to have one woman engaged by the half year to work at barn work, turnip and potato cultivation, harvest, and various lighter sorts of farm work.

FORGUE.

34. *R. Simpson, Esq.*—A good many unmarried women, or married women without families, go to work during summer, but very few in winter.

HUNTLY.

35. *John Wilson, Esq.*—Women are extensively employed hoeing turnips in summer, assisting sowing crop and laying down turnips, harvesting, and pulling and storing turnips in winter, threshing grain, &c.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL.

36. *Major Innes.*—Women are not much employed at outdoor work, except at turnip hoeing, haymaking, and harvest.

KING EDWARD.

37. *Mr. W. Dawson.*—A good deal in the summer months, and very little in the winter.

OLD DEER.

38. *James Russell, Esq.*—In hoeing turnips, and making hay, and other similar work.

RAYNE.

39. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—In hoeing turnips, hay, and harvest, but not in winter.

TARLAND.

0. *Dr. Robertson.*—Women are either engaged for six months as house servants, attending to the dairy dairy cows, rearing calves; their only out-of-r work, thinning of turnips, assisting in harvest, When employed as day labourers, thinning and ding turnips, making hay, clearing grass fields of ace stones, &c. These women have their own ages, to which they go after the work of the day ver.

BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE.

1. *James Lumsden, Esq.*—To a limited extent stantly.

INVERAVON.

2. *James Skinner, Esq.*—A good deal in summer, much in winter, except for pulling turnips.

MORTLACH.

3. *W. Cantlie, Esq.*—I employ one constantly in farm kitchen, two out-servants during winter, and r during summer, and more in harvest. I also e extra women—perhaps 10 to 12—for hoeing nips and haymaking.

FORFARSHIRE.

INVERARITY.

4. *Rev. Patrick Stevenson.*—Women are so em-yed to a very considerable extent. They are so at the before-named occupations [see above D. 17], d at these others (harvesting work generally): reshing grain, gathering stones, riddling potatoes, reading dung, and carrying seed. Both married and married are so employed.

INVERKEILOR.

5. *Rev. James Hay.*—Generally two women are ployed constantly on every 100 acres of land, with ceptional intervals; they are mostly unmarried, but casionally married women work, greatly to the loss their families. An extra hand may be required in rvest time; there are many women who never go to ork in the fields.

KINNELL.

6. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—Women as out-workers on e farms all the year round, on an average under two the 100 acres. During harvest and potato lifting a reater number are employed.

LIFF AND BENVIE.

7. *Mr. James Smith.*—I should say that three-urths of the light farm work is done by women, and ne-fourth by boys and girls.

NEWTYLE.

8. *Andrew Whitton, Esq.*—About one to every 80 r 100 acres.

MARYTON.

9. *Charles Lyall, Esq.*—I have from 10 to 12 omen from about April to November, and six or even during the winter months.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

BANCHORY TERNAN.

50. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—Farmers don't hire female utworkers; their own wives and daughters work ccasionally. I employ one woman regularly, and ne or two more occasionally, on 200 acres.

51. *Mr. J. Davidson.*—The large farmers employ hem chiefly during summer.

FETTERCAIRN.

52. *Lieut.Col. Wm. McInroy.*—Generally.

KINNEFF.

53. *Arthur Glennie, Esq.*—Their labour being cheaper than men's, they are employed in all the lighter occupations on the farm.

LAURENCEKIRK.

54. *David A. Pearson, Esq.*—Two or three for plucking turnips, helping in threshing and about barn, milking cows, and attending to calves, gathering stones, and weeding among turnips and hedges.

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

55. *Mr. Thomas Yool.*—From 20 to 40 employed by me singling turnips, picking weeds, planting and gathering potatoes.

SPEYMOUTH.

56. *Mr. J. Geddes.*—Women are employed to a considerable extent in various ways, either as domestic servants in the farm house, or in barn work, harvesting, hoeing, pulling turnips, spreading farm-yard manure. These women are often engaged by the half-year, and live in the farm house, receiving their food and lodging. Their wages may run from 6*l.* to 9*l.*, with, of course, their keep.

SPYNIE.

57. *Alexander Lawson, Esq.*—From all ages up to 20 years; they generally work by the day.

URQUHART.

58. *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—About 40 in number.

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

59. *W. Stables, Esq.*—Women often engaged by the half year, partly as domestic servants, but bound to do outside work, such as dressing corn in the barn, and at harvest work; these live in the house.

QUESTION (6.) Are the young, or females, whether young or grown up, subject to any ill-treatment, or exposed to any physical injury arising from the nature of their work?

To this question I received 30 answers in the negative from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. R. F. O. Farquharson, of Alford; A. Milne, Birse; T. F. Jamieson, Ellon; J. Wilson, Huntly; Major Innes, Kincardine O'Neil; Dawson, and G. Barclay, King Edward; J. Russell, Old Deer; W. Leslie, Rayne.

In Banffshire.—From Messrs. J. Lumsden, of Grange; J. Skinner, Inveravon; W. Cantlie, Mortlack.

In Forfarshire.—From the Land Steward of the Guynd, Carmylie; A. Ralston, Glamis; The Rev. P. Stevenson, Inverarity; The Rev. J. Hay, Inverkeilor; Messrs. W. Goodlit, of Kinnell; J. Smith, Liff; A. Whitton, Newtyle; C. Lyall, Maryton.

In Kincardineshire.—P. Davidson and J. Davidson, Banchory Ternan; Col. McInroy, of Fettercairn; A. Glennie, Kinneff; D. A. Pearson, Laurencekirk.

In Morayshire.—From Messrs. T. Yool, of Drainie; J. Geddes, Speymouth; A. Lawson, Spynie; Rev. G. Ingram, Urquhart.

In Nairnshire.—From W. Stables, of Cawdor.

To this question I also received the following answers:—

ABERDEENSHIRE.

FORGUE.

60. *R. Simpson, Esq.*—A few are employed in winter for pulling turnips on wet or snowy days. In these cases their dresses getting wet, I think must be physically injurious to them, but they don't seem to suffer from it, or to object to it. Their work in harvest is also severe; but no man can gather as well as

Answers to Printed Questions.

Mr. Norman.

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women, and I don't see how we could do without them.

TARLAND.

61. *Dr. Robertson.*—The writer is aware of no ill-treatment that boys, girls, or women are subjected to. They would submit to no ill-treatment, and to secure their ready services they are well treated and paid by the farmer. They are, in my opinion, exposed to no physical injury from the nature of the labour they are employed in.

ELLON.

62. *Mr. Thomas F. Jamieson.*—I consider the employment of women in the fields along with men to be in general unfavourable to their morals, and tends to unfit them for domestic duties, rendering them coarse in manners and language, although it appears to be rather favourable to their physical or muscular development.

FORGUE.

63. *Robt. Simpson, Esq.*—I am not aware that agricultural work has a bad effect upon morals, because I find that house servants have as many illegitimate children as out-workers; but the field work decidedly prevents them making good wives, they never learn to cook, or wash, or mend, and their houses are untidy and uncomfortable.

HUNTLY.

64. *Mr. John Wilson.*—I think the employment is wholesome in every way.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL.

65. *Major Innes.*—Formerly the employment of women in general farm work was in every way objectionable. As now restricted to field work suitable for them, it is not so, and it does not appear to me that the lax morality which prevails among them, is due to the nature of their employment.

QUESTION (7). Have you any observations to make as to the effect of the employment of females in agriculture on morals, and on their proper training for domestic duties?

ABERDEENSHIRE.

BIRSE.

66. *Mr. Milne.*—I don't think that the field workers are more immoral than other women; it is not the hard workers who have the bastards. The women who have been accustomed to work in the fields keep their cottages clean and comfortable when they marry, and do not as a rule go out to work after marriage.

KING EDWARD.

67. *Mr. Wm. Dawson.*—I think the employment of females in agriculture interferes with their proper training for domestic duties, and thus comes to have a bad effect on the families of our farm servants.

68. *Mr. George Barclay.*—Many of the females seem to have no wish to learn domestic duties, but some of them do very well after being occupied in agriculture.

OLD DEER.

69. *James Russell, Esq.*—Farm out-door work is in general demoralising for females.

RAYNE.

70. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—It most materially interferes with their training for domestic duties, the rough talk they hear, and the bad manners they become accustomed to, lower the whole standard of morality, and directly tend to increase the amount of illegitimacy.

TARLAND.

71. *Dr. Robertson.*—The only observation the writer would make in reply to this query, has reference to a class of women known as *out-door women;* they are engaged for the six months in the summer to work with the men servants in all the farm work, filling the dung-cart, spreading the manure, frequently in charge of a horse and cart, gathering after the scythe in harvest, &c., &c. Such heavy work straining the muscles and [*word illegible*] of the thorax and abdomen have a pernicious effect upon the health of the female, and being constantly in the company of the men servants, associated with them in every kind of work, she sees and hears what tends to demoralisation. The practice of hiring such women is wearing out.

BANFFSHIRE.

INVERAVON.

72. *James Skinner, Esq.*—I am afraid that field work has an immoral effect, but I don't see why it should have.

MORTLACK.

73. *Wm. Cantlie, Esq.*—Some of the female out-workers won't take the trouble to learn domestic work, but it is their own fault. The greater number of illegitimate children are the children of out-workers, but I cannot say that the out-workers are worse than the others.

FORFARSHIRE.

INVERARITY.

74. The *Rev. Patrick Stevenson.*—I have no hesitation in saying strongly that the effect of the employment of females in agriculture has a decidedly injurious effect upon their morals, as also upon their proper training for domestic duties. This remark is intended to apply with especial force to the case of large farms, and to be taken in conjunction with remarks to be afterwards made upon the way in which farm servants are engaged and superintended. In the case of smaller farms, where the work is done by the farmer's own family, assisted, when assistance is required, by well-known neighbours, the mischief is not nearly so great in respect of either of the matters to which the query refers.

INVERKEILOR.

75. The *Rev. James Hay.*—The employment of females in agriculture is not favourable for their training for domestic duties. Generally girls who habitually engage in field work make untidy and unthrifty housewives. They have neither the idea nor the practice of the management of a house, and they seldom improve. As to the effect of agricultural labour by females on morals it is difficult to determine. Agrarian immorality generally comes to light and is known. In this respect it differs from much of the immorality of town populations, and the apparent contrast is often heedlessly reckoned as telling against the rural population. I can see no reason why field labour should of itself have necessarily any tendency to increase immorality; and the promiscuous employment of men and women I regard as in many respects less likely to be injurious, than the collecting in one workshop or factory large numbers of one sex. I believe that factory workers as a class are more immoral than agricultural labourers as a class. This is altogether a very difficult question. External circumstances may to some extent modify the results, but the only efficient remedy for the evil appears to me to lie in efforts to raise the social standard that prevails among the class itself. All else will be ineffectual so long as this remains unaccomplished. Get the moral influence and tone of the class itself to be exercised on the side of virtue, and outward circumstances of employment, &c. will matter little, and weigh comparatively little in the result.

KLINELL.

76. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—They can of course learn nothing of domestic duties at field labour, but as they live for the most part at home with their families they have opportunities of learning something of these duties, and are generally as well, if not better ac-

nted with these duties than the workers in fac-s. I do not think their employment at field ur affects morals injuriously any more than other urs, where numbers are employed together.

LIFF.

7. *Mr. James Smith.*—The employment being erally in the open fields, has in itself no immoral ency. This depends on, or at least is much ted by, the character of the master or overseer. not at all by the nature of the work. And as assist their mothers in domestic duties when in by bad weather, and generally engage, and ed are eagerly sought after, as house servants t the age of 16, I do not see how the employment be prejudicial to morals or proper training for estic duties.

NEWTYLE.

8. *Andrew Whitton, Esq.*—I am not aware that employment of women in agriculture has any worse ct on their morals than employment at any other ch of industry. They are generally under the erintendence of a grieve or steward, and the greater ber of them reside with their parents on the farm, ive in the farm house.

MARYTON.

9. *Charles Lyall, Esq.*—Whilst constant employ-t out of doors may not be the best training for estic duties, there is nothing demoralising in it, and y of those employed make excellent thrifty wives.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

BANCHORY TERNAN.

0. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—I think the employment in iculture preferable to other sorts of employment them.

1. *Mr. J. Davidson.*—The employment of females out-door work has a tendency to demoralise them.

KINNEFF.

2. *Arthur Glennie, Esq.*—Young women engaged field work with men soon lose all delicacy of feeling, often their own self-respect, and too often be-me immoral. The married women who work in fields are generally modest and well behaved.

LAURENCEKIRK.

3. *D. A. Pearson, Esq.*—Not necessarily injurious any way.

MORAY.

SPEYMOUTH.

4. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—I regret to say that there is a od deal of immorality among the women, the effect which appears in the quarterly registration list. This ay arise from the great familiarities which exist at times between the sexes, and from the many portunities of their being continually together in e same farm kitchen, and besides that the offence looked upon by both parties as of the most venial ture, only affecting the man in his pocket, and with gard to the woman it seems to be the simple convenience of having the child.

SPYNIE.

5. *A. Lawson, Esq.*—None further than that they quire to begin to [learn] domestic duties early, say 16 or 17 years of age, in order to learn them; and ve no opportunity of learning them if employed uch out of doors.

URQUHART.

6. The *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—It renders females ough and bold, and doubtless to some extent extends morality, while it is a decided obstacle to domestic omfort. From large observations here and elsewhere have been led to this conclusion. The amount of eglect of domestic duties and shiftlessness, largely wing to the mistresses never having been trained to nything but out-door work, is incredible.

QUESTION 8. Taking into consideration the demand for labour in your parish and neighbourhood, and the pecuniary sources of the agricultural labourers, are you prepared to recommend that any restriction should be placed on the employment of females or children in agriculture?

To this question I received 26 answers in the negative from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, of Alford; A. Milne, Birse; Jamieson, Ellon; Simpson, Forgue; J. Wilson, Huntly; Major Innes, of Kincardine O'Neil; Messrs. Dawson and G. Barclay, King Edward; J. Russell, Old Deer; W. Leslie, Rayne; Dr. Robertson, Tarland.

In Banffshire.—Messrs. J. Skinner, Inveravon; W. Cantlie, Mortlach.

In Forfarshire.—The Land Steward of the Guynd, Carmylie; A. Ralston, Glamis; Rev. J. Hay, Inverkeilor; Messrs. J. Smith, Liff; A. Whitton, Newtyle; C. Lyall, Maryton.

In Kincardineshire.—Mr. P. Davidson, of Banchory; Col. McInroy, Fettercairn; A. Glennie, Kinneff.

In Morayshire.—Messrs. Yool, of Drainie; Geddes, Speymouth; and Lawson, Spynie.

In Nairnshire.—Mr. W. Stables, Cawdor.

In addition to the above, I received the following answers to this question.

FORFARSHIRE.

INVERARITY.

87. *Rev. Pat. Stevenson.*—I am prepared to recommend that restrictions be placed on the employment of females generally and of children under 13 years of age in agriculture, on the broad ground of the bad moral influence of such labour upon these classes of the community. The demand for labour would soon balance itself by the employment of more men, and if a sufficient number of single men could not be had so much the better, more married men would be employed, and consequently more cottages would be required. I do not think that restrictions on the employment of females and children in agriculture would affect harshly the pecuniary resources of agricultural labourers, while it would conduce to a higher tone of morality, or, at least, would take away one great reason of its present very low condition. Inducements would also be thereby removed for married women neglecting their houses and children in order to make money.

KINNELL.

88. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—I would place no restrictions on the employment of females in agriculture. On children I would. No child should be employed in agriculture, and boys and girls above 10 and under 13 years of age should only be employed at times and at light intermittent work; but not regularly. Above that age they might go to regular employment on a farm.

MORAY.

URQUHART.

89. *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—On general principles I would desire to see female agricultural labour abolished. As far as regards this neighbourhood, it is not a crying evil, and one I believe slowly diminishing.

II. As to requiring some amount of SCHOOL ATTENDANCE in the case of CHILDREN earning WAGES by EMPLOYMENT in FARM LABOUR.

QUESTION 9. The Commissioners being instructed to inquire to what extent, and with what modifications the principles of the Factory Acts can be adopted in reference to children employed in agriculture, "especially with a "view to the better education of such chil-"dren," your opinion is invited on the following points:—

Answers to Printed Questions.

Mr. Norman.

r.

QUESTION 10. The three modes by which the prescribed amount of school attendance of children employed in trades and manufactures is obtained are—

By the Factory Act (7 Vict. c. 15. ss. 31–39).

1. By half day at school and half day at work.
2. By alternate whole days at school and whole days at work.

By the Printworks Act (10 & 11 Vict. c. 70. ss. 2, 3, 26).

3. By school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months.

QUESTION 11. You are requested to state which of such modes of enforcing some amount of school attendance would seem most applicable to the circumstances of your parish and neighbourhood; or whether a combination of one or more of them would better meet those circumstances; or whether any other mode that you might wish to suggest appears to you preferable.

QUESTION 12. What means of education are provided in your parish for the children of the agricultural labouring class? Do they take advantage of them? If, not, are there any other causes besides early labour to which you attribute their non-attendance?

To these questions I received five answers, to the effect that no compulsion at all was necessary, from Messrs. R. Simpson, of Forgue, and W. Leslie, Rayne, in Aberdeenshire; W. Cantlie, Mortlach, Banffshire; and Messrs. P. and J. Davidson, of Banchory Ternan, Kincardineshire.

The remaining answers which I received were as follows:—

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ALFORD.

90. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—(11.) I consider the present mode adopted in the parish could not be improved. Parents who can afford it, keep their children nearly the whole year at school; those who cannot afford to do this send part of their family to school during the summer and part during the winter months, the portion not at school earning sufficient wages to enable their parents to send them to school as their turn arrives. (12.) There are three schools in this parish; 1st, the parish school for boys and girls, under Government inspection; 2nd, a boys' school in the village of Alford, under the management of trustees and Government inspection; 3rd, a girls' school near the village, under the management of trustees and the inspection of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (Scotland).

BIRSE.

91. *Mr. Alex. Milne.*—(9.), (10.), (11.) I don't think that any compulsion is necessary about here. There is a feeling among the people that, although they may not have received much education themselves, they are anxious to give their children all that they can. I think that the farmers only consider whether their servants can do their work and do not ask about the education. (12.) There are four schools in this parish. All the families in the parish attend school.

ELLON.

92. *Mr. T. P. Jamieson.*—(11.) I am not prepared to recommend any interference with the present circumstances of the parish as regards enforcing school attendance. (12.) The parish is very favourably circumstanced as to means of education for the agricultural classes. There are several schools in different parts of the parish, and the attendance at these schools shows that advantage is very generally taken of them; so much so, that scarcely a child grows up without having opportunities of learning to read and write and do a little arithmetic.

FORGUE.

93. *Robt. Simpson, Esq.*—(11.) I don't think that any sort of compulsion is necessary. (12.) Five schools in this parish, and about 40 of our children go to schools in adjoining parishes; the schools are generally taken advantage of, and field labour scarcely at all interferes with the attendance of the children under 14.

HUNTLY.

94. *Mr. John Wilson.*—(11.) I would approve most of the common practice in this part of the country of sending children to school during winter. (12.) There are excellent schools in the parish, both in the town and country, and they are well attended by the classes referred to.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL.

95. *Major Innes.*—(11.) The 3rd mode would be most applicable; the 1st and 2nd modes would be quite inapplicable. (12.) There are three parochial schools which are all sufficient and well attended; there are also two girls' schools, partly maintained by endowments from private sources; the means of education are ample and fairly taken advantage of. There are instances, however, where the parents are of bad character and dissipated habits, the children not being sent to school.

KING EDWARD.

96. *Mr. Wm. Dawson.*—(12.) Parish and other schools, besides Sabbath schools, which are almost invariably taken advantage of.

97. *Mr. George Barclay.*—(11.) Labourers' children are regularly sent to school, with very few exceptions. (12.) There are some bequests for educating those whose parents are unable to pay for their children, and they do take advantage of them.

RAYNE.

98. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—(11.) I think no sort of compulsion desirable. (12.) There are schools of every denomination, and the greatest harmony subsists throughout the whole. I have always found that the Scotch so thoroughly appreciate the advantages of school training, and are so able to judge of the capacity of a teacher, that I have known them send their children four miles to a superior teacher rather than entrust them to one they consider inferior.

STRICHEN.

99. *Dr. Gavin.*—(11.) My opinion is that none of the three modes by which the prescribed amount of school attendance of children employed is obtained under the Factory and Print Works Act, is suitable for children or young persons employed in agriculture. In regard to 1st mode.—In a rural and necessarily scattered community, the time occupied and the fatigue occasioned in going to and from work and school will prevent them from doing much at work or education. In regard to 2nd mode.—Their attention will not be thoroughly given to either work or education; they will become unsettled and not acquire the habit of learning. It seems to me that either of these methods would be most unsatisfactory to agricultural employers, for the children would to a great extent pass from their control. In regard to 3rd mode, viz.,—School attendance with intermissions for six months of work it appears to me, and my opinion is strengthened by that of a practical teacher, the schoolmaster of the parish of Stricken, and others competent to judge, that it involves in reference to the result a greater loss of time and labour to scholar and teacher, than if the school attendance were consecutive. In few if any instances would the education of the young person be resumed at the point of progress he had attained. The mode that I would suggest is, that every employer of labour be prevented from employing any young persons under say 12 years of age, and without a certificate of having passed standard No. 4 of the Revised Code. (12.) There are six schools in the parish and one in a neighbouring parish, convenient

some of the children of this parish; they are dly taken advantage of. I think that the school for teaching the requirements of standards No. 1 o. 4 inclusive, might be reduced with advantage, that the schoolmaster should be recouped by eased payment for results as they are ascertained er the revised code.

TARLAND.

0. *Dr. Robertson.*—(11.) The crofters and l farmers are generally most anxious to educate children. It is a duty rarely neglected; the writer iders that measures to enforce school attendance unnecessary so far as this district is concerned. en the boy or girl returns home at Martinmas his or her herding, they are sent to school for winter six months. The writer generally attends public examinations of the public and private ols in the parish and neighbouring parishes, and exception would be to find a boy or girl of the age 0, 11, or 12, but can read and write with ease and uainted with the first rules of arithmetic, frequently ttle history and geography.

BANFFSHIRE.

INVERAVON.

01. *James Skinner, Esq.*—(12.) They all have the ms of education, and as a general rule take advan- e of them; I don't think there are many neglected dren. The children of paupers are sent to school paid for by the parochial boards.

MORTLACH.

02. *Mr. Wm. Cantlie.*—(11.) No compulsion ne- sary. (12.) There is an ample supply of schools e; the attendance is very good; all are desirous obtaining education.

FORFARSHIRE.

CARMYLLIE.

103. The *Land Steward, The Guynd.*—(12.) The ish school, Free Church school, and a female ool.

GLAMIS.

104. *Andrew Ralston, Esq.*—(11.) Of the above des No. 3 seems the best suited for an agricultural ish, but in this parish matters would not be im- ved by either of the modes suggested. (12.) There five schools. Yes.

INVERARITY.

105. The *Rev. P. Stevenson.*—(9.), (10.), (11.) ither plan first nor plan second of the schedule could of any use in this neighbourhood, nor in any rural trict in Scotland with which I am acquainted, nor uld it be practicable or desirable in my opinion to mbine any two of the three plans specified. Plan, . 3, of the schedule would work very well, only it ems to me that it is somewhat rigid, and that it ght fail to secure the end in view after all. I would nture to suggest for the Commissioners' considera- n, whether it might not be better to adopt one or her of the standards of requirements fixed for the idance of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, and to require at every child before being employed in agricultural bour should be able to pass that standard. This stem would be more pliable, as allowing for the fference in children's powers of slow or rapid acquire- nts, for vacancies in schools, for temporary absence, ., &c. It would also, as it seems to me, produce ore satisfactory results, since it would secure for ch child a certain amount of education attained; t merely a certain amount of opportunity which ight be wholly wasted, or only very partially used. 2.) The usual parochial school and a sewing school. number of children from this parish attend a school Guthrie parish, as being nearer them than the rish school. The means of education are fully taken dvantage of. There is no non-attendance; there is a considerable amount of irregularity of attendance, but with this early labour has very little indeed to do; it arises from other causes altogether.

INVERKEILOR.

106. The *Rev. J. Hay.*—(9.), (10.), (11.), (12.) Generally speaking all children in this locality employed in field labour attend school for longer or shorter periods, perhaps not so long or so regularly as might be desirable. There is no want whatever of the means of education. At the parish schools of which, through the interest taken in education by the heritors, we are provided with three in this parish, all efficiently and excellently conducted, there is ample means of educating all the young at very moderate fees, and the kirk sessions are always ready to assist parents in necessitous cases, so that no child need be without education. Gratuitous education as a rule or free schools, I think a great mistake; our one difficulty is to get parents impressed with the necessity for regular attendance on the part of the children. None of the modes suggested either under the Factory or Printing-work Act, are suitable or applicable to our circumstances. A general Act embodying a proviso that no child above 12 years of age shall be regularly employed for wages at any kind of work who shall not have passed a certain standard of examination, or who shall not have a certificate of mental incapacity to learn, seems to me the most satisfactory mode of dealing with this difficulty. Then it would become the pecuniary interest of parents to have their children regularly at school. Non-attendance at school is in no case attributable here to early labour. All the field-work required of children may be done with a sufficient amount of regular attendance at school; provided that could be enforced or secured by such a provision as referred to above.

KINNELL.

107. *Wm. Goodlit, Esq.*—(9.) to (11.) I do not think any modification of the Print-work or Factory Acts could be applied to children employed in agriculture; I have already said no child should be employed at agricultural work. Boys and girls above 10 and under 13 years of age, at light work as explained above, would not be much interfered with in their attendance at school, and before they are 13, at which age I have said they might be regularly employed, they would have ample time to attend school and acquire all needful education. (12.) The parish school and a dame's school for young children. They do. Early labour in this parish does not prevent any child attending school although there may be exceptional cases.

LIFF AND BENVIE.

108. *Mr. James Smith.*—(11.) It seems to me that the custom generally practised in this parish and neighbourhood, viz., to keep the children at school constantly till about 12 years of age, and then for three or four years after in the winter months, is most suitable both in regard to education and the supply of labour. (12.) There are three schools with efficient teachers, and generally they are taken advantage of, and where it is not the case is almost invariably from the carelessness and indifference of parents; those few cases would require the compulsory principle applied.

NEWTYLE.

109. *Mr. Andrew Whitton.*—(9.), (10.), (11.) Among my own servants there is a general desire to get a moderate education for their children, and the more provident ones generally succeed in keeping their children at school until they are about 12 to 14 years of age; the boys are then put to some light work for the summer months, and return to school the ensuing winter, after which they generally go to trades or commence to work on the farm at the lighter work. I must admit that the more imprudent servants, and those having a large number of children, do not get them given such an education as it would be desirable

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r.

for them to have, but the worst of these cases are generally taken notice of by the employers or the minister and heritors; indeed, the latter have it in their power to recommend a number of poor children annually, and the parish teacher is bound by the terms of the Act 43 Geo. III., cap. 54. sec. 18 (11 June 1803) to teach them free. This, I am very sorry to say, is not often enough done, and the consequence is that not a few are sent in to work with very little education. From the distance of the greater number of the inhabitants from the parish schools, I do not consider the system of half or partial daily attendance suitable for rural parishes, as so much of the scholar's time would be wasted in going between school and their homes. (12.) In this parish we have a parochial school, and also a female school. Both are very well attended, and the agricultural classes, as a rule, avail themselves of them. In villages where labourers and weavers, &c. reside, there are certainly a number of children who can be got to school only by some compulsory mode.

MARYTON.

110. *Chas. Lyall, Esq.*—(9.) to (12.) The queries placed under this head do not apply to this parish, as without almost any exception, children attend school regularly. In a few instances of cotter's, having a small piece of land, with a cow or two, a young member of the family may be taken away from May to Nov. to herd the cows.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

BANCHORY TERNAN.

111. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—(12.) There are schools within reach of all; they are all good; they are very anxious to obtain education: *e.g.*, two of my men carried their children (one each) to school last winter, when the snow would otherwise have prevented them going. The distance was more than one mile; Mrs. Davidson gives prizes every year to those children who have not missed more than three days' attendance at school. One year, when the school was open 220 days, 17 out of about 50 on the books received prizes; the prizes were only worth about 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

112. *Mr. J. Davidson*—(12.) There are a number of good schools in this parish, which are well attended by the children of the labouring classes.

FETTERCAIRN.

113. *Lt.-Col. MacInroy.*—(12.) Ample accommodation afforded by four schools, and the people take advantage of them.

LAURENCEKIRK.

114. *A. Pearson, Esq.*—(11.) Attendance during winter is best. (12.) Sufficient schools are provided, and these are all taken advantage of, except through carelessness of parents.

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

115. *Mr. T. Yool.*—(11.) The 3rd mode most suitable, but doubtful if any required, education being generally appreciated by the parents. (12.) Parish school in country part of the parish, and two schools (efficiently taught) in the village of Lossiemouth.

SPEYMOUTH.

116. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—(9.), (10.), (11.), (12.) I may answer all these questions by stating that the labourers of this country deserve the greatest credit for their universal desire to educate their families, and the exertions and sacrifices they make to do so. There are three schools in my neighbourhood all within less than two miles' distance; the children from an early age go there in summer, and very often in winter; they are healthy and thrive under it, and no child's education is considered complete till such time as they can read, write, and do a little arithmetic. It sometimes happens that they take themselves from employment for months, at a more mature age, and improve their education again; indeed, I think this generally happens, and at their own (the young person's) expense, but, be this at it may, I have seldom or ever found during a long life and much intercourse with the labourers, any of them who could not sign their names, and quite equal to understand general matters in accounting. I should be sorry to see any great alteration in the present system of education, so far as regards the rural population of this country, as I think it quite unnecessary and would tend to do more harm than good. I allude here to any compulsory clause as relieving the parent from the responsibility of educating his offspring.

SPYNIE.

117. *Alexander Lawson, Esq.*—(12.) Schools for males and females which are generally taken advantage of. So far as I am aware, I know of no place in any part of Morayshire where there is a population residing out of reach of a school.

URQUHART.

118. *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—(11.) Either No. 2, or it would be preferable that they should give close attendance during the winter six months. (12.) There are four schools—two male and two female in which the attendance is wholly of the agricultural population, and two schools partly attended by this class. Very general advantage is taken of schooling, and attendance, especially in the best schools, is good and regular.

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

119. *Wm. Stables, Esq.*—(9.) to (12.) As a general rule all the parents in the class of agricultural labourers are anxious for the education of their children, and as far as their means enable them to clothe their children and pay their fees, keep their children at school until 11 or 12, when they try to get them out as herds—from April to Martinmas,—send them back to school from Martinmas to April for two or three years longer; the attendance at the country schools show this very markedly. I would not object to a general national measure for a certain amount of compulsory attendance at school, but do not think it more necessary for the children of agricultural labourers than for the children of the working classes generally.

III.—Condition of Cottages, &c.

QUESTION 13. What is the condition of the cottages in your parish and neighbourhood? Are they sufficient for the supply of the labour required? Are they conveniently situated with respect to the farms? Are they overcrowded, and have any evil results to morality come under your notice in consequence?

QUESTION 14. Does the mode of lodging farm servants denominated the "Bothy system" exist in your parish, and, if so, have you any remarks to make upon it in regard to its influence on education or morals?

QUESTION 15. Is there any other mode of lodging farm servants in your parish which acts injuriously on education or morals?

To Question 14. I received 15 answers to the effect that the bothy system either did not exist or was very rare—from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, Alford; Milne, Birse; Simpson, Forgue; J. Wilson, Huntly; Major Innes, Kincardine O'Neil; Dawson, and G. Barclay, King Edward; J. Russell, Old Deer; Dr. Robertson, Tarland.

In Banffshire.—From Messrs. Skinner, Inveravon; Cantlie, Mortlach.

In Kincardineshire.—From Messrs. P. and J. Davidson of Banchory Ternan.

Moray.—From Mr. A. Lawson of Spynie.
Question 15. I received 17 answers in the
ative from the following gentlemen:—
Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, of Alford;
pson, Forgue; J. Wilson, Huntly; Major Innes,
cardine O'Neil; Dawson, and G. Barclay, King
ward; J. Russell, Old Deer; Dr. Robertson,
land.
Banffshire.—J. Lumsden, Grange; W. Cantlie,
rtlach.
Forfarshire.—Mr. A. Ralston, Glamis; the
. P. Stevenson, Inverarity; Rev. J. Hay of Inver-
or; Mr. J. Smith, Liff.
Kincardineshire.—From Messrs. P. Davidson, of
ichory Ternan; A. Glennie, Kinneff.
Nairn.—From Mr. Stables, of Cawdor.
The other answers which I received were as
ows:—

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Alford.

120. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—(13.) The conions of the cottages in the parish is tolerably good. ey are not sufficient for the supply of the labour uired. They are, on the whole, conveniently ated with respect to the farms. They are not ercrowded.

Birse.

121. *Alex. Milne.*—(13.) The cottages in this parish , with few exceptions, in very good repair; they are fficient in number, and conveniently situated. None them are overcrowded. (15.) The farm servants nerally sleep in a loft over the stables, or in some rt of the farm buildings, and take their meals in the m-house, but not at the farmer's table. There are nerally two tables in the kitchen. The men do not ss much of their time in the kitchen after meals, they are much occupied with the horses. The men always sleep in the farm-house.

Ellon.

122. *Mr. T. Jamieson.*—(13.) The number of cotges is in many cases insufficient, and the construction often very rude, and their condition frequently too lapidated. Better cottages, and more of them, are quired. The situation, as regards the farms, is enerally pretty good. (14.) The Bothy system xists on a few farms, but is the exception. It seems, owever, to be on the increase. For unmarried men ood bothies might be contrived to answer pretty ell; but the accommodation generally afforded in hem is too rude and inadequate. (15.) The farm ervants generally get their food in the farmer's itchen, and the men sleep in some apartment adoining the farm stable; in many cases in the loft bove the horses. The married servants, who have ottages, live in their own cottages. The practice of oarding men in the farmer's kitchen brings them much into contact with the female servants of the ouse, and is apt to lead to undue familiarity and oose intercourse between the sexes. On the other and, where the men board by themselves in a bothy, I think they become coarser in manners and in language. In the farmer's kitchen their food is generally better prepared and more varied than what they get in the bothy, and the men seem to keep their health better on it.

Forgue.

123. *Robert Simpson, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages on the farms are tolerably good, but there are not nearly enough of them; and the accommodation for the wives and families of farm servants and labourers in the towns, *e.g.*, Huntly, is less ample. I only know one cottage in the county which is over-crowded, and that is occupied by a family who are far from respectable. I don't know the condition of the cottages in the towns.

Huntly.

124. *John Wilson, Esq.*—(13.) The old cottages are very poor and too small. They are not numerous enough. Some are conveniently placed, some not so; overcrowding must follow in certain cases. I cannot give an opinion as to results. (15.) Not so far as I am aware of, unless evil results follow from married servants having to live on farm steadings while their wives are obliged to live in the town for want of cottages near enough. No bad result has ever come before me in any definite form, but the habit is very objectionable and unnatural.

Kincardine O'Neil.

125. *Major Innes.*—There is a progressive improvement in the dwellings of the crofters and married labourers, and the supply is, perhaps, sufficient for the supply of labour required. There is always a great risk in carrying out any theoretical improvement and increase of the dwellings of that class that the houses may be made too expensive for them, and that more labourers may be settled than can find employment. Also I have found that when more than usual accommodation is afforded in planning labourers' houses there is an irresistible temptation offered to take in lodgers.

King Edward.

126. *Mr. G. Barclay.*—(13). Cottage accommodation is deficient. A few have been erected by the farmers on their farms, but I think more would be beneficial.

Old Deer.

127. *James Russell, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages are sufficient for the accommodation of the labourers.

Rayne.

128. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—(13.) The accommodation is sufficient in those which exist, but they are barely sufficient in number so as to enable labourers, without considerable exertion, to go to and from their work. They are overcrowded in the case of large families; but very few take in lodgers. I have observed evil results in consequence of overcrowding. I consider it a great mistake to aim at too high a class of cottages; they should have 4 rooms; mine have 2 rooms, and a closet downstairs, and one room in the roof. (14.) It exists here to a very limited extent; but I have had opportunities for observing it; I consider it most demoralising in every way. (15.) As a general rule the men sleep over the stalls, and have their meals in the kitchen. I don't think this system objectionable; but it is badly carried out. The places where they sleep are very uncomfortable; and they have no places to sit in during the evening except the kitchen, which the women occupy as well as the men.

Strichen.

129. *Dr. Gavin.*—(13.) Bad; not sufficient for the supply of labour; inconveniently situated; a large proportion being in the villages. They are overcrowded. If the question, whether "any evil results " to morality have come under my notice in conse- " quence," refers to incestuous connection, I have to say that none such have; but the condition of the cottages undoubtedly influences the character and opinions of their occupants as to the relations of the sexes, and may account to some extent for the great amount of illegitimacy in this district. (14.) The bothy system does not exist in this parish. I have had, however, some opportunities of knowing what the bothy is; and I believe the system, as it generally exists, is bad. But I am of opinion that a well-conditioned bothy, for the unmarried servants, in conjunction with a well-conditioned farm cottage, or hind system for the married, would be preferable to the existing kitchen farm system, as affording better opportunities for self-instruction, and tending to better order in the social economy of the farm.

In the bothy, as known to me, and in the farm-kitchen system, there is little opportunity for innocent

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amusement, and none for self-instruction; and the temptation to wander about at night is great and mischievous.

[I think this a convenient place for inserting a passage contained in a letter addressed to me by Dr. Gavin, dated May 14, 1870, in further explanation of his views on the bothy system.—F. H. N.]

130. "I should not like to be misunderstood on the question of bothy *versus* farm kitchen. I think both systems as they exist require amendment; but that the bothy, particularly on larger farms, could be made preferable to the farm kitchen. The bothy I want is an establishment complete in itself, outside the farmer's own dwelling-house, and consisting of a kitchen to be used as a sitting-room, &c.

"I can't see that it is a necessary part of the bothy system that the men are subjected to sameness of diet. The farmers may as well contract to give wholesome and varied food, well cooked, as to give so much oatmeal and milk to be cooked by the men themselves. I think they should have a varied diet, and learn to desire something beyond the mere necessaries of life. There are many small farms in this district, and on these the farm-kitchen system would work very well if the meals were only taken in the kitchen, and a sitting-room well provided in connection with the sleeping apartment.

"On the larger farms it seems to me the comfort and peace of the family require that the kitchen should not be crowded with men and women some three times a day for an hour at a time, not to speak of giving access to such a crowd for the whole evening.

"The farm kitchen was all very well when the master and mistress lived in more intimate communion with their servants than they now do; when they sat at the same table and spent much of their time together,—that condition of things is at an end.

"I bring my remarks to a close by saying that the paupers on the roll, when sick, are in a much better position than the great majority of the families of any section of agricultural labourers when sick."

Tarland.

131. *Dr. Robertson.*—(13.) Generally the cottages are bad and insufficient for the supply of labour required, frequently overcrowded, not sufficient accommodation for the separation of the sexes, and certainly conducive to immorality.

BANFFSHIRE.

Grange.

132. *James Lumsden, Esq.*—(13.) Cottages very indifferent, but being so has nothing to do with morality. (14.) Very few bothies on farms in Banffshire. I consider the bothy system very bad.

Inveravon.

133. *James Skinner, Esq.*—(13.) As a whole the cottages are comfortable, though there are some exceptions.

Mortlach.

134. *Wm. Cantlie, Esq.*—(13.) Many of the farmers about are desirous of having more cottages on their farms. Those that exist are sufficiently commodious, those families of farm servants, who have not cottages upon the farms, live chiefly in Duftown, Rothes, and Knockando. In general they are not overcrowded.

FORFARSHIRE.

Carmylie.

135. The *Land Steward*, the Guynd. — (13.) Generally good; sufficient for the supply of the labour required. Conveniently situated and not overcrowded.

Glamis.

136. *A. Ralston, Esq.*—(13.) Fair; no; yes. There are generally only two apartments in the cottage, which tends to immorality, as the sexes cannot be separated. (14.) Bothy system exists in the parish, but I am not aware that it has a bad influence on education and morals.

Inverarity.

137. The *Rev. P. Stevenson.*—(13.) The condition of the cottages in this parish and neighbourhood is in general very far from satisfactory. In some cases they consist of only one room. In most cases of two rooms. Only a few of them have three rooms. They are seldom lathed. I do not think that they are sufficient for the supply of the labour required; if what is aimed at be a system which shall ensure as far as possible the moral health of the people. Want of cottages means want of married labourers, consequently a larger proportion of single men and single women, with the results which inevitably follow the discouragement of marriage. Too small cottages again mean inevitably coarseness in the children. The cottages are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Some of the smaller ones are or may be overcrowded, when, as a matter of course, evil results to the moral tone of the population follow. (14.) The bothy system exists to a considerable extent in this parish and neighbourhood. It seems to be established by registration statistics, and it accords with one's own observation, that the bothy system of lodging unmarried men is not necessarily specially injurious to morals so far as illegitimacy is concerned. Considered in itself, the fact is, so far as one has observed, that the influence of the bothy system on education and morals depends very largely on how the system is worked on different farms and in different localities. As the system is worked here at present, especially when looked at in conjunction with the present mode of engaging farm servants at Feeing Markets, I have no hesitation in saying that the system is injurious to education and morals, but at the same time I know of no other system of lodging single farm servants that under the same masters would be less so. Provided that bothies be rightly constructed (a separate room or division for each man), provided they be regularly superintended, as to cleanliness, preparation of food and hours, by the master or foreman, and provided that proper care be taken in the selection of servants, the bothy system is, in my opinion, far the best way of lodging unmarried men.

Inverkeilor.

138. The *Rev. J. Hay.*—(13.) Cottages in general are sufficient in number, conveniently situated, rarely overcrowded. I do not consider any evil results to morality have resulted from overcrowding. (14.) The bothy system exists here, but only to a partial extent. Married ploughmen are employed on almost all farms, generally to more than half the requirements of the labour. I do not trace the evil effects to education and morals of the bothy system to anything like the extent that is done by many. I deem the bothy system a necessity in the present condition of agriculture, and I regard it as preferable to young ploughmen living in their master's house.

Kinnell.

139. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages upon the whole are pretty good; of late years they have been much improved; there are still bad ones here and there. Scarcely so. Generally they are upon the farm, unless where the family is large or the cottage smaller than ordinary, they cannot be said to be overcrowded. Not so far as I have seen have evil results and morality arisen from this cause. (14.) Bothies exist in this parish; indeed throughout the country. There are on this farm nine married men in cottages and five young men in the bothy. Where the proportion of men in bothy is not more than this, and where the bothy itself is properly fitted up with a separate sleeping place for each man, and no boys lodged in it, I do not think the system is specially injurious to education or morals; but on not a few farms in the country

bothies have no separate sleeping places for the and the bothy itself a little better than a hovel, e the observances of decency are scarcely pos-, and such I should say are very unfit habitations nen to live in. On some farms the greater part of nen are lodged in bothies, and this, too, I would ider objectionable. In my own bothy, and in rs known to me, the accommodation is good ; the y is daily cleaned out, and the beds made at the er's expense. Where very young men or boys lodged in bothies, the results must be prejudicial eir morals. (15.) I am not aware of any other le of lodging farm servants in this parish. In e cases on small farms young lads get their meat ne farm kitchen, and sleep in the stable loft or any uildings, but this, so far as known to me, is very common.

LIFF.

140. *Mr. James Smith.*—(13.) Generally good, im-ved very much of late years, and improving. Yes. . No. (14.) The bothy system is very little ctised. From what I have seen I should not rove of it, as I consider its influence on education morals is prejudicial, placing, as it does, the young en their passions are strong, without the control of ents or guardians, often in the way of strong ptation.

NEWTYLE.

141. *Mr. Andrew Whitton.*—(13.) The cottages gradually being increased, and the new ones are atly improved. These are generally now built th three or more apartments, with an outhouse for als, &c. This accommodation is quite ample for ordinary ploughman. Being built on the farm they e conveniently situated. Some of the older houses e certainly overcrowded, but I am not prepared to y that I am personally cognisant of any glaring cases immorality resulting from over-crowding. (14.) ne Bothy system prevails to a certain extent ; where e leading man in the bothy is tidy and respectable, generally manages to keep his neighbours up to the ark, but of course where there are a few young men untidy and irregular habits, the results are neither tisfactory nor pleasant. Both my own at present ll back against any house in the parish for cleanli-ess, tidiness, and the respectability of their occupants. am peculiarly fortunate this season, however, in this spect. I cannot recommend them, but I have not et heard of a better substitute.

MARYTON.

142. *Charles Lyall, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages in his parish and neighbourhood are generally good ; here is a deficiency of labourers for out-door work, but his is not caused altogether from want of accommo-lation, but more from younger members of the families oing into towns to public works. The cottages are enerally conveniently situated ; I am not aware of any overcrowding, and do not know of any evil results to morality arising therefrom. (14.) The bothy system is general ; I see no objection to young men living together, provided the accommodation be good, and great improvement has within the last few years taken place in this respect in this district. My own bothy consists of a large living room, and the men have each a separate bed-room, cleaned out daily. The greatest objection I have to the bothy system is that young lads of from 14 to 15 years of age, on leaving their father's house, are put in amongst older men, and in some cases are apt to have a bad example set them, whereby the roughness and immorality—which it cannot be denied exists to a considerable extent—is perpetuated. (15.) There are some female bothies in the parish and district, which it would be desirable to see done away.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

BANCHORY TERNAN.

143. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—(13.) These are sufficient in number, and are substantially built, all in the "but-and-ben" form, conveniently situated ; they are not crowded, except occasionally in summer, when people come from the towns to lodge in the country.

Mr. John Davidson.—(13.) The cottages seem to be sufficient.

FETTERCAIRN.

144. *Lieut.-Col. McInroy.*—(13.) They are conveniently situated. Cottages are generally good and steadily improving. (14.) To a certain extent the bothy system exists, but many married men are employed on the farms.

KINNEFF.

145. *Arthur Glennie, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages are not so good as they should be, but are steadily improving. (14.) The bothy system does exist, and seems to lead to less immorality than where the men live in the kitchen.

LAURENCEKIRK.

146. *D. A. Pearson, Esq.*—(13.) They are in a few cases overcrowded in the village of Laurencekirk, but not in the cottages on the farms. (14.) It does exist. The bothy system is not necessarily injurious to education or morals ; it is better for the lads than living in the farmhouses, which is sometimes the case, but is becoming rarer.

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

147. *Thomas Yool, Esq.*—(13.) Cottages very few in number ; not nearly so many as I think desirable. (14.) Bothy system does exist largely in the parish, and in my opinion is not favourable to morality. (15.) A modification of the bothy system, which consists of feeding men servants in the farmer's kitchen, and allowing them to sleep in some outer house, is not favourable to morality. This modification of the bothy system exists to a considerable extent in this parish and throughout the county, caused in a great manner by the deficient cottage accommodation.

SPEYMOUTH.

148. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—(13.) The cottages of the rural population in this parish appear to me to be very much adapted for the people, and their means and habits. They are studded all over the county, with a bit of garden ground, and sometimes as much land as keeps a cow. I hardly know an instance of overcrowding or evil results arising therefrom ; there are a few cottages attached to some of the farms in the close proximity of the steading. I have some of them on this farm. It is a considerable time since they were built, and they are composed of different amounts of accommodation for either large or small families. I look upon this system as the only true one for the great body of the farm servants, and as the only one likely to keep them comfortable and respectable, while the facilities given for early marriages by such a system tend greatly, in my opinion, to preserve morality, and to bring up and train a farm-labouring population of the best quality as regards virtue and intelligence. (14.) There may be some bothies in the parish, in one of which I accommodate so many single men, and which I shall submit for inspection. I cannot say that the system is perfect, but, if well regulated, I consider it better than the farm kitchen, inasmuch as you have not got women living in them, and in such a bothy as mine, it is a man's own fault if he is not comfortable, and keeps himself respectable. (15.) Farm-kitchens exist much in this parish, and I do not approve of them for morals or education.

SPYNIE.

149. *Alex. Lawson, Esq.*—(13.) The accommodation contained in the cottages is, I think, generally sufficient, but there are not a sufficient number built upon the farms. (15.) On the smaller famrs the old practice is still maintained of providing a place in the steading for the servants to sleep in, and boarding

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them in the kitchen, but on the larger farms the married men are generally accommodated with cottages; many of the unmarried men still sleep on the steading, and take their meat in the cottages of the married men; all have milk and meal allowed them.

URQUHART.

150. *Rev. Gordon Ingram.*—(13.) 1. Generally mean, built of boulders, clay, and straw. 2. Not decidedly deficient. 3. Not for the most part. 4. Not commonly so, but the accommodation is behind the age; I cannot say, however, that they positively minister to immorality. (14.) There are two bothies attached to large farms in the parish; they are kept clean and comfortable, and the inmates are quiet and orderly. (15.) The farm kitchen is the almost universal mode of lodging servants in the parish, and the smaller farmers take their meals with their servants. The system is probably as little injurious to morals and education as any yet devised.

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

151. *W. Stables, Esq.*—(13.) The condition of the cottages in this district is indifferent, and hardly sufficient for the supply of labour required, but not overcrowded. (14.) There are four large farms in the neighbourhood, and the Bothy system is almost entirely confined to them; I am aware that there is considerable difference among the bothies as to comfort, but I cannot speak as to any evil results of the system.

QUESTION 16. Have all the cottages in your parish gardens, or, in default of gardens, have all the cottages allotments of land conveniently situated for the use of the labourers and their families?

QUESTION 17. If it is the custom in your parish to allow farm servants such privileges as the keep of a cow or potato ground in addition to or in lieu of of garden ground, be good enough to state the extent of such privileges?

QUESTION 18. If there is deficient cottage accommodation, is any progress being made towards increasing it?

QUESTION 19. By the Act 27 and 28 Vict. c. 114. (July 1864) the Enclosure Commissioners are authorised to advance public money for the improvement of land, including, by s. 9, "The erection of labourers' "cottages, * * and the improvement of and "addition to labourers' cottages."

Have you any remarks to make upon this Act in regard to any additional facilities, or any reduction of cost, that might cause greater progress to be made in supplying the want of good cottages?

To Question 16 I received 27 answers, to the effect that all or nearly all the cottages in the parishes referred to had gardens, from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, Alford; A. Milne, Birse; J. Wilson, Huntly; G. Barclay, King Edward; J. Russell, Old Deer; W. Leslie, Rayne; Dr. Robertson, Tarland.

In Banffshire.—Messrs. Lumsden, Grange; J. Skinner, Inveravon; W. Cantlie, Mortlach.

In Forfarshire.—The Steward of The Guynd, Carmylie; A. Ralston, Glamis; Rev. P. Stevenson, Inverarity; the Rev. J. Hay, Inverkeilor; Messrs. W. Goodlit, Kinnell; J. Smith, Liff; C. Lyall, Maryton; A. Whitton, Newtyle.

In Kincardineshire.—Messrs. P. and J. Davidson, Banchory Ternan; Col. McInroy, Fettercairn; A. Glennie, Kinross; D. A. Pearson, Laurencekirk.

In Moray.—Messrs D. Yool, Drainie; A. Lawson, Spynie; Rev. G. Ingram, Urquhart.

In Nairn.—Mr. W. Stables, Cawdor.

I also received an answer in the negative to the question from Dr. Gavin of Strichen, Aberdeenshire.

To question (17) I received six answers in the negative from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, Alford; J. Wilson, Huntly; W. Leslie, Rayne.

In Forfarshire.—Mr. A. Ralston, Glamis.

In Kincardineshire.—Mr. P. Davidson, Banchory Ternan.

In Moray.—Rev. G. Ingram, Urquhart.

I also received five answers to the effect that the privileges in question were sometimes allowed, more particularly in the case of foremen, shepherds, and cattlemen, from the following gentlemen:—

In Forfarshire.—The Land Steward, The Guynd, Carmylie; A. Whitton, Newtyle.

In Kincardineshire.—Messrs. A. Glennie, Kinneff; D. A. Pearson, Laurencekirk.

In Banffshire.—Mr. J. Skinner, Inveravon.

To Question 18 I received seven answers in the affirmative from the following gentlemen:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. R. Simpson, Forgue; J. Russell, Old Deer.

In Banffshire.—Mr. W. Cantlie, Mortlach.

In Forfarshire.—Mr. A. Ralston, Glamis; The Rev. J. Hay, Inverkeilor; Mr. A. Whitton, Newtyle.

In Kincardineshire.—Col. McInroy, Fettercairn.

And three answers in the negative from:—
Mr. W. Leslie, Rayne, in Aberdeenshire.
Mr. J. Lumsden, Grange, in Banffshire.
The Rev. G. Ingram, Urquhart, in Morayshire.

I also received 10 answers from the following gentlemen, to the effect that very little progress was being made:—

In Aberdeenshire.—Messrs. Farquharson, Alford; T. F. Jamieson, Ellon; Dawson, King Edward; Dr. Gavin, Strichen; Dr. Robertson, Tarland.

In Forfarshire.—Messrs. A. Glennie, Kinneff; W. Goodlit, Kinnell.

In Kincardineshire.—Messrs. J. Davidson, Banchory Ternan; D. A. Pearson, Laurencekirk.

In Moray.—Mr. A. Lawson, Spynie.

The remaining answers to these questions were as follows:—

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ALFORD.

152. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—(19.) I consider the Enclosure Commissioners ought to afford every facility for supplying good cottages, and at a reduction of cost, by advancing money direct from the exchequer, at a low rate of interest, instead of borrowing the money from a company, as at present adopted.

BIRSE.

153. *Mr. Alex. Milne.*—(17.) Seven or eight of the farm labourers in the parish have cows, and they have from three to six acres with their cottages, and farm regularly in the same way as the large farmers. They generally consume the milk and sell the butter. Most of them keep a pig as well. They don't have potato ground.

ELLON.

154. *Mr. T. F. Jamieson.*—(16.) Most of the cottages have small gardens, and there are a good many crofts in the parish, that is to say, cottages with a few acres of land attached, enabling the occupants to keep a cow or two. (17.) Many of the servants who have cottages on the farms have a cow kept for them by the farmer, and many have a cottage without a cow; potato ground is not customary, the usual practice

ng to give a load of potatoes at the time the ner lifts his crop.

FORGUE.

155. *R. Simpson, Esq.*—(16.) Very few want gar-s, and if they have not a large enough garden they a piece of ground from a neighbouring farmer, in rn for their manure. (17.) Very few have the p of a cow, unless it be a married grieve. Married vants residing in the farms generally have potatoes potato ground in addition to their garden.

HUNTLY.

156. *John Wilson Esq.*—(18.) The Duke of Rich-nd is building three pairs of cottages annually, at a t of 200*l.* a pair. Rent per pair, 5*l.*

KING EDWARD.

157. *Mr. Dawson.*—(17.) A cow's keep is not always owed, but when it is, it is kept as one belonging to e farm, and valued at about 5*l.* to 6*l.* a year. (19.) e facilities under this Act are, I think, sufficient, t other reasons I think prevent our landlords from king advantage of it; such as fear of increasing uperism and poaching on the estates.

158. *Mr. G. Barclay.*—(19.) The rate of interest arged is too high for a tenant to pay it all, but if e proprietors were to pay, say one half of the rate, I ve no doubt a number of cottages would be erected most farms of any extent.

STRICHEN.

159. *Dr. Gavin.*—(17.) It is not the custom in this rish to allow farm servants the keep of a cow. I do not know one instance. They are allowed by some asters a piece of potato ground, probably a drill or vo alongside their master's own potatoes. If there a piece of poor or newly-reclaimed land in the eighbourhood, a portion is occasionally given up to ny one for a potato crop in consideration of its being eavily manured.

TARLAND.

160. *Dr. Robertson.*—(17.) When the servant has a mily, or house, or cottage upon the farm, grass for a ow is allowed; but the practice is not general. Such practice would be advantageous to a farmer. The riter adopts the practice upon all his farms. Every rieve has a cow. (19.) It has often been a subject f surprise and regret, that proprietors have not vailed themselves of this Act, for the purposes re-erred to in this query.

BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE.

161. *James Lumsden, Esq.*—(17.) Sometimes a cow s kept on part of yearly wages, and a small bit of potato ground.

MORTLACH.

162. *Mr. W. Cantlie.*—(17.) We generally give a little potato ground to the servants who have cottages on the farms, and I give some to others who are not my servants. The keep of a cow is not generally given.

FORFARSHIRE.

GLAMIS.

163. *Andrew Ralston, Esq.*—(19.) No; except per-haps that the repayment of money borrowed might be spread over a longer period; about 12 cottages have been or are being built under the powers given by this Act on this estate. With two or three rooms each, generally three; and no difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the arrangement.

INVERARITY.

164. *Rev. Pat. Stevenson.*—(17.) In very few cases indeed is the keep of a cow allowed. In a few cases potato ground may be given in addition to a garden or in lieu of it. As a rule the married men have gardens or potato ground. The unmarried men, when they have potatoes, have them generally by weight or measure. (18.) No progress is being made to supply the deficiency of the cottage accommodation; rather the contrary, I am sorry to say, owing to the greed of the landlords, only too often.

INVERKEILOR.

165. *Rev. James Hay.*—(17.) On some farms the grieve or foreman often has a cow in addition to his garden, but the practice is gradually disappearing; potato ground is given to all married ploughmen, and generally an allowance of coals.

KINNELL.

166. *Wm. Goodlit, Esq.*—(19.) Landlords in some instances avail themselves of this Act in the erection of farm buildings. The per-centage charged by the Enclosure Commissioners for advances for the purpose is nominally thrown on the tenant, and the burden is thus so heavy on them, that tenants endeavour, as far as possible, to do without so many cottages as they would require, and put more of their men in bothies than is desirable. At the same time I have sometimes seen cottages on the farm standing empty and the men all in the bothy, as they are believed by some to be cheaper kept than married men are in cottages. The landlord in some cases takes upon himself a portion of the per-centage, and leaving the tenant to pay, say three per cent., and drive the carriages of materials free. In other cases the landlord refuses either to build himself or borrow money from the Enclosure Commissioners to build; and then the tenant must either want the needful cottages, or build them at his own cost. If he build at his own cost, he must leave what he builds at the end of the lease without compensation for his outlay, as the law allows no claim on that account, unless provided for in the written agreement. When such buildings are erected by the tenant in this way, a right to compensation at the end of the lease would be a valuable concession in favour of the tenant so circumstanced.

LIFF AND BENVIE.

167. *Mr. James Smith.*—(17.) Farm servants generally get from 12 to 18 gills of new milk per day, and only a very few have cows; it is the common practice to allow from 20 to 25 poles of potato ground.

MARYTON.

168. *Chas. Lyall, Esq.*—(17.) Farm servants are allowed to keep cows, but all have either potato ground, varying in extent from 800 to 1,000 yards of a drill, or in lieu thereof a good cartload of potatoes. (18.) The cottage accommodation cannot be said to be deficient. The Earl of Southesk, who holds about four-fifths of the parish, and whose property comprehends the whole of Farnell parish and the larger portions of the parishes of Kinnell and Brechin, has done a great deal towards cottage improvement during the last 10 years.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

FETTERCAIRN.

169. *Lt.-Col. McInroy.*—(17.) An allowance of milk and potatoes, but no cow and no ground, but garden.

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

170. *Thomas Yool, Esq.*—(17.) Servants with cottages generally got from one to two tons of potatoes in addition to the garden ground, and a few of the men get the keep of a cow. (19.) Under above Act too much room given in the cottages, and altogether got up too expensively; should be more cheaply constructed, so as to reduce the annual charge. Cottages with two or three rooms quite sufficient for ordinary farm labourers, as much as they have furniture to fill.

Answers to Printed Questions.

Mr. Norman.

r.

SPEYMOUTH.

171. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—(17.) Grieves and head shepherds are sometimes in large farms allowed to keep a cow; in all cases the married men get ground sufficient to grow their own potatoes, dunged and laboured at the expense of the farmer. They likewise get garden-ground, and are allowed to keep a pig; a limited quantity of coals given, or other fuel. Whatever more they purchase for themselves is drawn by the farm horses free of charge. (19.) I think the Act of Parliament alluded to might be much more taken advantage of than it is, were it not for the heavy expense of borrowing the money, and the large sums required to build cottages, arising from the too expensive plans and other restrictives causes. But my own opinion is, that the landlords are bound in a measure to furnish plain cottage accommodation to farm servants, and to charge either a moderate rent for them, or let them be included in the rent for the farm. If they did so, I believe in time they would save the interest in poor rates, and by giving the tenant increased facilities for working the farm, they would draw a necessarily greater rent for it, or ought to do so.

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

172. *W. Stables, Esq.*—(17.) It is not the custom to allow farm servants, except the grieve or farm bailiff in some cases, the keep of a cow and potato ground; farm servants in the bothy have, on the average, in the half year (half-yearly engagements being universal) 9*l.* 10*s.* in money, with 30 stones of meal, one and a half boll of potatoes, and 15*s.*, as allowance for milk money; married servants getting a cottage have about the same wages and allowances, but are engaged for 12 months. (18.) Cottages are beginning to be improved and new ones built, but very slowly. A substantial cottage with sufficient accommodation cannot be built for less than 100*l.*, and 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* would be considered a high rent for it. This small return for house building is the great obstacle to progress being made in increasing cottage accommodation.

QUESTION 23. Is there an evening school in your parish; and if so, is it taken advantage of?

In answer to this question only four places were mentioned to me in which evening schools were carried on, viz.:—King Edward, in Aberdeenshire; Carmylie and Liff, in Forfarshire; and Banchory Ternan, in Kincardineshire.

QUESTION 25. Please to state the mode of hiring and manner of paying, whether in money or kind, of ordinary agricultural labourers, male and female?

QUESTION 26. What is the average value of the earning for 12 months of an ordinary able-bodied farm labourer?

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ALFORD.

173. *R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq.*—(25.) The mode of hiring agricultural labourers in this parish, both male and female, is at feeing markets, a most objectionable mode, and ought to be abolished by Act of Parliament without delay. Nothing conduces to the immorality of the whole population of the district so much as the attendance at feeing market. The farmers are quite aware of this, and have done all that lies in their power to suppress them, but without effect. Money payments are only recognisable here. (26.) The average value of the earnings for 12 months of an ordinary able-bodied farm labourer, such as a ploughman or cattleman hired by the six months, is 20*l.*, with food, lodging, fire, and light provided by the farmer; other labourers hired when necessary, such as ditchers, dykers, &c., average wages 31*l.*, and find themselves in everything. Consequently I consider our ploughmen, &c. the best paid labourers in the agricultural population in this district, and receive higher wages than their employers can well afford under the distressed state of agricultural produce. For the satisfaction of the Commissioners I annex a memorandum of deposits lying at the credit of some farm servants and labourers in the local banks, the contents of which I can vouch for.

174. Memorandum of Deposits by Farm Servants and Labourers in the parish of Alford, with their probable ages:—

W. J.,	Male,	about	60	years	£154
M. G.,	Female	„	35	„	36
M. F.,	do.	„	38	„	110
I. R.,	Male	„	28	„	48
A. R.,	Female	„	28	„	28
J. P.,	Male	„	80	„	180
C. E.,	Female	„	50	„	140
A. B.,	Male	„	33	„	76
J. R.,	do.	„	45	„	253
C. E.,	Female	„	34	„	30
E. M.,	do.	„	45	„	120
F. L.,	Male	„	35	„	175
G. B.,	do.	„	30	„	118
A. B.,	do.	„	34	„	183
J. M. C.,	do.	„	55	„	295
J. C.,	do.	„	35	„	105
C. G.,	do.	„	40	„	127
J. A.,	do.	„	50	„	289
D. G.,	do.	„	50	„	350
J. P.,	do.	„	35	„	66
R. G.,	do.	„	38	„	83
I. H.,	do.	„	45	„	250
E. E.,	Female	„	50	„	70
A. P.,	Male	„	50	„	130
A. A.,	do.	„	38	„	57
P. B.,	do.	„	32	„	61
E. A.,	Female	„	40	„	98

BIRSE.

175. *Mr. Alexander Milne.*—(25 and 26). The farm servants are hired at the feeing markets in May and November, or else privately, about half each way. The private hiring has been introduced gradually because the farmers like to keep a good man if they have one.

A ploughman receives—

In money, 18*l.* to 24*l.*
6½ bolls meal.
1 Scotch pint of milk a day.

[Shepherds on the hills have 3*d.* a day instead of milk.]

House and garden free, 2*l.*
Wood or peat, 2*l.*

Labourers working by the week have 13*s.* or 14*s.* a week in summer, or 12*s.* in the short days.

When the young men go out to service they do not keep up their education as a general rule. The farmers are not in the habit of reading with them except the elders, who read the Bible every night.

ELLON.

176. *Mr. T. F. Jamieson.*—(25.) Usually hired for six months; but those who have cottages are hired by the year, from Whit Sunday to Whit Sunday; three of my men have cottages, and of these one has a cow kept for him, the two others get, instead of a cow, an allowance of milk, at the rate of 4½ imperial pints per diem; all of them get oatmeal at the rate of 6½ bolls per annum for each man, also a quantity of fuel, consisting partly of coals and partly of peat and turf, and a cartload of potatoes, their cottage and garden; and in addition to these they have part of their wages in money, the average for each of the three being 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; the unmarried men get their board and lodging on the farm, and money at an average of about 21*l.* per annum. Women servants

n hired by the day for hoeing turnips, planting toes, &c., usually get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day without vic- ; frequently they get their dinner at the farm- e and 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 4*d.* besides, going home to r own houses at night. On some large farms it been the practice, during the hoeing of the ips (which are extensively cultivated in this dis-), to engage a few women for some weeks at a , who are boarded at the farmhouse; but where s can be got in the neighbourhood, they generally ome at night. As regards the harvest, the usual ice is to get a number of extra labourers, both and women, who are engaged for the period of est, however long it may last; these labourers supplied with food and lodging at the farm, and n addition a certain sum of money (generally 3*l.* per woman and 3*l.* to 4*l.* per man), according to ement; but no variation is made in regard to the ey, however long or however short the harvest last. On an average it may be reckoned to last weeks. The farmer has to supply food and lodg- and the sum agreed for while the labourer affords abour. It is thus the interest of both parties to the harvest completed as rapidly as possible, be- e the farmer saves the food and the labourer s the time. We have nothing of the nature of English gang-system in this quarter. (26.) 35*l.* he parish of Ellon the following may represent average earnings of a good able-bodied man em- ed at agricultural labour.

st. When boarded in the farmhouse :—

	£
Yearly wages - - - -	21
Board and lodging moderately estimated at - - - - -	15
Total - - -	36

nd. When he is married and has a cottage :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Value of cottage and garden, if any, - - - -	2	10	0
Allowance of oatmeal, 6½ bols. -	6	10	0
Milk, 1,560 imperial pints -	6	10	0
Fuel - - - -	3	0	0
Potatoes - - -	2	0	0
Money - - - -	16	0	0
	36	10	0

An allowance of milk to a married cottager is 1½ ts (Scotch), which is equal to 4½ imperial pints; s for 365 days would be 1,642 pints, but during ter, when milk is scarce, the full allowance cannot ays be got.

Forgue.

177. *R. Simpson, Esq.*—(25.) The farm servants are ed at the feeing markets, labourers by the week, as casion may require. I think it would be well if ing markets could be done away with; but I don't e how this can be done. Fewer female servants e engaged at feeing markets than was formerly ne. (26.) Farm servants, if unmarried, have 20*l.* 24*l.*, and their food and lodging, if married a de- ction of 2*l.* or 3*l.* is made for house and garden; bolls of meal, and 1*s.* 6*d.* a week sap money, is en. Female servants get 4*l.* to 5*l.* for the summer lf year, and about 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* for the winter half ar. Labourers have 13*s.* to 16*s.* a week and no food, d women 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day and two meals.

Huntly.

178. *John Wilson, Esq.*—(25.) Generally by means feeing markets; payments in money. (26.) I ould say 12*s.* a week.

Kincardine O'Neil.

179. *Major Innes.*—(26.) Ploughmen and cattlemen e hired for six months, *i.e.*, for the winter and sum- er half year, and besides their money wages they have board, lodging, and fuel, being generally unmarried men; they live on the farmer's premises, and more or less with his family. Labourers or field workers are generally employed by the hour or day, except for harvest work, when they frequently are engaged for the harvest; but women engaged by farmers for domestic service are generally in summer employed in field or harvest work suitable for them, and are engaged for six months. Ordinary labourers and field workers are generally married men, and their families are paid in money, when at harvest work, however, they have food besides. The wages of ploughmen and cattlemen in this district are about 22*l.* per ann., in money, in addition to board, lodging, and fuel, the value of their food, consisting of oatmeal, potatoes, vegetables, milk, and cheese, is about 10*l.* The average earnings of a married labourer I cannot place above 30*l.* per ann., taking into account the occasional interruption of work in winter; so that there is an obvious advantage in favour of the unmarried farm servant. As a class the unmarried farm servants are well paid and save money. The married labourers, on the contrary, have a severe struggle to maintain their families while their children are young.

Rayne.

180. *W. Leslie, Esq.*—(25.) The farm servants are engaged by the half year at Whitsuntide and Martinmas, and are paid in money (as may be agreed), food in the farm kitchen and lodging. Farm labourers are engaged by week or day, as required. Female out-workers are not engaged by half year in this neighbourhood; they work by the week or day, when required. I think the feeing markets are very objectionable; but I don't see how they can be dispensed with until a general system of registration is established throughout the country. (26.) For horsemen 24*l.* to 19*l.* per ann., with board and lodging; cattlemen 22*l.*, with house and garden, and 6½ bolls of meal. For weekly labourers 15*s.* to 13*s.* 6*d.* for the ten-hour day, and 13*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* for the eight-hour day; 4*l.* with food and lodging for harvest, taking their chance of the time it lasts. For women 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day, and 3*l.* for harvest, with food and lodging, taking the chance of the time.

BANFFSHIRE.

Inveravon.

181. *James Skinner, Esq.*—(25.) The yearly and half-yearly servants are generally engaged at the markets. I don't approve of them at all; I think they are much more demoralising than out-of-door labour; I don't think they are at all necessary; if a system of registry office was established it would be far superior. (26.) For a grieve, from 17*l.* to 34*l.* a year; for ploughman, from 12*l.* to 25*l.* a year. In both cases they have either their board or 6½ bolls of meal and a Scotch pint of milk per day, and house or lodging. I think the board and lodging worth about 13*l.* a year. Grieves sometimes have the keep of a cow instead of milk. A man who works by the day gets 12*s.* to 16*s.* a week; a deduction is made if they don't work the whole day. A woman receives 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day; deduction the same as in the case of men. Day labourers don't receive food.

Mortlach.

182. *Mr. W. Cantlie.*—(25.) A good many are hired at the feeing market, but fewer than was formerly the custom. Many are hired privately. I generally arrange with most of my servants before the feeing market, but they are allowed to go to the market, whether engaged previously or not. (26.) The men servants have 16*l.* to 24*l.* and their board. Women servants 3*l.* in winter, and 5*l.* in summer, with board.

Labourers, male, about 15*s.* a week.
„ female „ 6*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* a week.
For harvest, men have 3*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.*
„ „ women have 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* and board.

Answers to Printed Questions.

Mr. Norman.

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FORFARSHIRE.

183. *Carmylie.*—The land steward, the guynd. (25.) In money, meal and milk. (26.) 40*l.*

Inverarity.

184. *Rev. P. Stevenson.*—(25.) Feeing markets are almost universally in this district the way of engaging all farm servants, except foremen. Payment is partly in money, partly in kind.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
(26.) Money, from -	18	0	0	to	26	0	0
Milk at 4*d.* per day -	6	1	8		6	1	8
Meal, 6½ bolls, at 1*l.* -	6	10	0		6	10	0
House-rent, say -	1	15	0		1	15	0
Potatoes, 4 bolls, at say, 15*s.* - -	3	0	0		3	0	0
	35	6	8	to	43	6	8

Average, 39*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Kinnell.

185. *W. Goodlit, Esq.*—(25.) The married men are hired at Martinmas term, or during the winter, to enter at the following Whitsunday. Engagement, yearly,—part money paid half yearly; remainder in kind. The hiring is usually made at fairs. Registers have also been introduced in various parts of the county. The unmarried men are usually hired at the term by markets,—Martinmas and Whitsunday, and enter immediately. The engagement is generally for a year; sometimes for half a year only. The female workers are engaged by the day or week or month, and are paid monthly; they are usually employed all the year round. In bad weather, when they cannot work out, and when there is no work for them in the barn or within doors, they remain at home, receiving wages only when employed on the farm. The yearly or half-yearly servants get their wages, whether the weather permit work or not.

(26.) Married men's wages—

	£	s.	d.
In money (average) - -	21	0	0
65 stones oatmeal - - -	6	10	0
3 chopins milk daily, worth 6*d.* a day - - - - -	9	2	0
Coals - - - - -	0	12	6
Potato-land (1,000 yds.) planted with their own seed - -	2	0	0
Meat in harvest - - -	1	0	0
	40	4	6

They also get (1) free house and garden; (2) coals and firewood, carted; (3) permission to keep a pig; (4) get straw and litter, and use the dung for garden,—worth say, 4*l.* to 5*l.*

Bothy men's wages.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Money - -	21	0	0	to	24	0	0
Meal, 65 stone -	6	10	0				
3 chopins milk daily, worth 6*d.* a day -	9	2	0				
Meat in harvest -	1	0	0				
	37	12	0	to	40	12	0

They also get—

1. Bothy and bedding kept up, and bed made daily.
2. Firing, coals and wood.
3. Oil for lamps, soap, salt, &c.

} worth, say 7*l.* to 8*l.*

Besides the people regularly employed on the farm throughout the year, extra hands are employed at harvest-work and potato lifting. The extra men employed as bandsters in harvest get from 18*s.* to 20*s.* a week, and meal and milk for four weeks; and the women employed as up-takers get the same money wages, but no meal or milk. At potato lifting they are allowed 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. The women usually employed on the farm get the benefit of these wages during harvest and potato lifting, when of course the ordinary wages are discontinued.

Liff.

186. *Mr. J. Smith.*—(25.) The men servants are generally hired in the market once a year and are partly paid in money and partly in kind. The other labourers, male and female, are engaged by the day and paid wholly in money.

	£	s.
(26.) Money wages - - -	21	10
6½ bolls meal, say - -	6	0
15 gills sweet milk per day -	7	10
House with garden - -	4	0
Potato ground - - -	1	0
	40	0

Newtyle.

187. *A. Whitton, Esq.*—(25.) The mode generally employed for hiring is, I am sorry to state, by hiring markets, and payment is generally made in part money, meal, milk, house, and potatoes or potato ground, the money generally constituting fully half of the wages. I have this year endeavoured to establish a system of monthly engagements, and payments and wages all in money; it is only a beginning, and I can as yet say nothing as to results. (26.) My weekly wages range from 15*s.* to 17*s.*, with free house and garden for able-bodied workmen. Women get 6*s.* weekly, and in harvest 3*d.* to 4*d.* an hour. The wages of ploughmen when engaged by the year are,—

	£	s.
Money, - - 19*l.* to	22	0
Meal, 910 lbs. average, say	6	0
Milk, 1 to 1½ Scotch pints daily. (The Scotch pint equals 12 gills and in some places 16 gills) say - - - -	5	14
House - - -	3	0
Potatoes or ground - -	2	0
35*l.* 14*s.* to	38	14

My system being new, I made up my mind to give the house extra.

Maryton.

188. *C. Lyall, Esq.*—

	£	s.
(26.) Wages, say - -	21	0
Value of meat - -	6	0
Milk - - -	5	0
House or bothy - -	2	12
Coals - - -	0	10
Potatoes - -	2	5
	37	7

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Banchory Ternan.

189. *P. Davidson, Esq.*—(25.) They are generally hired at feeing markets which I object to. I employ 1 regular labourers. I pay them in money without any privileges. The farmers do not generally employ men constantly, the farms in this neighbourhood not being of a size to require it; they employ men only occasionally and they pay in money. (26.) The earnings of my 11 labourers vary from 28*l.* to 38*l.* They are paid from 12*s.* to 16*s.* a week, subject to deductions in case of absence. They are paid once a month. The woman whom I employ regularly earned 13*l.* 6*s.* last year. I do not do any work by the piece. During harvest the men have beer, but no extra money; the women get about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

FETTERCAIRN.

190. *Col. McInroy.*—(25.) Women: a money payment; men: money, oatmeal, and milk. (26.) From 2*l.* to 34*l.*

KINNEFF.

191. *A. Glennie, Esq.*—

	£	s.
In money - - -	20	0
Meal - - -	6	10
Milk (1 pint) - -	5	0
Fire and lodging - -	2	0
	33	10

Married men have about 2*l.* less in money, but their cottages and potato land are more than equivalent to the decrease in the actual money wage.

LAURENCEKIRK.

192. *D. A. Pearson, Esq.* — (25.) Males partly money, and partly kind. The females in money. 26.) 35*l.* to 40*l.*

MORAY.

DRAINIE.

193. *T. Yool, Esq.*—(25.) Labourers living on the farm are paid partly in money and partly in kind; occasional labourers, altogether in money. (26.) About 30*l.*, with house and garden in addition, worth, say 2*l.* 10*s.*

SPEYMOUTH.

194. *J. Geddes, Esq.*—(25.) Married ploughmen are paid partly in money, say 18*l.* a year, and the rest in kind, such as free house, garden, meal, fire, amounting in all to what I conceive would be equal to 13*s.* per week all the season over. Young unmarried ploughmen may receive about 11*s.* all the season over. They are engaged, the former by the year, and the latter by the half year; the first by private engagement and the latter generally at a hiring fair. Grieves on large farms have about 20*s.* a week, and shepherds and cattlemen of 1st class about 16*s.* Boys get from 6*l.* to 8*l.* per annum, with keep; women the same as boys, and are hired by the half year, very frequently at home, but sometimes at a hiring fair. Children are so little employed in agriculture that it is difficult to say what they receive; in potato lifting time mine get from 6*d.* to 8*d.* per day and their dinner.

SPYNIE.

195. *A. Lawson, Esq.*—(25.) The hiring almost always takes place at feeing markets. You often get a man there whom you are not very sure of, and it is desirable that a better system should be adopted; but I don't know how that can be done.

(26.)

	£	s.	d.
In money - - -	20	0	0
6 bolls meal (average) - -	6	0	0
Milk money - - -	1	12	0
House - - - -	2	0	0
560 yards of potatoes - -	1	16	0
	31	8	0

URQUHART.

196. *Rev. G. Ingram.*—(25.) In feeing markets, and for terms of six months (for ordinary hands); wages in money and board. (26.) Certainly, from 40*l.* to 50*l.*

NAIRN.

CAWDOR.

197. *W. Stables, Esq.*—(25 and 26.) Strictly speaking there are no farm labourers in the neighbourhood. except those engaged by the half year; when any extra hands are required, such as in harvest time, the men who the rest of the year are employed by the contractor of the district in trenching and draining, roadmaking, embanking, and the like, hire themselves out by the day or for the harvest; accordingly during harvest time such works, unless they be very pressing, are at a standstill.

MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

FORFARSHIRE.

INVERKEILOR.

Gangs.

198. The *Rev. J. Hay.*—Occasionally a man will undertake to lift potatoes at so much an acre, and provide the hands necessary for doing the work; in that sense only are gangs of labourers at all known hereabouts. Children will compose part of these gangs from eight years of age upwards. Perhaps three-fourths of the number so employed would be children, and the gang would consist altogether of from 15 to 30 individuals. Children so employed don't go far to work. I have known cases of children being sent from town to lift potatoes, the farmers sending carts for them to convey them to the place of work, and again carrying them home at night. I don't think there is any ground of objection to this kind of labour, either as regards the health or comfort of the people. On the contrary, I think it is beneficial.

INVERARITY.

1. *Feeing Markets.*

199. The *Rev. P. Stevenson.*—They are radically and thoroughly bad, in the full sense of the words. Evidence could easily be multiplied about them that would be simply appalling. Young men and young women of all ages meet there in crowds to be hired; they are subject to no control whatever. The master chooses servants from among them on the simple principles of the slave or horse market. In the majority of cases the master knows nothing about the servant, or the servant about the master, or the servants about each other. The best muscles command the highest wages, wholly irrespective of character or antecedent. There are always drinking booths upon the ground; the money that ought to be saved is freely spent, and when the men and women are both well drunk, and when darkness sets in, or even before it, scenes are as common as possible which must be seen to be believed. Without a moment's hesitation, I would most earnestly recommend that bargains made between master and servant at feeing markets should be declared to be unbinding and illegal; or, more simply still, that the holding of markets for feeing purposes be made illegal. I feel that, speaking from knowledge, too strong and too rigorous measures cannot be taken to put a stop to one of the greatest curses to master and servant that can be found in Scottish agricultural life.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Norman.

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2. *Savings' Banks.*

200. My experience of savings' banks is that they are taken advantage of to a considerable extent by the better class of agricultural labourers, but not nearly to the extent—not one-third the extent—to which they might be so.

Insurance is a thing almost never dreamt of in this neighbourhood among ploughmen and women. The parochial board is rapidly becoming the insurance society of the Scottish agricultural labourer.

3. *Crofts.*

201. So far as my opportunities for forming an opinion extend, that opinion is very favourable to the croft system when conducted under certain conditions.

As regards education, I should say that the system is always the best. In general, under it, families grow up to manhood and womanhood in their parents' houses. The crofting parents are moreover the best class of agricultural labourers. In these circumstances, education in all its bearings (of which mere schooling is in many ways not the most important to national prosperity) is likely to be carefully attended to, and as a rule it is so.

As regards illegitimacy, the croft system may be either a very good one or a very bad one. It will be a very bad one if the landlords are non-resident; crofts few in number and their leases short, for their hired labourers are lodged in or about the houses. If on the other hand landlords reside on their properties (too much importance can hardly be given to this) and take an interest in the people, if crofts are numerous and leases given, so that the work is done either by the crofters own family, or with the assistance of permanently resident and well-known neighbours, I know no type whatever of agricultural life so high as that produced by these conditions in the old-fashioned Scottish crofter.

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202. DEAR SIR, Inverarity, 29th April 1870.

I AM sorry that the answers to the questions of the Commissioners lay over longer than I intended. I omitted to say, what has frequently occurred to me, that in face of the unwillingness of landlords to build cottages, and of not unfrequently the unwillingness of farmers to make any exertion, or to be at any outlay to obtain them, it would conduce, in my opinion, to the moral health of the people were a certain amount of cottage accommodation required by law, proportionate to the acreage of each farm. That cursed Poor Law is our first obstacle to cottages being voluntarily built.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

F. H. Norman, Esq. PATK. STEVENSON.

[In order to ascertain the number of persons of different ages employed on different systems of agriculture I distributed a considerable number of schedules among farmers asking for the required information. The following tables give a summary of the answers which were given in those schedules which were returned to me with the answers given in detail.—F.H.N.]

203. TOTALS—SUMMARY OF LABOUR RETURNS.

Extent in acres.			Males employed.				Females employed.					Course of Husbandry.
Arable.	Pasture.	Total.	10–13.	13–18.	Over 18.	Total.	10–13.	13–18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total.	
					Spring.							
3,128	355	3,483	2	4	65	71	3	4	5	29	41	5 Course.*
1,619	1	1,620	4	7	42	53	7	6	7	16	36	6 „
2,083	53	2,136	6	6	42	54	3	1	13	15	32	7 „
4,159	40	4,199	6	18	92	116	2	10	29	29	70	Various.
10,989	449	11,438	18	35	241	294	15	21	54	89	179	Total in Spring.
					Summer.							
Ditto			—	2	73	75	—	3	16	31	50	5 Course.
			—	5	42	47	—	6	9	16	31	6 „
			—	4	42	46	—	2	15	17	34	7 „
			3	23	91	117	—	13	31	33	77	Various.
			3	34	248	285	—	24	71	97	192	Total in Summer.
					Autumn.							
Ditto			—	9	74	83	—	6	8	34	48	5 Course.
			—	11	48	59	4	21	9	17	51	6 „
			8	4	47	59	6	2	19	15	42	7 „
			6	23	97	126	4	21	37	34	96	Various.
			14	47	266	327	14	50	73	100	237	Total in Autumn.
					Winter.							
Ditto			—	2	55	57	—	—	5	22	27	5 Course.
			—	5	42	47	—	3	5	16	24	6 „
			12	2	51	65	8	—	13	20	41	7 „
			—	13	86	99	—	1	19	23	43	Various.
			12	22	234	268	8	4	42	81	135	Total in Winter.

* The rotation of crops adopted in the 5-course system is as follows:—2 years grass, a corn crop, turnips, and another corn crop; the 6-course system consists either of 2 years grass, two corn crops, turnips, and another corn crop, or of 3 years grass, corn, turnips, and corn again; the 7-course consists of 3 years grass, two corn crops, turnips, and another corn crop.

The following tables show the per-centage of persons of different ages employed per 100 acres, on various systems of husbandry in Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

System of Husbandry.	Males employed.			Females employed.			
	10–13.	13–18.	Over 18.	10–13.	13–18.	Over 18.	
						Married.	Unmarried.
Spring.							
Course - - -	·05	·1	1·8	·08	·1	·1	·8
„ - - -	·2	·4	·5	·4	·3	·4	·9
„ - - -	·2	·2	1·9	·1	·04	·6	·7
rious - - -	·1	·4	2·1	·1	·04	·6	·6
Summer.							
Course - - -	—	·05	2·09	—	·08	·4	·8
„ - - -	—	·3	2·5	—	·3	·5	·9
„ - - -	—	·1	1·9	—	·09	·7	·7
rious - - -	·07	·5	2·1	—	·3	·7	·7
Autumn.							
Course - - -	—	·2	2·1	—	·1	·2	·9
„ - - -	—	·6	2·9	·3	1·3	·5	1·04
„ - - -	·3	·1	2·2	·2	·09	·8	·7
rious - - -	·1	·5	2·3	·09	·5	·8	·8
Winter.							
Course - - -	—	·05	·1	—	—	·1	·6
„ - - -	—	·3	2·6	—	·1	·3	·9
„ - - -	·5	·09	2·3	·3	—	·6	·9
rious - - -	—	·3	2·07	—	·02	·4	·5

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Norman.

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EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. CULLEY'S REPORT.

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EVIDENCE.

APPENDIX A.—EVIDENCE FROM THE COUNTY OF PERTH.

I.—EVIDENCE APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

HIGHLAND DISTRICT OF PERTHSHIRE.

1. *Mr. Fletcher N. Menzies*, occupier (Secretary to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland), says :—

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age from March till the middle of November."

"*Girls* are seldom employed under 14 years of age. They are generally employed by the day in hoeing turnips, helping in hay time and harvest, lifting potatoes, and peeling bark."

"*Women* are employed to a considerable extent, but the number of those employed is yearly decreasing, they prefer going south to house service."

"The hours of work are 10 hours."

"Women and children are subject to no ill-treatment; I consider that the work they are engaged in tends to health, and except from an accident, such as falling off a cart or the like, I have not known an instance of any injury."

"I do not think the employment of women in agriculture has any immoral tendency; seductions generally take place at *night preachings*, *night revivals*, and weddings, or at service in farmhouses in the south, where the men live in the kitchen. Women frequently return in the family way from such service."

"I am decidedly of opinion that it would be a great hardship to the labourers to place any restriction on agricultural employment."

Schools, &c.

"We have good parochial schools, and when these are too far off we have private schools. Education is as a rule so eagerly sought after by the parents that I do not see the necessity for any compulsory rules. Children up to 10 or 12 are generally nine months of the year at school and for several years afterwards they work for eight or nine months in summer and go to school for three or four months in winter."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are as a rule a disgrace to the country; dry stone huts filled with smoke. There are plenty of them such as they are, and no immoral results from overcrowding have come under my notice."

"The 'bothy system' does not exist in this district. For 17 years I used it with no evil results, but I do not think the mode of living, viz., on *meal and milk entirely*, is good for the men, I have now a housekeeper who lives in the farmhouse and cooks for them."

"The farm servants live in the farmhouse, sometimes with the farmer's family, sometimes with his female servants, as the case may be. The latter plan is worse than the bothy system."

Gardens, &c.

"Some of the cottages have gardens, and the number of gardens is increasing yearly. The cottagers keep their refuse and ashes, and generally get as much potato land as they can manure in this way. Farm managers are generally allowed the keep of a cow, but rarely other servants."

Improvement of Cottages.

"There is a great desire amongst proprietors and farmers to improve cottages, but there are many hindrances. The interest charged for loans under the Inclosure Commissioners is too high, and they are too particular in details. It will not pay to build cottages under the present system. A labourer connot afford to pay more than 3*l.* for his cottage, and the present cottages to pay must be rented at more than double that sum. If money could be obtained at something under 5 per cent. to be repaid in 40 years, our proprietors and tenants would very quickly arrange to take advantage of it, and our 'black' houses would soon disappear."

Dull	Population	753	2,212.
Fortingall	„	1,244	
Weem	„	215	

These are *Highland parishes* and contain together approximately 90,000 acres, of which 86,000 are pasture (moorland and grass), and 4,000 acres under cultivation.

2. *Sir Robert Menzies, Bart.*, landowner and occupier, says :—

"*Boys* go to act as herds at 12 years old in summer from May till November. In winter they go to school till 16 or 17 years old and then take service.

"*Girls* act occasionally as herds, keeping cattle from the grain crops on unenclosed farms. They do this work at the same age as boys, and get out to service when they can at 16."

"Several women are employed on each farm to do dairy work as well as light out-door work."

"*The hours of work* are in summer 10 hours, *i.e.* from 7 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. with one or two hours' rest. In winter the working hours are sometimes reduced to six or seven, say between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Harvest hours depend on the weather, they frequently begin earlier and go on later."

"I employed a number of boys and girls, some of them quite young, to help in planting trees for six weeks during last spring, and their health was greatly improved by the process."

"I see no objection to the employment of females in agriculture. Speaking relatively, I think the wages they receive are lower than those paid to men as measured by the work they do. The lighter and easier work is that recognised as women's work, and there is never any difficulty on the subject. I cannot therefore see any necessity for interfering with the present arrangement. The immorality of Scotland is not occasioned by agricultural employment, but proceeds from the laziness of the clergymen in not doing their duty in inculcating and preserving good morals, and promoting a better tone among the labouring classes."

"There are sufficient schools, and they are well attended, especially in winter."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

Cottages.

"Some are good, some indifferent, and some bad. It does not pay a proprietor to build good cottages as a labourer will not pay an adequate rent."

"I have *bothies* on two farms in my own hands, and I think it is much the best way of lodging and feeding unmarried men. Bothies are blamed for the clergymen's neglect of duty."

"On small farms, hired labourers are fed at the same table as the farmer's family, and sleep in a bothy; on larger farms these men eat and sleep in the bothy."

Inclosure Commissioners Loans.

"The high rate of interest charged in the form of a rentcharge for money borrowed for cottage building under sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners compared with the rent which a labourer can pay, makes the Act referred to useless as intended to confer any benefit on the labouring classes. Any means of reducing the rentcharge and of enabling proprietors to build such cottages as their labourers could live in would be a great boon."

"Owing to the high rate of wages charged by masons and other tradesmen, and the long carriage of materials, as well as to the very expensive character of the buildings insisted upon by the Inclosure Commissioners, it is not possible to build a cottage in this district, which they will pass under 200*l.* The rentcharge on that sum amounts to 13*l.* 10*s.*, which is far beyond the rent a labourer at 15*s.* a week can pay, even if he has a garden for nothing."

	Population.	Acreage.	
Blair-Athole	1,553	182,670	Highland district.
Blairgowrie	4,423	15,544	
Caputh	1,728	20,360	
Clunie	699	11,678	
Logierait	1,902	—	
Moulin	1,605	—	

3. *Mr. Robert Elliot*, occupier, says:

"The cultivation is chiefly pastoral. The arable land is generally cultivated in six-course rotation, *i.e.*,—

1st. Oats.
2nd. Turnips and potatoes.
3rd. Barley, wheat or oats.
4th. First years' grass cut or pastured.
5th. } Pasture.
6th. }

Sometimes the grass is allowed to lie only two years instead of three.

"My farm extends over fully 20,000 acres of grazing land and 500 acres of arable land. The grazing land is chiefly occupied by sheep, with perhaps 250 cattle."

As to Employment in Agriculture.

"1st. Boys are employed from 10 to 16 years of age, in spring, summer, and winter."

"2nd. Girls from 10 to 16 are also employed: In spring, in gathering stones and weeds; in summer, in hoeing and cleaning green crops; in harvest, in putting the corn into sheaves behind the reaping machine; and in winter, chiefly in the barn."

"3rd. On my farm six or eight women are occasionally employed in winter. In spring, summer, and harvest as well as after harvest in pulling and storing turnips and raising potatoes. I employ from 10 to 18."

"4th. Women and children rarely come above a mile to their work. If the distance is much over a mile carts are sent to bring them in the morning and take them home at night. The great majority live on the farms upon which they work."

"5th. In summer and harvest they work 10 hours aday, and as the days shorten and become colder, on the average eight hours, the shortest being from seven hours to seven hours and a half. Men, women, and children all work the same number of hours, but there are few women and almost no children in winter."

"6th. There is no ill-treatment whatever, they are strong and healthy, as a rule, and I see no other labourers more happy and contented than the agricultural labourers in this district, and, after very many years' experience, I have never seen the nature of their work expose them to any physical injury whatever."

"7th. I have farmed in Roxburghshire, extensively in Dumfriesshire, and now in Perthshire, and I never saw any evil effect arise from the employment of females in agriculture on their morals, or on their proper training for domestic duties. In all my experience I have found them, as a body, civil, willing, and ready to turn their hands to anything, to in-door work as domestic servants whenever required to do so. For many years a great number of my domestic servants have been selected from female field workers, and there need be no better servants than they invariably turned out; there is something wrong in the individual establishment where it is otherwise; in this house they have always been preferred to town-bred servants."

"8th. To restrict the employment of females or children in agriculture in any way in this district, or anywhere where I have occupied land in Scotland would, I consider, be a most injudicious step, hurtful and injurious alike to the employed and the employer, and most uncalled for. The children work in summer and harvest, and go to school all winter and early spring. I know of no child, boy or girl, in this neighbourhood above 5 or 6 years old who does not attend school in winter, a sufficient length of time to give them a fair education. All my people are good scholars, as far as writing, reading, and arithmetic are concerned, not one exception that I know of above 15 years of age. It was the same in Roxburghshire and Dumfriesshire. Compulsory acts should be avoided in all such matters."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

"13th. The condition of the cottages in this neighbourhood, and in the different parishes in which I occupy land, is in general fair, there are exceptions but by no means much to complain of; the number, on the whole, is nearly sufficient for the supply of labour required, perhaps a shade under. On my arable farm I am deficient, but am not far from a small village. In general the cottages are conveniently situated, there may be a few exceptions, but not many. I know of no overcrowded cottages in this quarter, consequently of no evils arising from it; the whole population is quiet, civil, and well-conditioned."

"14th. The bothy system exists in this district, in a limited degree, and I have only to remark that when I came here from Dumfriesshire I was impressed with the belief that the system was a bad one; I was urged to try it, I did so, with reluctance, but after 14 years' experience I must say I have changed my mind. I have had many years' experience of young men getting their food in the farm kitchen along with the female servants, fully 30 years, and have now for 14 years had experience of the bothy for men (we have no bothy for females here), and I much prefer the bothy for men to the mixed system, when a bothy is attended to and properly conducted. In days now gone by, when the farmer presided in the kitchen and took his food with his servants, the establishment was often well conducted; the farmer and his family now live apart and take their food apart from the servants.

"I much prefer the bothy system to male and female servants living together in a farm kitchen without any superintending head. In my own bothy, not a large one, four or five young men in it, I have found them all well conducted, quiet and orderly; they generally read periodicals and newspapers, write their letters, &c., and although within 50 yards of my sitting-room window I never heard any noises or symptoms of irregularity proceed from it. To make sure that I was right in that, I put the

question to my farm steward, and his answer at this moment is, 'I think the bothy for men much better than lodging in the farm kitchen, as they can read and write with nothing to disturb them.' My steward is from Dumfriesshire, and was accustomed to farm servants lodging in farm kitchens. Bothies should be properly attended to. A respectable female should attend to the charring of the place, to the beds, and general wants of the men. There is one model bothy in this district. Married men, however, should always have cottages with their own fireside to sit at; it is only for unmarried men that I recommend bothies."

"15th. I know no mode of lodging farm servants in this district which acts injuriously on education or morals; as I have stated above, I think the district moral and well educated."

"16. Every cottage in this district, as far as I know, has a garden attached, and many have small allotments of land conveniently situated, for which they pay rent. On my own farm I have fully 20 cottages, to all of which gardens are attached, and the shepherds have in addition allotments of land as part wage."

"17th. Most of the cottagers or married servants have sufficient ground to supply them with potatoes, and many have allotments of land sufficient for the keep of a cow, supplemented perhaps in winter by the purchase of a few turnips, straw, or hay, but few of the arable farmers give a cow's keep to their workmen, perhaps none in this district, with the exception of myself. On most of the hill farms, the shepherds have cows kept; on some of the larger farms, such as my own, many of them have two each. So far as my own opinion goes, I consider there is nothing so conducive to the comfort and contentment of a farm labourer or shepherd with a wife and family as a comfortable cottage with a good moderate sized garden attached, provided the keep of a cow is allowed along with these. During the whole of my farming life I have advocated this, and in Dumfriesshire gave all my married men a cow's keep, while here I have generally 25 cows, which I keep for shepherds, ploughmen, labourers, and others, and I am satisfied nothing assists more in making an agricultural population contented. For 33 years I have scarcely had the change of a servant, excepting from death, when the son generally succeeded, or when changing from one county to another, and even then some of them followed me; and I in great part account for this from the keep of a cow being allowed, and fair attention paid to the state of the cottages."

"18th. There is no great deficiency in cottage accommodation in this district, it is not falling off, but no great change any way. A number of new ones are springing up, much better in every way than the old ones; but, on the other hand, there are many old ones gradually becoming worse."

Loans under Inclosure Commissioners.

"19th. I have few remarks to make upon the Act mentioned; if cottages cannot be erected without money being obtained from the Inclosure Commissioners, and cottages be required, I would say in that case by all means let money be got from them for the purpose, on their own terms; but I have always considered the cottages erected by the Commissioners expensive, plans expensive, and the cost of erection expensive also, but I cannot suggest any method of reducing this cost; all public ways of expending money are expensive that I ever knew, I would therefore, were I a landed proprietor, erect the cottages necessary at my own cost and on my own plan were I able to do so. There is no greater mistake than that of building too expensive cottages for farm labourers; their wages in general are not high, and they cannot furnish or keep them properly; at the same time the interest on the money expended must be taken into account and be considered as part of the wage, and if this be too high in proportion to the wage the labourer is injured, discontent arises in consequence, and the increase of cottages is retarded."

CARSE OF GOWRIE.

4. *Mr. John Forsyth*, colporteur, says:

"It is my opinion that out-door workers generally make bad housewives. I find them rough, coarse, vulgar, profane, not so gentle with their children as those who do not work out; they care very little for the education of their children."

"In some places the cottage accommodation is not sufficient for the labour. I think very many of the cottages are too small either for health or morals."

"All unmarried men are lodged in the bothy. There has been great improvement made in some of the bothies in the Carse; they have one common room for meals, and each man has his own bedroom—this was not the case a few years ago. Lord Kinnaird has done a great deal for the comfort and instruction of the young men."

"If all masters were to take an interest in their servants, the bothy might be a very comfortable home for a young unmarried man."

"I know of no cottage without a small garden conveniently situated for its use."

"Very few servants have the keep of a cow allowed; some masters will not allow their servants to keep a pig; some give potato ground at a fixed rent per pole."

II.—PARISH EVIDENCE.

ABERNYTE.

Population, 310. - Acreage, 2,533.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

5. *The Rev. R. Leitch* says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from about eight years of age from about the 1st of April till the 22nd of November in light field work, such as picking up weeds and stones in preparation for potato and turnip crops."

"Almost all reside on the farms in which they work."

"I am not aware of any ill treatment."

"I consider field work as decidedly injurious to the morals of females. It makes women coarse and rude in manners, and increases illegitimacy."

"I cannot recommend any restriction as to the employment of females of mature age, but I would strongly recommend that no child under 14 should be employed in agriculture unless such child gave six months' regular attendance at school, or had a certificate from some inspector or examining board of possessing a certain amount of information."

"I think the print works mode, namely, school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months if the children were 11 or 12 years old, would do.

"The *means of education* are the parochial school, and an evening class taught by parochial teachers. These are generally taken advantage of, but early labour is the bane and Printworks Act the antidote."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

s.

"Two or three families now and then are careless and thriftless."

"*The cottages* here are good and sufficient in number for the supply of labour required."

"*The bothy system* prevails here to some extent for unmarried men and youths. Where bothies are large every two men should have a separate sleeping room. I think the objection to bothies applies equally to the 'bondage' system in Berwickshire, where a married ploughman has to hire an unmarried woman into his house."

"All cottages here have gardens."

"A cow is allowed to grieves, sometimes to shepherds, rarely to others; almost all labourers have potato ground as well as their gardens."

"During four months in the year there is an *evening class* for the benefit of ploughmen. The class is pretty well attended, but, as is generally the case, the most ignorant are the most careless. Childhood is the only season for laying the foundation of an education that can or will be built upon."

6. *The Rev. Joseph Wilson*, Free Church minister, says:

"*Boys* are employed in agriculture from the age of 10, and from March to November."

"*Girls* are employed in agriculture from the age of 10 and upwards in thinning turnips, cleaning fields of weeds and stones, and in lifting potatoes and turnips."

"The women and children employed reside on the farms generally."

"Women and children are subject to no ill-treatment."

"I think the employment of females in agriculture has no connection with domestic duties, and, as a rule, females so employed are not well qualified for such duties. Field work is not in itself unfavourable to morals, but the language employed while at work has often a corrupting influence."

"At certain seasons of the year females and children cannot be dispensed with, unless we cure one evil by creating another by bringing labourers into the district to live together in bothies."

Application of Factory Act principles.

"The plan of school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months would, I think, suit if strictly enforced. The other modes would not work in a rural district."

"Sufficient means of *education* are provided in the parish, but the parents do not send their children to school till late in winter and take them away early in spring; this is often caused by removals in November, so that children are taken from one school and not for a time sent to another."

"The *cottages* in this parish are very much improved, and are still improving. They are not often overcrowded; we have abundant cottage accommodation."

"Bothies do exist in this parish. I deem them very hurtful to morality, but under the circumstances do not see how they can be dispensed with."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

Evening Schools.

"Lord Kinnaird employs a teacher for two evenings in the week during winter, but the attendance is not what we might expect."

7. *Mr. Alexander Tweedie*, teacher of parochial school, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from eight years of age upwards from April to the middle of November."

"Nearly all the ploughmen's *wives and daughters* are employed."

"Labourers seldom go more than one mile to their work."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"I think females employed in agriculture generally know very little about domestic duties, and I believe that in few cases is their employment any pecuniary benefit to their families."

"I think *some restriction* should be placed on the employment of children in agriculture. There being very little field-work for children from the middle of November till April, every child from, say, 10 to 14 years of age should be compelled to attend school from the end of November till the end of March. They might then be required to pass successfully some sort of examination, and a certificate could be given them which would serve till the following November. No child should be employed under 10 years of age. The half-time system, either by half days or alternate whole days is quite unworkable in an agricultural district, and I know from many teachers of schools where the half-time system is in force, that in many cases it is a positive evil. The children frequently make up their school attendance at an evening class, when being wearied with the day's work they are able to do nothing but sleep."

"Our parish school is generally well attended; cases of non-attendance arise from the carelessness of parents."

"During the winter months we have an evening class, supported by Lord Kinnaird, at which the attendance is fair."

AUCHTERARDER.

Population, 4,208.

8. *Mr. George Richmond*, landowner and occupier, says:

"Boys and girls are employed from 12 years of age at all seasons when required, but generally in summer and autumn."

"All live near their work."

"*The hours of work* are for men 11 hours; for women and children 10 hours."

"Women and children are subject to no ill-treatment."

"I do not think that any restriction on the employment of women or children is necessary."

"The *cottages* are generally good, and are yearly improving."

"The 'bothy system' exists here with no worse effect, I think, to morality than any other system of lodging farm servants."

AUCHTERGAVEN.

Population, 2,562. - Acreage, 13,004.

9. *Mr. Thomas Wylie*, landowner and occupier, says:

The cultivation of the parish is chiefly arable; some of the high portions mixed; generally well farmed.

"*Boys* are employed from April to November."

"There are a good many *little girls* employed on small farms, as cattle herds in summer."

"A great many *women* are employed in summer in singling turnips, cleaning potatoes, making hay, and thrashing."

"Some of the women and children live on the farms; others have sometimes two or three miles to go to work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"Women and children are subject to *no ill-treatment* that I am aware of."

"I do not think the morals of females are injured by employment in agriculture, but it is not good training for domestic service."

"I can see no good reason for placing any restriction on the employment of women and children."

"There are plenty of good *schools* in this district, and they are well attended during the winter months; this I consider is the only way children employed in agriculture can receive education."

"*The bothy system* prevails on most of the large farms, and in some cases I fear they are not well conducted."

"Nearly all the cottages have *gardens;* there are *very few allotments of land* occupied by labourers."

: few farm servants are allowed the *keep of a potato ground* is very rarely given."

letter accompanying the circular, Mr. Wylie e following observations :—

n peculiarly situated as to labour, having a f about 800 inhabitants on my own ground, have no difficulty in getting any amount of s without entering into any specific engage- th them. I have 12 ploughmen, three cattle- l two boys (who look after milk cows, young d colts in the courts), all hired by the year. dairymaid hired by the year. I have gene- oughout the year six or eight men employed ng ditches, draining, trenching, and spreading ing dung, turning dung, haymaking, binding est, &c. I generally employ about the same of women, 12 to 14, some married and some who assist in haymaking and harvesting, pull pick up stones, spread dung, hoe potatoes, rnips, attend the thrashing mill, and do any rm work for which they are able. In turnip time I have often from 50 to 60, some of ung, who seem none the worse for their work, equires very little strength. During all these ns, all hands work 10 hours. The above to a farm of 900 acres arable."

ve three bothies with two men in each ; all t (nine) of the annual servants are married l have houses in the village. Most of them pig, and I give them ground to plant potatoes

School attendance.

the children employed in agriculture, the roportion attend school during the winter and months, leaving when the turnip thinning and not going back till the lifting of the s and storing of the turnips has been got . On the whole I think education in its nest branches is by no means neglected. The t hindrances to it are, that mothers keep some children who should be at school to assist in se, and that there is an inability on the part y to want the small wages, say 6*d.* to 8*d.* a d to young children."

Small holdings.

ere are very few holdings occupied by agricul- bourers in this district, nor do I think they are h service where held, as they are seldom well- t, from the difficulty of getting horse-work n them in good season. All horses are busy at e they most want them."

Mr. McDuff's farm.—There are four cottages on m let with the farm ; two of these are occupied ried labourers, and two are let to families who woman worker (rent of cottage and garden 4*l.*). s the two married men there are four single ree of whom live in a bothy consisting of one with two beds in it. Three of the cottages een recently built; have three small rooms living room all on ground-floor. Four or men are regularly employed on the farm, all ied. The two married women only work in

CAPUTH.

pulation, 1,728. - Acreage, 20,360.

The Rev. Theodore Marshall says :

ys from 10 to 14 years of age work from to October, above 14 they are generally d as regular servants."

good many *girls* over 12 years of age are ed in light farm work."

ost of the unmarried *women* work out."

bourers go from one to three miles to their

do not think females are subject to any *ill- ent*, but many are prematurely exhausted by ork and exposure."

"There can be no doubt that the effect of young men and young women working much in the fields together is hurtful to morality, and women who have been any time at farm work seldom make good house servants."

"I am informed by those who know the district that women are becoming unwilling to engage themselves for farm work, and that, therefore, no restriction as to their employment is necessary. I think the employment of children should be restricted."

Education.

"I am of opinion that unless education is made compulsory some plan ought to be adopted to prevent children being too soon removed from school, as the evil (too early removal of children) is yearly becoming worse. The simplest plan which occurs to me would be that children under 11 ought not to be employed at all, except in vacation time ; between 11 and 14 or 15 they should be required to attend school six or eight months every year. I do not think farmers should be permitted to employ a boy under 14 in summer who has not attended school during winter, nor to engage a boy over 14 who has not been at school for the preceding four or five winters. If this was made a rule parents would soon see it to be their interest to keep their children at school, and farmers would see that children on their farms attended school regularly. Provision might be made that a child who has attended school summer and winter might be allowed to engage for farm work somewhat sooner, and of course there are many exceptional cases to be provided for."

"There are *five schools* in the parish, and several near it, which are well taken advantage of. The Kirk Session assists poor people with large families to educate their children. Of course poverty is made an excuse by some parents for not sending their children to school, but in most cases where the parents are willing assistance will be given them. It is often necessary, on account of delicacy of a parent, to keep a child at home to assist in house work."

"*The cottage accommodation* is not very good. It is sufficient for the population, but the cottages are not conveniently situated for farm servants. There are many farms without a cottage at all, and many others with only one where several would be required. The result is that most of the farm servants are unmarried, and the bothy system is almost universal. Most of the cottages have two rooms, a good many have an attic besides. There can be no doubt that one cause of the immorality of the county has proceeded from deficiency of accommodation, overcrowding necessarily implies a great amount of indecent exposure or want of cleanliness."

"There can be no doubt that the '*bothy system*' is most hurtful to morality, a very great amount of illegitimacy is the result. In some parts of the parish the evil is being gradually remedied by the erection of cottages on the farms. I am sure it would be most beneficial were good cottages on the farms multiplied, as in that case many more of the farm servants would marry, and would receive the unmarried servants as lodgers, and thus obviate the necessity for bothies."

"The cottages in general have gardens. In two of the villages in this parish many cottagers *keep cows*."

COLLACE.

Population, 534. - Acreage, 2,933.
Cultivation, mixed.

12. *Mr. W. Henderson*, occupier, says :

"*Boys and Girls* are employed from 10 to 15 years of age in planting potatoes and thinning turnips in spring, in lifting potatoes and storing turnips in autumn."

"*Women* are employed more extensively than children ; besides the above occupations they are employed in mill work and during harvest."

"Labourers have distances varying from 100 yards to two miles to go to their work."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

8.

"Men work 10 hours a day in summer and eight hours in winter, besides attending to their horses."

"Women and children work nine hours a day in summer and seven hours in autumn and winter."

"Females and children are subject to no *ill-treatment*."

"The *cottages* here are not good and are insufficient in number."

"Most of our men live in *bothies*. Some married men have cottages. The 'bothy system' is adverse both to education and morals."

"No progress is being made towards increasing deficient cottage accommodation."

"All cottages have *gardens*."

"Generally the grieve and sometimes the shepherd has the use of a cow. If potato ground is not given married men get a ton of potatoes."

DRON.

Population, 376. - Acreage, 4,192.
Cultivation, mixed.

13. *Mr. John Richmond*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are *occasionally* employed from 10 to 14 years of age, and *regularly* after 14."

"*Girls* are *occasionally* employed in turnip hoeing and up to 16, when they begin to be regularly employed."

"Married women all work during harvest and some of them do light work at other times of the year."

"Labourers generally live on or near the farms. In harvest we get women from a distance and lodge them on the farm."

"Men, women, and children work from nine to 10 hours a day."

"I do not think farm labour compares unfavourably with other employment as to its effect on morals or the training of women for their ordinary domestic duties."

"I think *education ought to be* compulsory. Our system only fails from want of pressure on careless parents."

"Some farms are well supplied with cottages, others indifferently."

"Bothies for male servants exist here, and I do not think them injurious."

Cottage building loans.

"I think the time over which the rentcharge extends for repaying loans sanctioned by the Inclosure Commissioners should be extended so as to reduce the annual payment."

DUNBARNEY.

Population, 1,035. - Acreage, 4,136.

14. *Mr. John Grant*, landowner, says:

"My opinion is that there is no necessity for meddling with the condition of the rural working population in Scotland."

"As to bothies they are only for the unmarried ploughmen. Married farm servants always have a cottage and generally a small garden, and farmers do not like to take farms without such accommodation."

"You may put as many rooms in cottages as you like, but as long as their occupants can afford but one fire they will huddle round it and leave the other rooms empty, unless they can let them."

"Many people have taken advantage of *loans sanctioned by the Inclosure Commissioners* for drainage, but none that I am aware of for cottage building probably on account of the heavy charge."

ERROL.

Population, 2,759. - Acreage, 11,754.

15. *The Rev. Jas. Grierson, D.D.*, Free Church minister, says:

"The cultivation is chiefly arable."

"*Boys* are employed at or above 10 years of age, and those who are not mere herds of cattle are employed in spring and harvest in planting and taking up potatoes."

"*Girls* are employed at the same age, and in same way as boys."

"*Women* are employed to a considerable ext the same way as boys and girls, and sometim addition they spread manure, hoe potatoes and tur gather weeds, and reap in harvest."

"Women and children seldom go more tha miles to their work, generally under a mile."

"Women and children are subject to *no ill-t ment*."

"I think some of the employments of femal agriculture have an unfavourable effect on morals and on their proper training for dom duties."

"I do not think any restriction is necessary o employment of females, especially when femal ployment of any other kind is so difficult to get."

"*The cottages* are insufficient in number fo supply of labour. They are conveniently sitt with respect to the farmers. They have not suffi compartments for retirement and propriety."

"I think the '*bothy system*' is decidedly h in its influence both on education and morals where it is indispensible, the arrangements migh made much less objectionable."

"All modes of lodging farm servants are inju which do not place them under the restraints proprieties of family life."

"Free labourers work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; servants from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and women children, in harvest, from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m.

16. *Mr. John Murray Drummond*, landowner,

"*Boys* are not employed on the farm before are 13 years of age, and then only to do light wo

"*Girls* never begin to work on a farm before are from 12 to 14 years of age. They are emp mostly in summer in cleaning potatoes, singling nips, and assisting in harvest work."

"There are a good many *women* employed d the summer in planting and cleaning the green and in harvest work, and also in assisting to gath the root crops in autumn."

"Labourers generally reside on or near the fa on an average they have not half a mile to work."

"*Men*, including the attendance they give horses, work 10½ hours a day in summer and hours in winter."

"*Women* work nine hours a day in summe seven hours a day in winter, when they go out, is seldom."

"Women, whether young or grown up, are su to *no ill-treatment*, nor can their work expo subject them to any physical injury, as the engaged in is very light. It is often benefici young women between the ages of 13 and 16 to out of doors."

"I do not think *any restriction* on female labo necessary."

"Our labouring classes are quite willing to themselves of the advantages of schools without forced."

"There are three schools here; one under parish church, one under the free church, and a s for girls,"

"The *cottages* on my estate are good and venient; they are conveniently situated with re to the farms."

"The good or evil of the '*bothy system*' dep much, in my opinion, on the supervision of the fa and his management."

"In almost all cases the cottages have *gardens*

"All married men have a cottage and pa besides a daily supply of milk and meal, and the generally plant what potatoes they please on the at a nominal rent."

"Individually I do not find Government ai cottage building a benefit."

17. *Mr. David Hindshaw*, Congregational sc master, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 14 years of ag

s are employed from 14 years of age in hoeing
ing ground."
wives and daughters of farm labourers are
employed."
e is no ill-treatment."
ale workers often become rude and un-
in manner, and I think some restriction
desirable if such a thing were practicable."

Educational restrictions.

ink a modification of the Printworks Act
e used with advantage; the other Factory
es are quite impracticable here. We have
l, free, and female industrial schools here, of
ie children of agricultural labourers take
e. Cases of non-attendance are often attri-
o the indifference of parents."

Mr. Robert Just, occupier, says:

s and girls are employed from 12 to 15 years
field work, such as hoeing and lifting turnips
toes."
ny ordinary staff I have two married women,
employed as outworkers, for about seven
n the year. In the summer months I require
erable increase for cleaning turnips and pota-
other green crops."
arvest I have always used the hand sickle
ely, and I generally employ about 50 hands
or four weeks, about 30 of these are women
s. [Note. This is on a farm of 223 acres, of
20 are arable.] This is I believe considerably
average of carse farms, as many of my neigh-
ork upon a different principle."
nen and children work from 9½ to 10 hours."
re is no ill-treatment."
re are still a number of deficient *cottages* and
n this district, not in my opinion calculated
ve the moral condition of the labourers. Of
ch has been done to improve the bothies,
wing to the exertions and example of the
onble. Lord Kinnaird. Bothies are now being
into compartments by which every man can
own bedroom, and this, I think, is of great
proving the moral condition of the men."
ing the winter months an *evening school* for
ghmen is opened throughout the Carse of
by Lord Kinnaird, at his own expense, and
ely taken advantage of."

Mr. R. Clark, occupier, says:

s and girls are employed from 10 to 15 years
in light field work, chiefly in summer and
"
men are employed to nearly the same extent
."
nen and children have on an average half a
go to their work."
ghmen work with their horses for 10 hours,
n 7 to 12 and 2 to 7; they have besides from
wo hours' grooming and feeding their horses.
r only one hour's rest is given at dinner time.
and children work from 7 to 12 and 2 to 7,
aylight permits; after harvest they begin
8 o'clock instead of 7."
ales or children are subject to *no ill-treat-*
I do not know any healthier class than farm
."
uld certainly not recommend any restriction
employment of females or children in agricul-
would act very much against both employers
loyed."
cottages in general are not good, nor on my
ficient for a supply of labour. The village of
joins. Good farm cottages are much wanted."
ng men are chiefly lodged in *bothies*. No bad
an arise from this system, when there is a good
h some authority to look after the bothy."
my cottages have *gardens*."
common for a grieve to have a cow, and also
ried men to have potato ground in addition
gardens."

"I have 26 men over 18 years of age, of whom 10 are married."

"It is difficult to give a full return of the labourers employed. The men given are all grown-up men, chiefly working with horses. The female return includes hoers, reapers, potato gatherers, &c.; part of these may be boys or men, as reaping is generally done by the thrave. During harvest and potato setting I employ about 100 extra hands. Reaping machines have come in within the last three or four years." [Note: This applies to 710 acres of carse land.]

20. *Mr. Andrew Constable*, occupier, says:

"*Men, women, and children* work 10 hours a day in summer, and from 6 o'clock to sunset in winter, with 2½ hours in summer and 1½ in winter for breakfast and dinner."

"*The condition of some of the cottages* would admit of improvement; they are generally sufficient in number for the supply of labour, and conveniently situated, but deficient in arrangement for the proper division of the sexes. However, I think that landlords are more alive to the necessity of this being rectified, seeing that the burden of the evils resulting from such indiscriminate mixings must eventually fall upon them, and are giving increased accommodation when new cottages are required."

"We have the 'bothy system' for unmarried ploughmen."

"I may state that the unmarried men are much given to change, seldom remaining on the same farm beyond one year, and even married men will remove for a gain, nominal or real, of 10*s.* or 15*s.* in their conditions, overlooking their loss by damage to furniture, and should the day be wet (which is very probable at Martinmas), damage also to the health of their families."

"There are *free winter evening classes* for ploughmen once a week, held at six different stations in this parish. They are not in my opinion as much prized as they should be by the class they are intended to benefit." [Note: These are Lord Kinnaird's classes. —G. C.]

21. [Note: On the day I visited Mr. Constable's farm (Feb. 19th) he had six Irish women from Perth, dressing potatoes at 1*s.* a day, walking backwards and forwards eight miles each way, and yet Mr. Constable had four empty cottages on his farm which he was willing to let at 40*s.* a year. Mr. Constable says that wheat costs 16*s.* an acre to shear and tie up in the carse, and that he has paid 17*s.* 6*d.* when cutting is done by the thrave;—a thrave means 28 sheaves of 34 inches round the band.]

22. *John Kempe* (a labourer 66 years of age), says:

"I have worked in the Carse (Gowrie) all my days. It was a hard place for men 30 years ago, but they do less work now and get more pay—10*l.* a year more nor we did, and they're no better off."

"The men are no near so strong as they used to be, with all their wages. They buy tea and white bread and fine clothes, and dinna stick to the meal and milk. They have ploughman now would hardly have been sent to look after the cattle in my day. Some of their ploughman can hardly toom their pokes" (empty their corn sacks off their backs).

"As for women's work, its no verra gude for a hantle (number) o' they. The women's no strong either now. I dinna ken for their morals being better or waur" (worse).

23. *Labourer's wife* (who formerly worked out):

"Married women like fine to work out when they can win (get), but I don't think farm work profits them much. I think the harm to their morals only comes to them that seek it. A good deal depends on the man that overlooks the women."

Notes on Cottages in Errol parish.

24. Visited nine cottages as they came with Dr. Wylie, three in a line on Errol estate having one room (boarded over from wall plates) divided into two by box beds, space behind the beds very small and used

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

s.

to keep meal, potatoes, and coals. These cottages very cold from want of stuffing and plastering on wall plate below thatch. These cottages have mud floors very much worn.

There are a good many cottages in the parish with thick mud walls, said to be warm in winter and cool in summer. Some of Lord Kinnaird's cottages have three small rooms, besides living room, on ground floor, all these very small, and people seem to prefer the old "but and ben." Several cottages newly done up, and floors laid with quarls or bricks. Very few outoffices to be seen. Several old cottages in this parish formerly held with crofts by handloom weavers now vacant. A good many Irish settled in Errol village, who do the light farm work in busy seasons."

Fortingal (Highland Parish).

Population, 1,244.

25. *The Hon. G. Elphinstone*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* of about 14 years of age are employed, but only in spring and harvest time.

"*Girls* from about 15 years of age are employed in spring and harvest time.

"*Women* are employed in the same manner as girls.

"All work 10 hours per day.

"No *boys* ought to work under 13 years of age, except on day wages.

"Females should only be employed on farms where proper accommodation is afforded for their separate use.

"There is an excellent parish school, which is fully taken advantage of, early labour in no way interfering with education.

"On this farm, which includes 85 acres of arable land and 4,500 acres of hill pasture, I have no cottage. I have no proper place to accommodate servants, and what little room I have is overcrowded."

26. *Duncan McPherson*, shepherd:

"We have 10 shepherds on this farm (Lady Menzies'); eight of them are unmarried. Married shepherds don't suit very well, as they may be sent away wintering sheep. We have one married man about 14 miles out, and another five. When such men's children get up to 9 or 10 years old they send them down to board near some school. Lady Menzies takes one boy of the farthest out man and puts him to school in winter. He does herding in summer. [Note. This is a school supported by Lady Menzies.] When they come down to school they remain till they can read and write. There are still a few shepherds, but not many, unable to read or write. There are a few shepherds from Lochaber in this district who are Roman Catholics, but I never heard of their objecting to send their children to the nearest school. They are glad to get them educated any way. There's no mistake about it, they all get their children the best education they can. At Loch Treag the shepherds and gamekeepers put up a school and supported it themselves."

Crofters.

27. Note: There are two villages of crofters on Loch Rannoch. One on the north side at Killichounan, where 20 families hold a cottage and three to five acres of land to cultivate, and a right of hill pasturage for a horse and cow from Sir Robert Menzies. For cottage, croft, and grazing right they each pay 5*l.* a year.

The other village is at Camachounan on the south side of the lake, where 10 crofters hold each a cottage and four acres of land, with a right of 'suming' on adjoining hill land, (a 'sume' proper is the right of pasturing one horse, or two cows, or 10 ewes and followers. These crofters have each a right of pasturing three times these quantities, and of changing the character of the stock as they think proper. They keep a common shepherd, and frequent disagreements arise amongst them as to the quantity and keep of their stock, which, if all sheep, would amount to perhaps 30 ewes and 40 followers (sold at two y old) to each man. The 'sumers' pay a yearly of 9*l.* to 12*l.* for cottage, croft, and pasturage.

There have been improvements to cottages o Robert Menzies', Lady Menzies', and other estate the bulk of the cottages I visited are very poor, in the same pattern, one long room open to the roo which is polished black by peat smoke, dry rubble dashed inside with lime or mud, and a big chimney. The long room is divided by box beds the interiors are wonderfully clean. The Ra crofters are by trade blacksmiths, joiners, ta weavers, dykers, and labourers; their harvest shooting season, when any horses they have are by "*the gentry*," as are the able-bodied men. as gillies make about 20*s.* a week for two mo Shooting rents are higher than grazing rent both sides of Rannoch.

Inchture.

Population, 659. - Acreage, 5,328.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

28. *The Rev. J. A. Honey, D.D.* says:

"*Boys and girls* of from 10 years old and upw are employed in spring and autumn, and boys girls from 12 years old upwards are employed al year in nerding, weeding, and planting and gath potatoes."

"*Women and children* have less than a mile to their work."

"*Men, women and children* work 9½ hours a in summer, and from light to dark in winter. have their horses to attend besides their 9½ h works."

"I think fieldwork is too hard for children o years of age or so."

"I think the effect of the employment of fe in agriculture is bad, both with regard to morals unfitting them for domestic duties."

"I think children should not be employed till are 14 years of age, otherwise they must neces be uneducated even for their station."

"School attendance should be compulsory ti years of age."

"There are abundant means of education prov and advantage is taken of them, but there is a ten tion to withdraw the children from school when thing can be earned by herding, &c."

"*The cottages* in general are good, but as a the rooms are too few for decency and prop The cottages are not in general well planned; t specially felt in times of sickness. Ordinarily cottage accommodation is sufficient for the pl men, but there is by no means the requisite nu of people in the parish for turnip, potato, and ha times; the mode of supplying this is most objec able, and very injurious to morality and religion. introduction of reaping machines, as far as harv concerned, is lessening the necessity for a large i of reapers, and have so far done away with the ha arrangements which have been far from proper."

"*Cottages* are for the most part well situ Over-crowding exists to some extent when the co consists of a 'but and ben' only, and where ther young people in the family over the age of child

"The *bothy system* exists, but not to a great ex It was horrible when I first came to this paris years ago. In many cases it is improved, but wil be what it ought to be till, besides the eating r every man has a closet for himself, with a bed, a serving for a seat, a stand for a basin and water t exchanged for a board on which to write a letter, kneeling room for prayer. This has been effect some instances, and might at very little expens effected in all cases."

"Lodging a number of women in a bothy for work, as it is termed, has sometimes existed here is not common, and is most objectionable wherev exists so far as religion and morality are concer Lord Kinnaird has done a great deal in the

on, several of the above suggestions having been into effect by his Lordship, but I am reporting subject generally. I would suggest further ndicle system, or some prizes to ploughmen; inducements to their remaining in their places e years, whereas the rule is one year in a place, in the case of a foreman. Out of 60 plough- here are not 10 who remain a second year. As most of the new comers are from the county of In some cases the hours of work have been ned by an hour or hour and half. This I think eficial to all parties."

annot conclude without referring to the winter for ploughmen which Lord Kinnaird has main- at his own expense in the four or five adjoining es, and which have been most beneficial; also er modes of producing intelligent and amusing tion for the young."

ne cottages have *gardens*, but there are no allot- of land."

nly one instance exists where a foreman has *a* formerly it was common."

o obtain a sufficient supply of labour at all s I can only suggest a return to the old system ndicles,' from whence our occasional labourers, s, domestic servants, and soldiers, as well as s, was formerly obtained, and which supplied ood material."

Mr. Duncan, parochial schoolmaster, says:

oys are employed from 10 to 14 years of age, in instances, during summer and autumn."

ew *girls* are employed and at the same ages and yments as boys."

Vomen are employed in summer and autumn in ng and hoeing turnips, harvesting and potato ."

Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

Vomen and children are subject to *no ill-treat-*

No doubt females would be better mothers ore virtuous if social economics permitted that n should not work out of doors, but the labour t will not allow this at present."

do not think restriction as to the employment of n and children necessary."

think *school attendance* for a certain number of during the preceding six months (Printworks would be the best mode of enforcing some amount ool attendance in this parish."

mple means of education are provided here; are taken advantage of, and few children in this are not at school."

The cottages are good in general, quite sufficient mber, and conveniently situated; they are not owded."

The bothy system is the most practicable way of g farm servants in this neighbourhood at present; ht be improved."

here is no other mode of lodging farm servants except in harvest, when the reapers male and e are housed for four or five weeks in farm barns, achinery is gradually putting a stop to this n."

ll cottages have *gardens*."

oremen on some farms have cows, and some farm nts have potato ground."

On Lord Kinnaird's Evening Classes for hmen, Mr. Duncan, says:

With reference to the evening classes for farm nts, referred to at page 3 of queries, perhaps be permitted to offer a few remarks. Having connected with these schools since their com- ement, 10 years ago by Lord Kinnaird, who, I e, was the first in Scotland to try them as an iment, and who has grudged no labour of wn nor any expense to render them attrac- and efficient, with a view to the prosperity elevation of the agricultural labourer, I can y to the vast amount of good they have ac- lished. The schools are opened on the first day of December each year, and continue open 3 weeks. The hours are from 6 to 8 at night. The teachers are selected with due care and paid at the rate of 1*l.* each per week. Where the teachers have also had situations in Dundee or Perth, free lodgings and railway expenses were allowed in addition. The classes extend over four parishes where his Lordship has property, but their benefits are not confined to those on his Lordship's estates. They are free to all who choose to attend them. The annual average attendance has been about 300, ranging from the ages of 12 to 50, and in some instances to 60. Most of the ploughmen have a long way to travel to school, in some cases two miles in cold, wet, and dark nights, over mud and clay and after a hard day's work. An excellent supper consisting of plenty of beef, bread, beer, and wine-negus with a musical entertainment and speeches thereafter always winds up the season. This feast proves very attractive, but though it has been asserted by some as the reason why so many attend the classes, yet the men themselves scout the assertion, and I am satisfied that so many men would not undergo so many discomforts and fatigues in the most inclement part of the year for the sake of this material consideration, however, important as an inducement to learning. There is a real love for learning and a desire to improve their position among the majority of the men. Their earlier education having been imperfect, unfinished, or forgotten, they in most cases anxiously avail themselves of this chance of promoting their interests in life. I can point to nearly a score of cases, under my own eye, where the parties began at the simple rules of arithmetic, went through the ordinary text books into algebra, as far as simple equations and into mensuration and trigonometry. All write and read and a great many can work the compound rules and simple proportion. It is impossible to question the effect that this school discipline and this self-teaching, to a great extent, must exercise upon the rough and blunt habits of such a class of society; and contrasting the manners of the ploughmen *now* with what they were in former years, whatever is the cause, I know that there has been a great change for the better. Perhaps another effect of these night schools and the progress of the times is a greater desire on the part of ploughmen to have their children more regularly and longer at school than they used to have them.

Were these schools universal, well-organized, and well superintended, they would mitigate the evils of irregularity and non-attendance at the day schools; but it is to be hoped the Legislature will devise a scheme whereby they will be less requisite. Meanwhile, all who take an interest in and maintain them deserve well of their country."

"Nearly all the ploughmen who attend these classes are able to read and write when they first attend, and can understand what they read. Nearly one-fourth begin at simple addition. I have only had two or three men in the course of 10 years who were ashamed to read before the other pupils. Several married men attend these classes."

"I may mention that the different clergymen in the Carse have often expressed their opinion that the ploughmen's evening classes have had a perceptible effect on their intelligence and manners. Formerly ploughmen would hardly admit clergymen to their bothies or would avoid their visit; now they welcome them."

31. *On the subjects and methods of instruction in Inchture parish school*, Mr. Duncan says:

"There are 10 English reading classes from monosyllables upwards, all of which read daily. The daily lesson is read first simultaneously by each class, then portions of it are read by each scholar selected up and down the class. Whilst the lesson is being read, the meaning of words is asked and explained; then questions are put to the class as to the scope of the lesson, and finally words have to be spelt from it. The classes from the sixth to the tenth inclusive are then deprived of the lesson books and sent to their seats to write out an abstract of their lessons on *slate* or

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paper. The slates or paper are then exchanged and corrected by the scholars, the results examined by the master who assigns places in the class according to the merits of the performances. The classes below the sixth, inclusive, and those above have dictation almost daily. All the classes above that have to parse daily four lines from the lesson and show the parsing written on paper. Besides the above classes there is a class of nine in English literature, of nine in British history, of nine in French, of three in Latin, of 46 in descriptive and physical geography, of 40 in a class book of chemistry of common things, and of 40 in English grammar. The geography and grammar classes are divided into two sections, a junior and a senior. Half an hour each morning is devoted to religious knowledge (not dogmatic), Scripture history, particularly the life of Christ and the Apostles; the juniors being exercised in Brown's catechism and simple Scripture history. When the pupils are engaged in no special exercise as dictation, drawing outline maps, &c., they are all engaged in arithmetic. An hour each day is devoted to systematic arithmetic on the black board and special exercises on slates. Every arithmetical class receives questions for home solution, which are examined next morning. They also are required to write at home a story, and bring it for examination and correction next morning. Instead of a story they sometimes write about a beast, a bird, a ship, or something found in a newspaper. The youngest classes instead of this exercise have daily to write on their slates the names of trees, beasts, birds, of articles about a farm, in their own houses, or in a shop, and names of places. There are periodical examinations and competitions in all the subjects in the school, and children passed into higher subjects, as the case may be. Once a week maps to be sketched from memory are given out.

In all school work care is taken in questioning a class to make a child think and not to cram its mind with disjointed information.

As to school-books, the variety in use at different schools entails great expense on poor parents. Something ought to be done to assist poor parents in this respect, and to secure greater uniformity in the class of books used. I don't think it would be advisable to have one set, as all men's minds would then be cast in one mould, but the present system as to books might be much improved."

32. *Mr. McClaren,* factor to Lord Kinnaird:

The following are notes taken from a conversation with Mr. McClaren:

"Our greatest difficulty is getting female labour. It is the rock we shall have to split on. If it was not for the supply of Irish and highland girls, farmers would be fast. These girls when they live in bothies cost 1*s.* 3*d.* a day besides bedding and fire and sometimes milk. They are generally got at busy times from Perth. When the handloom went the cotters shed went with it, and we have fewer hands now to do more work. Except in the dead of winter, all farmers could take more hands, and if our women were like the southern bondagers, we could find them work even in winter. Our women, for instance, cannot fill dung carts as the border women can, nor attend the thrashing mill. Our men are very good workmen; no men can handle straw like Carse men; I would not give one of them for three Dorset or Gloucester men. Up to 60 a ploughman is expected to do full man's work; after 60 he generally goes to day wages. We have three out of four cattle men above 60 who earn as much as second-class ploughmen."

33. *Mr. Drummond,* occupier, says:

"I have eight ploughmen, six of whom are married and two unmarried (bothy men). I am unusually-well supplied with cottages, as I have eight for 365 acres of arable land [all strong Carse land in nine course shift requiring eight pairs of horses. G.C.] Three of my female workers are the wives of ploughmen; I have five. One of my cottages is now vacant and I cannot get a tenant who will find me a woman worker. I should like to get a widow and daug[hter] if I could. We have so much difficulty to get [fe]workers, I think we shall have to go back to "pendicle" system (a Scotch acre let wi[th] cottage)."

34. [Note. All the Carse farmers speak of the [dif]culty of getting labourers, especially female labou[r]. Query, would the "pendicle system" now that h[and]loom weaving is gone, induce people to take cot[tages] for which occasional farm work would be deman[ded] unless the pendicle was considerably increased. G.

The nine course cropping on Powgavie farm is:

1 fallow.	4 wheat.	7 bar
2 wheat.	5 turnips.	8 gra[ss]
3 beans or peas.	6 oats or wheat.	9 oats

35. *Charles White,* foreman on Powgavie farm, sa[ys]:

"I have a cow, and I could not take a place wi[th]out one. If it was not for the cow I could not g[ive] my children the education they should have. I h[ave] four children (the eldest 14) at school, one girl of learning dress making at Dundee, and a young one home."

"My wife never works out except in harvest, wi[th] I think they should all work. At other times I ne[ver] see that a man's family is any the better if his w[ife] works out, and there is a deal of discomfort about I don't think the women that work out most ever e[ar]n 10*l.* in a year in the Carse, we have so little turnip

"As for potatoes, a married man gets from 10 to 'falls' according to his bargain. Sometimes a man g[ets] as many 'falls' over his bargain as he wants at 1*s.* fall, and in that way they get their potatoes at abo[ut] half market price. I had five bolls (5 stones of 24 to the stone each) off my 24 falls last year."—[Note. This man, who is about 45 years of age, has be[en] foreman on the same farm for 10 years, and s[till] attends regularly one of Lord Kinnaird's even[ing] classes for ploughmen.—G. C.]

36. *Two bothymen* (on Powgavie farm), say:

"We cook our own food and look after our both[es]. We have porridge and milk for breakfast, and supp[er] and brose for dinner. We have no potatoes n[or] meat."—[Note. One of these men was scalding t[he] brose for their dinner while I was talking to them. G. C.]

37. *Mrs. Lyall,* wife of farm labourer:

"I have five children, the eldest 9. The two eld[est] are at school. The eldest will be 13 or 14, may [be] 14 before he goes to work." You must do witho[ut] any help then from your children till this boy is 13 14? "We ma'n (must) do; he must get his educ[a]tion like the lave (like other children)." Then y[ou] and your husband are content to work for them t[ill] you think they have got education enough? "[Oh] coorse, they ma'n be educated."

As to bothies, Mrs. Lyall's opinion was, "W[ell] I'm thinkin they're no much better than they painted."

Kilspindie.

Population, 665. - Acreage, 6,258.

38. *Mr. George Muirhead,* occupier, says:

"The cultivation is mixed, about 3,500 acr[es] arable."

As to Employment in Agriculture.

"*Boys* are generally employed at about 12 or years of age, seldom below the first, and then only 'scare' a field between the sowing and 'brairdin[g]' of the seed. When regularly employed they a[re] engaged for 12 months at the regular hiring mark[et]. Before obtaining a regular hiring they are employ[ed] at weekly wages in spring in scaring birds and plantin[g] potatoes; in summer in thinning and hoeing turnip[s] hoeing potato drills, and attending to cows and you[ng] cattle when out at grass; in autumn chiefly for a f[ew] days potato lifting; in winter topping and tailin[g] turnips."

"*Girls* are employed at the same ages and in t[he] same occupations as boys, perhaps not to such extent in herding."

Women are employed to a much greater extent
e same occupations except herding'; and are
s engaged during spring and autumn in spread-
anure on the fields; in harvest, lifting and
g after the mowers and reaping machines; and
ter in barn work."

at distances are the children, &c.?

he distances in nearly every case are nominal,
orkers generally living in cottages either on or
ing the farms on which they are usually em-
d. The only exception is harvest time, and
imes during potato lifting, when they may have
ne from a neighbouring village, say three miles
1 which case a cart is very often provided, to
hem, if not always from and to their work, at
ents to take them one way. On the other hand,
workers, *i.e.*, reapers and others, engaged at
st work have to be procured from the county
, a distance of some eight or 10 miles, they are
d on the farm for the time being."

t are the hours of work?

The hours of work in the field are the same for
women, and children, viz., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in
ner, with an interval of two hours, for dinner
est, from 12 to 2 p.m.; in autumn, during potato
g, the hours for workers are from 8 a.m. to 6 or 7
with two hours as above; in harvest time the
hours are apportioned somewhat differently, half-
our's rest being given in the field during the
noon and afternoon, and an hour for dinner during
middle of the day. In winter the hours are from
ight till dark. The regular servants on the farm,
the ploughmen and others, are in the stable by
clock in the morning to feed their horses, clean
the stable, polish their harness, and assist in
ying straw, &c. to the cattle, and any other
ter, such as cutting grass for the horses in summer
may be required of them. They then return to
r houses for half an hour or more for their break-
s, and are ready to turn out with their horses at
.m. In winter they are in the stable for an hour
he evenings from 8 to 9 p.m. for the purpose of
ling, bedding, and grooming their horses.

Though the hours of work in the field are the same
all, it may be stated that there is no compulsory
gation upon the workers to remain longer than
y feel inclined. They are paid by day's wages,
if they work only for half a day or three hours,
y are just paid accordingly."

e the young or females subject to any ill-treatment, &c.?

'In no instance have I observed that any ill-treat-
nt or physical injury arising from the nature of
ir work has been experienced by either women or
ldren. So far from ill-treatment having to be
red, the workers are much too independent to sub-
t to anything of the sort were it attempted, which
never is. Personal injury would result in their at
ce leaving the field, and very probably a summons
assault in addition. Physical injury through ex-
sure or the nature of the work in which they are
gaged is seldom or never heard of; and, to be con-
nced of the healthful nature of agricultural work,
e has only to look at the strong and robust frames,
e bronzed countenances, and the cheerful disposi-
ons of those engaged in it, as compared with the
ckly and wan look of many *dwellers in cities*."

ave you any observations to make on the effect of employment?

"Under this question I have no hesitation whatever
stating that, as they are usually employed in this
strict, field work is in no way injurious to the moral
naracter of the women engaged in it. Such a thing
s a public 'gang' is unknown here, and when the
orkers are employed in any considerable numbers,
s is sometimes the case during turnip singling and
otato planting and lifting, they are always accom-
anied by the foreman or some steady person as over-
ooker, whose duty it is to see that the work is properly performed, and that no improper language is permitted. Even were such a person not in charge I consider it would be a matter of very great difficulty to provide by special legislation for these exceptional cases. It ought to be left to the good sense of the farmer to arrange that no band of workers should be allowed to work in the fields unless under the supervision of some steady, well-conducted person. But, supposing the employment of women in field operations were to be abolished, I do not think that these lapses from virtue, which are so common in some agricultural districts, though I consider that those same country districts get a much larger share of blame attached to them when compared with towns, than is consistent with strict justice, would cease. It is the wandering about at nights which farm servants are so prone to indulge in, through not having proper inducements afforded to them to stay at home, hiring fairs, and, in some instances, the overcrowded state of the cottages, that are the causes of nine-tenths of the immorality we hear so much about."

"Nor do I think that agricultural employment unfits young women for domestic duties, either as servants, wives, or mothers of families. There is no doubt that farm labour tends to make them rather more independent and perhaps a little too rough and more coarse-handed than a mistress would like to see in her servant, but it will generally be found to be the fault of the former if such slight disqualifications for domestic service are not very soon toned down and ultimately overcome."

"At the same time I cannot see that it affects them injuriously in the performance of their domestic duties as wives and mothers. Women who have been employed in such labour during their youth mostly always make good wives, if for no other reason than the intimate practical knowledge they have acquired of the duties performed every day by their husbands, and which are to be expected of their children. There is one matter, however, in which women of this class are very often found deficient, the simple one of knowing how to make use of their fingers in needlework. But a remedy could easily be found were a sewing class attached to the parish school, and an hour a day devoted to teaching the girls its simple rudiments."

Taking into consideration the demand for labour, &c.?

"Labour in this parish is scarce, owing partly to the limited amount of cottage accommodation, and also to the fact that young women, after having worked in the fields for a year, or a couple of years, find their way into domestic service. Hence arises a demand for this department of labour, which would certainly not be met by 'any restriction being placed on the employment of females and children in agriculture.' From what has been already stated as to the nature of the work and its effects upon those engaged in it, it will readily be inferred that I am not disposed to recommend interference by Act of Parliament in the matter, or that any restriction whatever should be imposed on the employment of women and children in agriculture."

"There is, however, one subject, that of *hiring markets*, that I think might profitably engage the attention of Parliament. To these hiring fairs much of the immorality attributed to the employment of women in the fields may be put down. I may say for myself that the annual hiring day is the one of all others that I shrink from encountering during the year. The scenes that more or less always take place at such meetings are powerfully, but not the less truthfully depicted in the following words by a writer in one of the agricultural journals:—

"'They will find men and women standing out in the streets in wet weather and dry, in frost and snow, or under a burning sun, like cattle or sheep, to be inspected by intending purchasers or hirers, who have to listen to and learn to laugh at jokes of the coarsest description. They will see these same men and women, having got their 'arles,' which bind the agreement, crowd into the public houses, order glasses of

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whisky and quarts of beer and porter, which speedily disappear down the throats of male and female alike; they will hear till far on in the night, obscene stories and more filthy songs, and witness drunken dances so long as the actors are able to stand.'"

"As to its supposed advantages of enabling a farmer to procure by inspection the best men, I may be permitted one other short extract from a paper read by Mr. Hugh Wilson before the Farmers' Club, Hexham, Northumberland:—

"'Any man with the slightest power of observation, who has stood in a hiring market, especially if he has been there looking for an engagement, cannot have overlooked the principles on which the farmer, as a rule, proceeds to make a selection. He is partial to bone and muscle; his object is to secure the greatest amount of work at the smallest possible cost. He strives to secure the man with the most likely physique to go through the work on the farm; very little inquiry is thought necessary as to his moral character. It is needless to say that many a gross mistake is made in this way. Intelligence is not made of sufficient account in the farmer's calculations. The most intelligent men, and the best and most trustworthy servants are thus often entirely overlooked, and a man of this class may go to a hiring market to make an engagement, and yet return without having been once asked his price. Yet, from those who knew him, he would receive the highest wages. I have known instances of this sort.'"

"I confess I am puzzled as to what substitute could be adopted for hiring fairs. Registration offices have been spoken of and in some instances tried, though, I believe, with indifferent success. There seems a prejudice in the agricultural mind, both of master and servant, against the system, principally on the part of the former, I suspect, because it is new. They won't take up with 'such new-fangled notions,' and therefore will not be at the pains to inquire into its merits. The very fact of being obliged to walk perhaps some distance to a register office, when their requirements can be met by their usual weekly visit to the market, is sufficient to set some minds against the scheme. The servants, on the other hand, think they demean themselves by handing in their names to an office when they see other of their fellow servants, perhaps very much their inferiors in intelligence, readily obtain situations in the open market. When they also see the indifference on the part of their masters, they will all the more readily do their utmost to discountenance the plan, especially when they consider that, by its adoption, they are deprived of their great annual opportunity for fun and frolic. But were an energetic and combined movement made among the farmers themselves to promote hiring by means of registration, and an office appointed in some central situation in each parish under a careful supervision, say of the parish schoolmaster, I believe that all the difficulties that are made so much of at present would very soon vanish. Even now, men in whom a certain amount of intelligence is looked for rather than mere animal force, such as foremen, shepherds, cattle-men, &c., are seldom engaged at hiring markets, and never without some inquiry being made as to their character and qualifications from former masters and others."

"One great means to diminish the scenes of demoralisation and drunkenness on these annual 'outings' of the farm servant would be attained, in my opinion, were a better and kindlier feeling to be entertained between the farmer and his servants. In too many instances the latter is looked upon by the former as a mere machine—one of his implements in fact, out of which he desires to obtain as much work as possible; but as to the machine being a living, rational, being with tastes and feelings and inclinations similar to his own, that seems never for one moment to occur to him. Need it be wondered at that the servant reciprocates the feeling and looks upon his master simply as one to whom he is bound to work for a certain number of hours for a stated sum, but that beyond these hours he is his own free master and indebted to no man. He has his one holiday in the year, the only day in the whole twelve months perhaps when he has the chance of getting a glass of whisky and a day's sport, and he will stand up to the last for his rights. The abolition of these fairs is not such an easy matter as some people seem to imagine. But were the masters to look with some greater degree of consideration on their men by supplying them with books and newspapers for their instruction and relaxation in the long winter evenings, and not only providing them with means of rational amusement but taking part in them occasionally themselves, and affording them one or two holidays at slack season of the year, it might go some length to wean them from that fond regard which they entertain for their 'hirings,' and lead them to observe that their masters were not altogether insensible to their wants and feelings.

"As to the general question of separation of the sexes in farm labour, it would be found to be absolutely unworkable in every-day farming. Take a single instance, the time of turnip thinning in summer, for example. Most of the horses are at that time idle, and either in the stable or out at grass. The thinning department cannot be overtaken by the ordinary servants of the farm, who are hired by the year, and additional hands in the shape of women and children must be employed. The advocates of the separate system would say, put the men, then, into one field, and let the women go to work in another. But every practical farmer knows that the growth in every turnip field does not advance at the same rate of speed. Neither does he wish it to do so. Some are sown early, others necessarily not for weeks, or a month it may be, later. The different fields, therefore, not being in the same state of forwardness, how are the sexes to be divided. The men either must remain idle, or no women must be employed. Few farmers would be found to stand out for such a state of things, and therefore I venture to say the idea is a very crude one, and one which it would be found impossible to reduce to practice. I have only put forward one single instance, but such examples might be multiplied *ad infin.*"

School attendance.

"The first mode by which the attendance of children by the Factory Act would be attained by half day at school and half day at work would, in my humble opinion, be found perfectly unworkable. The occupations the children are engaged in would not permit of their leaving them before the day's work was concluded, as the farmers great object is to get through these operations in the shortest possible space of time. Neither, so far as the children are concerned do I think it at all feasible, for after a hot and oppressive forenoon's labour neither their minds nor their bodies would be in a fit state to benefit by the instruction imparted to them."

"For very much the same reasons I look upon the second mode mentioned, viz., alternate whole days at school and whole days at work, as equally impracticable."

"But I see more hope in the third alternative as recommended by the Printworks' Act, that of school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months. That is the mode very much adopted at present by those parents who take advantage of their childrens' aptitude for field labour."

"For one half of the year, say from November to April, the operations of the farm in which children can be profitably employed are not so pressing as in the succeeding six months. And it appears to me that, if any legislative restriction is to be applied to the subject of school attendance of children, it should point in this direction. A certificate from the master that the child had attended school for an average number of weeks during the preceding six months and had attained an average amount of knowledge of the simpler elements of education, might be produced

the farmer, who would then have no hesitation in
:epting his services, and would at the same time
i satisfied in his own mind that he was doing
.hing on his part to interfere with the intellectual
ining of the child. Such a course would also act
an incentive to the parents, who would only be too
d to confer the advantages of education upon their
ld, as they would very soon be led to infer that,
hout a school certificate, there was little chance of
employment, and hence of his earnings to add to
: resources of the family."

"The '*means of education* provided in this parish
the children of the labouring labouring class' are
: parish schools. They are efficiently taught and
: very generally taken advantage of."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

"The cottages in this parish and neighbourhood
: in fair condition. With a few exceptions they are
fficient for the supply of labour required, and suitable
the wants of the inmates; they are conveniently
uated with respect to the farms; they are not over-
owded. In the great majority of cases the cottages
: provided with two rooms, some with three and
ur, and in no instance that I am aware of do they
nsist of only one apartment. Generally, though
any of them are of very humble exterior, the in-
riors are tidy, clean, and comfortable. On some
rms cottages of a very superior description have
en erected within the last few years. I may in-
ance those on this farm where each cottage consists
three bed-rooms and a sitting-room, besides coal-
ouse and other outside accommodation. They are
ated and provided with roans and underground
:ains to carry off the rain-water; while in the in-
rior the walls are lathed and plastered, all the floors
id with wood, and grates, fenders, &c. provided
each room. Outside, each cottage has a small
rden attached to it. They have been built, I may
ld, under the sanction and superintendence of the
ands Improvement Commissioners, from whom a
:ant of money was obtained for their erection."

The Bothy System.

"The expediency of the bothy system has long
:en a bone of contention in Scotland, but in the
xisting circumstances of our farms and farm
:bourers in the northern counties it is one that can-
ot be dispensed with. I quote from the report of
ie inspector for this county for the Lands Improve-
ient Commissioners. In answer to these gentlemen,
ho, on a plan being submitted to them for approval,
: which the bothy appeared as one of the buildings,
desired to know for what purpose it was intended,'
ie inspector wrote as follows:

"In this district the bothy is a most important farm
uilding. It is indispensable in all our farms where
iore than one pair of horses is kept. It is the re-
idence of all the unmarried men regularly employed
n the farm; and the majority of our farm servants
re young and unmarried. On marrying, many of
hem go into towns and turn to other occupations,
hile those who remain as ploughmen and farm
orkers are accommodated in the cottages attached
) the farm."

"At one time it was considered that any wretched
ovel was good enough to accommodate the young
ien on the farm, and it need not be wondered at,
herefore, if its interior was often a scene of the
reatest discomfort. Happily, with the onward march
f intelligence, these miserable habitations are fast
isappearing; and somewhat more attention has been
evoted of late years to the more comfortable housing
f the unmarried servants. Some bothies have re-
ently been erected on a very improved plan, where,
esides a general sitting-room, each man is provided
ith his own bed-room, lighted by its own window,
nd under his own lock and key. The walls of all
he rooms are lathed and plastered, the floors of the
ed-rooms laid with wood, while brick tiles constitute
he floor of the sitting-room, which is provided with
pins for coats, hats, &c., and wall presses fitted up with shelving. Outside are coal-house, ashpit, &c., and the roof is slated and provided with roans and down pipes to convey away the rain-water."

"It has been the fashion in some quarters of late to inveigh against the bothymen as the cause of the immorality alleged to be so prevalent in country districts. Now, whilst admitting that amongst these men there may be many black sheep, it is hardly fair to brand the whole class for the sins of the few, and to stamp the bothy system as the cause of the large per-centage of illegitimacy in vogue in certain of the agricultural counties of Scotland. In opposition to this popular notion here is what the Registrar General for Scotland says on the subject in his last issued report:"—

"Much of the illegitimacy prevailing in certain counties was at one time attributed to the existence of what are called bothies, that is, houses apart from the farmhouse, in which the male and female workers on the farm are separately lodged. [Female bothies are unknown here.] These bothies only exist on the large farms, and if they had any influence in increasing the illegitimacy the proportion of illegitimate births would have been found to be the highest in those counties which had the largest arable farms. An official return was published in 1867 which, to a certain extent, enables us to trace the effects of the size of the farm on the proportion of illegitimate births in each county of Scotland; and it is instructive to note that in a general way the illegitimacy was found to be highest in those counties in which the smallest farms occurred. Thus, in Banff, the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards of annual rent, only averaged 64 acres each, and 15·5 *per cent.* of the births were illegitimate annually. In Aberdeen, the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards of annual rent, only averaged 66 acres in extent, and 15·3 per cent. of the births were annually illegitimate. In Dumfries, the average size of the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards was 87 acres only, and the high proportion of 14·4 per cent. of the births were illegitimate annually. In Kirkcudbright, the average size of the farms paying 20*l.* and upwards was 88 acres, and 13·4 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. Contrast these with a few counties with large farms, where married men are employed, and bothies are of course more common. In the county of Edinburgh, the average size of farms paying 20*l.* and upwards was 114 acres, and among the rural population only 8 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. In Fife, the average size of the farms above 20*l.* of yearly rental was 110 acres, and only 7·6 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. In Haddington, the average size of the farms above 20*l.* of yearly rental was 219 acres, and only 8·7 per cent. of the births were illegitimate.

The only way to get rid of the bothy system is to entail upon the landlords the obligation of building three or four additional cottages upon every farm where a bothy exists, and I question very much if the proprietors of Scotland are at all prepared to face such a contingency. If then the system cannot be done away with, the next best thing is to make it as faultless as possible. No one denies that it has its disadvantages, not the least being the almost invariable flightiness of the men. Not having 'the wife and bairns' to move about with them, as well as the one or two cart-loads of furniture, some to be damaged to a certain extent by the rough handling and the chance of bad weather, but there little all secured in their 'kist,' the mere matter of a change to them has no dread. It rather has an enticing novelty for them, and the mere fact of its being a change from old to new quarters, and from old to new faces, seems to exercise over them something of the nature of a charm. But is it not in the power of the masters to prevent to a great degree this inordinate love of change merely for the sake of a change, and unsteadiness on the part of their unmarried servants? Would they not take a greater interest in him and his affairs were he to exercise a greater supervision over them in other than their working

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hours? But I need not enlarge on this matter, for the remarks I have ventured to give expression to while alluding to hiring markets apply equally to the present topic."

Gardens.

"All the cottages in this parish have gardens provided with them."

Milk and Potato Ground.

"It is the custom in this parish to allow many of the farm servants, according to the terms of their engagement at hiring time,—not 'the keep of a cow' because here the farmer has himself to keep cows for the purpose of supplying his men daily with milk as part of their wages, but—the keep of a pig, and also a portion of the potato ground in the field to the extent of a certain number of poles, the servant furnishing the seed, and his master supplying the manure and labour. These privileges are looked upon as part of the wages, and are generally given in addition to garden ground."

"There is one remark I may make as regards the *Act authorising the Inclosure Commissioners to advance money for the erection of labourers' cottages*, and that is, I think the rules they have laid down for their own guidance as to approval of plans are, in some instances, much too stringent. For example, they will not sanction the erection of a cottage unless it is provided with, if my memory serves me right, at least three bedrooms in addition to a sitting room. Now, in many cases, proprietors will hesitate very much before they go to the Commissioners on these terms. Cottages of that size are not so much wanted as houses of a smaller description. What are a newly-married couple, or a man and his wife without, to use the familiar phrase, 'any incumbrance,' to do with such a castle. They simply fill up the spare rooms with all kinds of lumber, vegetables, &c., or take in lodgers, both of which are objectionable. The Commissioners should adapt their plans to the particular object in view. In very many of the cottages in Scotland the sitting room is provided with a recess in which is placed a bed occupied by the heads of the family. This may sound objectionable to English ears but I suppose it has been the custom here for centuries, and no bad effects seem to have arisen from it. It has, besides, many advantages."

"I may mention another instance of the stringency of the rules, so far as I remember it, for it came under my own observation in a case to which I was, to a certain extent, interested. What was considered by the proprietor's agent and architect, a very good plan for cottages of superior construction, and which had been drawn out with every desire to meet their requirements, was forwarded to the Commissioners for approval. It was at once returned, as provision had not been made for the required number of rooms. There were two bedrooms intended, I think, besides the sitting room. The Commissioners' recommendation was duly attended to, fresh plans were drawn out with the required number of rooms and again forwarded to London. A second time were they rejected, and this time on the score of 'a very objectionable arrangement,' viz., that, in consequence of having had to provide for the additional bedroom without having had our ground space proportionally extended, we had availed ourselves of every possible inch of ground at our disposal, and had no room left for a separate passage to one of the smaller apartments, which consequently opened directly out of the larger. 'No bedroom,' the Commissioners declared, 'should be a passage to another 'bedroom.' It was only after much correspondence, in the course of which their own local inspector informed them, 'that the large bedroom is intended to 'be occupied by the heads of the family, and the 'smaller bedroom off it by the younger children, who 'will thus be within hearing of their parents in sick-'ness and distress,' and that 'this is thought a great 'convenience in such a family where no servant 'will be kept,' that the rejected plans were finally accepted."

39. *Mr. G. Millar*, occupier and land agent, says:

"I do not employ *boys* on my farms before they are 13 years of age and upwards, and then it is only for doing light work."

"I employ *women and girls* in summer (the girls are always above 12 years of age) in planting and cleaning my summer green crop, in harvest in assisting to bind up the corn crop, and in autumn assisting to gather in the root crops."

"In summer I generally employ about eight *women* on each farm" (*i.e.*, 16 on 453 acres imperial, of which 393 are arable).

"All my workers reside on my farms, in the villages of Rait and Pitroddie."

Hours of Work.

"My men generally, including the time they take attending their horses, work about 10½ hours in summer and eight hours in winter."

"Women and girls work about nine hours in summer and seven hours in winter, when out."

"*Women*, whether young or grown up, are not subject to any ill-treatment, as I generally keep a man in the fields with them to look after them and take care of them, and there is no danger of their being subject to any physical injury, for their work is light, and I never keep them out in the field in bad weather."

"*Women* that have been accustomed to field labour generally make better wives than those who are brought up solely in the house."

"I do not think any restriction should be placed on the employment of females or children in agriculture."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

The cottages on my farms are good and quite sufficient in number for the supply of labour required. They are conveniently situated, being on the farms. They are not over-crowded, and I never knew of any evil resulting from insufficient accommodation.

Bothy System.

There is no mode of lodging unmarried servants here but in the bothy, and in general they are steady, where there are not too many in one bothy. I only keep two in each of my bothies.

Gardens and Potato Ground, &c.

All the cottages on my farms have large and good gardens. I always allow my servants and cottagers to plant *potatoes* in the field at a nominal rate.

40, *Mr. Jas. Robertson*, land steward to Sir Peter Murray Thriepland, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 10 to 14 years of age, from the 1st of March till Martinmas."

"*Girls* are employed from 10 to 14 years of age, but generally they are looking after the younger members of the family while their mothers work out.

"*Women* are employed at the rate of two to every 130 acres."

"Labourers have not more than three-quarters of a mile to go to their work."

"*Men* work 10 hours a day. Men in the field with horses usually from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with two hours interval. Other labourers from 6 to 6. *Women and children* work eight hours a day."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

Effect of Female Employment.

"The employment of the wives of agricultural labourers cannot fail to have a depreciating effect on the training of their families. In the absence of the mother the family is left to take care of itself, and when she returns in the evening she is too fatigued to attend to her family duties, or exercise any proper training or economy in her household. The mothers

ntrained in household economy are totally unfit to ain their daughters, either for domestic duties as rvants or wives. Some act to prevent the con- ant employment of the mothers of young families field work may be found necessary before any great ange for the better can be effected. Small pen- icles of land attached to the cottages on every farm, d *generally* held directly from the proprietor would a good deal towards improving the 'morale' of the lass. The families would go out to the world better ained, morally and physically, and such pendicles ould be an object of ambition to aged agricultural bourers, whilst they would form the best nurseries r a supply of good labourers."

"The Factory Act system of education would not it in this or any other agricultural district. The rint works system or six winter months at school is ready in a manner practised here."

"The *parish school* and a subscription school are e means of education provided for the children of bourers. They are well attended."

"The *cottages* are generally good, and are sufficient r the supply of ploughmen."

"The '*bothy system*' exists here. Bothies might e better looked after by the employers, and if eans of educational improvement were provided it ould help to promote good morals."

"The cottage accommodation for agricultural bourers has been greatly improved during the last 0 or 15 years."

41. *Mr. M'Kercher*, parochial schoolmaster, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed about 13 years of ge in summer in planting and hoeing potatoes and ingling and hoeing turnips."

"Men, women, and children work 9½ hours a ay."

"*Means of education* are amply provided in this arish, and all classes take advantage of them."

"The *cottages* of the labouring class have been uch improved within these few years, and are now endered every way comfortable."

"The '*bothy system*' still exists to some extent, nd is by no means conducive to the comfort or orals of the unmarried ploughmen."

"Cottages all have *gardens*, but there are no lotments."

"Farm servants generally have some 30 or 40 poles given by the farmers at a moderate price for planting otatoes."

42. *Mr. John Duff*, schoolmaster (national school), ays:

"If masters who require boys and girls would not ngage them unless they could read and write, it ight stir up careless parents to an anxious desire to ave their children educated."

"There are no children over 12 years of age who annot read and write in this parish that I know of."

"Ample means are provided for educating the children of this parish, and in general, advantage is taken of them. The fees are low; some parents are careless."

Kinfauns.

Population, 657. - Acreage, 4,820.

43. *The Rev. G. S. Davidson*, says:

"The cultivation is less than one-half arable."

"*Boys and girls* are employed from about 11 years of age in spring, summer, and autumn."

"As many women as are free and able are employed in agriculture, and many go out when they would be better employed attending to their families at home."

"*Women and children* are subject to no ill-treatment nor physical injury more than exposure to the weather involves."

"I think the effect of the employment of females in agriculture on morals and on their proper training for domestic duties is unquestionably and obviously prejudicial."

School attendance, &c.

"I am not of opinion that the principles of the Factory Acts can be successfully adopted in reference to children employed in agriculture, especially with a view to their better education. In factory employment the timing of the work is more under control and can be adapted to a certain amount of education (the "half day at school and half day at work" being much the preferable plan here), but in agricultural labour the state of the weather, day by day, and the season of the year present a great obstacle to any fixed arrangement; therefore I do not see how the object is to be attained other than indirectly. My proposal would be to pass an Act making it penal to employ children in agricultural (or any other kind of) labour for hire under 12 years of age, or under 14, except they had obtained the district inspector's pass. This would be a stimulus to early and regular school attendance."

"The parish school and the General Assembly's school at Balthayock afford sufficient means of education for the children of the parish. Advantage is taken of these pretty fairly. At the same time it is evident there is a struggle between two motives; the desire of wages and of instruction, and the better the quality of the latter the more strongly it attracts to the school and prevails over the former."

"There are about 20 children in the parish neither at school nor at work; some of them kept at home on the most trifling pretexts."

Cottages, &c.

"Some cottages are good; the majority indifferent, and some positively bad. There is not much to complain of as to overcrowding, taking two rooms and a closet to be sufficient accommodation for a family."

"Cottage improvement is slowly and not very readily gone into, except on Seggieden and Balthayock estates."

"*The 'bothy system'* is on the decrease, their being now only three farms in the parish in which it exists. The system is bad in every respect; it congregates young men without any superintendence; separates them from family influences, comforts, and decencies; contaminates them with vicious example; leads to bastardy and nocturnal roving habits; tends to make them reckless and given to change their service. Whenever I see a young man who I have reason to think preserves himself from these corrupting influences, a feeling of respect, as it were unbidden, arises in my mind towards him. This state of things originates in the avaricious or indolent neglect of duty on the part of the landowners to go to the expense of erecting the requisite number of ploughmen's cottages on the farm; and thus to consign the working-force of the farm—the men by the sweat of whose brows their revenues are put into their hands—to accommodation often inferior to that of the cattle. It is a poor economy; and in nature's wise arrangements it bears bitter fruits. The true strength and the moral and social well-being of the rural part of the kingdom consists in early marriages, for which agricultural pursuits present more facilities than most other callings. Thus they have their families early; the children are doing for themselves before old age comes upon the parents (which in the case of ploughmen is early), and they are the best blood that can be infused into the community. The bothy system counteracts this, and it should be abolished."

44. *The Rev. B. F. Greig*, Free Church minister, says:

"*Boys* are employed in agriculture from 12 and even earlier for harvest work."

"*Girls* are employed about as readily as boys."

"*Women*, both married and unmarried, are largely employed."

"The workers generally live on the farms where they work."

"*Men, women, and children* work 10 hours a day."

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"I consider agricultural work is too heavy for either females or children, and the exposure is injurious."

"I am very decidedly of opinion that the employment in agriculture of females tends to immorality, and largely unfits them for domestic duties."

School attendance, &c.

"I should prefer alternate days at school and at work as the most applicable mode of enforcing school attendance in this parish."

"The means of education are sufficient but are not taken advantage of, as they ought to be, mainly because of the demand for work."

"Of late the dwellings of the labouring class have been improved, and of this there was great need."

"The *bothy* system is an unmitigated evil."

"All the cottages *have gardens* attached to them."

45. *Lieut.-Col. Drummond Hay*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 14 and upwards by the year, except those engaged for herding cattle, but herding is not very general now, as the country is more enclosed."

"*Girls* are employed occasionally for weeding and light work from about 14 years of age; they earn from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of two women to each pair of horses on a farm."

"Labourers go about a mile, on an average, to their work."

"*Men, women, and children*, who work in the fields, work 10 *hours a day*. Men who have charge of horses (one man to each pair) have longer hours, as they have to look after their horses before going to work and after returning."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and I do not think any restriction as to the employment of females or children necessary."

"*The cottages* here are good with a few exceptions, and these are to be re-built. They are sufficient in number for the supply of labour, and are conveniently situated. In *harvest and potato lifting* time extra hands are driven to and from their homes in Perth. Some of the cottages are overcrowded, but I have observed no evil results to morality from this cause."

"The *bothy system* exists here to a small extent and is certainly not beneficial either to education or morals."

"The cottages have *gardens* attached to them."

"The keep of a *cow is not allowed*, but farm servants have *potato ground allowed* them, an allowance which is considered part of their wages."

46. *Mr. Robert Stewart*, parochial schoolmaster, says:

"The children's books are here purchased by their parents, which I reckon the best way, as the children can thus prepare, to some extent, their daily tasks at home, which they cannot do where the books belong to the school. The cottages of labourers, however, are in general so small and incommodious, and their children so numerous, that there is but little opportunity for preparing school lessons at home with any degree of accuracy. Larger houses with better internal arrangement would go far to correct this.

A generous emulation is encouraged in the classes, by assigning the highest place in the class to the best scholar for the day, and so in regular gradation downwards; and children are in general very eager to obtain a higher place, which provokes them to diligence and industry. The bestowal of tangible rewards, however, for excellence or improvement, either by the teacher himself or by other persons who take an interest in the school, I have often seen to have a hurtful effect. This not only engenders envy and ill-will among the children and their parents, not unfrequently accompanied by groundless complaints of unfair dealing, but it induces the children to labour more out of greed for the reward than from a sense of duty. Children should be taught from the beginning, that they ought to attend to their lessons and persevere in their learning, because it is a right thing so to do, and that it would be wrong in them to do otherwise.

Dictionaries have been little used in this school, but most of the books now in use have vocabularies containing explanations of the meanings of the principal words in the lessons. It must be confessed, however, that dictionaries and even those vocabularies do not always furnish explanations suited to the capacities of children. Long words, for instance, derived from the learned languages are often attempted to be explained by means of a number of synonymes, the meaning of each of which is as difficult to understand as that of the word intended to be explained by them. All that children learn in such cases is, that these synonymes have all the same, or nearly the same meaning, without being informed as to what is the meaning of any of them. A more profitable way, therefore, is for the teacher to explain *vivâ voce* such words by using two or three or more little Saxon words, the meaning of which the children do understand.

Committing passages of prose or verse to memory for the purpose of after recitation, has been for a considerable time past rather at a discount in Scotland. It was formerly much more in vogue than it is now, especially in elementary schools. Many enlightened people thought that it was of very little use, and used to characterise it by the contemptuous name of spouting. The Westminster catechism is, however, carefully committed to memory in the parochial schools of Scotland, and often repeated, that it may not be forgotten; and the Psalms and occasionally passages out of the other Scriptures are also committed to memory.

Ploughmen and other agricultural labourers, and it may indeed be said all people of the working class are at the present day, with few exceptions, very poor, and not well able to pay for their children's education; but their poverty is owing, in a great measure, to their own present wasteful and extravagant habits. Wages have been of late years far higher than they were for a long time before, but these people have got into a more expensive way of living than formerly, both as regards their victuals and their dress. When I first knew this parish, now upwards of 44 years ago, and long after that too, the almost universal breakfast of the peasantry was oatmeal porridge, and their bread consisted of oaten cakes, bread made of pease or barley meal, and very often of a mixture of the last two. Now, tea with ham and other accompaniments is used, twice a day in almost every house, and given to children as well as to adults; and almost the only bread used by them now is the wheaten loaf, brought to their doors regularly twice a week, in vans, from the bakers of the neighbouring town or villages. By the former way of victualling, people of the class in question, brought up a race of strong muscular children, and healthier than those of the present day. The wives and daughters of working men now appear at church and other public places in dresses such as were worn, in times not long gone by, only by ladies of quality. It has been the custom with maid-servants for a considerable time past, as it is also at the present day, when their wages are higher than ever they were before, to spend every shilling they have on splendid dresses and trinkets, and when they become wives, the same itching for costly attire for themselves and the girls of their families (not for their boys), continues with them, by gratifying which they keep themselves and their husbands not only in poverty but almost always in debt. The other sex cannot be accused of extravagance in dress, but they are almost all slaves to tobacco smoking, a practice which was scarcely known among agricultural labourers, in this part of the country, a quarter of a century ago. Almost every halfling now carries about with him his pipe, his tobacco, and his box of matches.

It is a great pity that the Scottish peasantry are

losing their former good character for thrift and ony. In former times provisions were seldom l on trust; now this seems to be by far too non a practice, and when the day of reckoning es, there is often nothing to pay with. Though come to school now with showy outsides, 30 or ears ago both boys and girls of the working class kept cleaner at the skin, their under clothing as well, if not better, washed and oftener ged.

cannot be denied that parents do sometimes, for sake of a little gain, engage their children to ers to tend cattle or to be errand boys and the like n they are too young and have got but a scanty sure of learning, intending, perhaps, to send them to school after a time; and if they do come it is generally but for a short time, which is ly all required to make up what of their learning had forgotten during their absence from school.

he mothers of school children are often employed eld labour, and when that is the case, two chil- are kept from school to supply the mother's e at home,—the one to keep the house and cook victuals, and the other to look after such of the dren as are too young to take care of themselves.

armers do not now, as they did once, give victuals heir extra labourers. By extra labourers I mean n persons, male or female, as are not engaged by year or half year, but who work for day's wages, whose dwelling places are often not within the nds of the farms on which they may have to work. e food of such persons has to be cooked at their n homes, and carried by children to the places ere they work; and it is no uncommon thing for or three grown-up persons of the same family to working at the same time in two or three different ces, all at a distance from their home, which re- res as many children to be kept at home from ool to carry their victuals to those different places. t this is not the fault of the children's parents; it owing to the present mode of conducting farming siness."

47. *A ploughman's wife*, says:

"I have seven children, one at home, four at school, e of 16 years a fisherman, and one of 18 years a ughman out in a bothy. I don't like their going t to bothies. I think they lead a verra coorse e into the bothies (a very coarse life in the thies)."

"When we lived in Methven (another parish) we nt the children very early to school, it kept them off e street; we used to pay there 6*d.* a month for the ungest and 1*s.* a month for each of the three bigger es. When they are at the school, my husband rkens them their lessons every night to see that ey have them. I think they would be long in arning if we didn't examine them at home. We do ir endeavour to make them learn at home. It de- nds on their learning when they leave school, if ey're good scholars they can leave the earlier. A loughman isn't able to give a great education to his hildren, but we give them as much as we can."

"Ploughmen have porridge and milk for breakfast; roth made with barley, vegetables, and meat (beef r mutton or bacon) for dinner. Tea and loaf or rone and butter or cold meat or anything that is eadiest for supper."

"We have five children (four at school) earning othing just now. In summer and harvest some of hem will earn something, but we don't quite live up o what we have, and so we can keep them at school."

"We use all our oatmeal, and I have to buy some and what wheat bread we want. I bake scones and oatcakes.' We get a pint (scotch) of sweet milk a day, and I buy a 1*d.* worth of skim milk about a mutchkin."

"Plenty of young women work out here; I don't think it does them any harm."

48. [NOTE. This woman's cottage was very untidy; consisted of a "but and ben." No pot or oven (con- veniences which are seldom seen in this county) but a small grate and swey both belonging to the family. Curtained beds, not the usual box beds.—G.C.]

49. *Ploughman* (eating his dinner of scones and butter):

"I have six children all under 11 years; the three eldest aged 7, 8, and 10 are at school. I used to live in a bothy before I was married; the hardest thing about a bothy life is coming home with wet clothes, and having to light your own fire. We have three married men in cottages and three single men in a bothy on this farm. If there were more cottages on the farms, men would marry sooner. [NOTE. This man's cottage and the one next it consist of the ordinary "but and ben," two other cottages in the same row in ruins.—G.C.]

KINNAIRD.

Population, 318. - Acreage, 3,501.

50. The *Rev. William Sinclair*, says:

"The *cultivation* is mixed, one-half being pasture and the other half under the plough."

"*Boys and girls* are never employed by farmers in this parish under 11 years of age. They are generally employed in July, August, September, and October in turnip hoeing, harvesting, and potato lifting."

"*Women* are employed for some months in the year on several farms in this parish. Their season of labour begins in April when the potatoes are planted and continues, with various interruptions owing to weather, &c., till the end of October, when the potatoes are gathered."

"The women and children have not more than half a mile to go to their work."

"*Men, women, and children* work 10 hours a day."

"Women and children are subject to no ill-treatment."

"In this parish nothing is known of 'working gangs or bands' of labourers; the children who are employed in agricultural labour are generally the sons and daughters either of the ploughmen on the farm, or of labourers residing in the parish; they are thus under the eyes of their relations, but I am told that notwithstanding this there is a good deal of bad conversation, which cannot but have a bad effect on the young and grown up females. So far as my experience goes, not only in this but in other parishes, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that female agricultural labourers make most indifferent wives; their former training in the fields but ill fits them for domestic duties; as a general rule they are indolent and not economical, and as a consequence their houses are dirty and their husbands poor."

"Farmers in this parish have often great difficulty in getting hired labour when required. Females (young and old) can easily get employment."

"I am not prepared to recommend that any restriction should be placed on grown-up female labour, but I am of opinion that boys and girls under 14 years of age should not be employed."

Factory Act restrictions for the sake of Education.

"'The third mode' or school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months is acted on already; the sons and daughters of labourers and ploughmen often acquire a meagre education in this way. They are sent to school at the age of 5 or 6 and are kept there, with varying regularity, till the age of 9 or 10, and then they are taken away to some sort of work, generally out-door labour. Some labourers send their children who have thus received an elementary education, to school for a month or two during one or two following winters and then they are considered finished off and ready for service."

"There is no school in this parish but the parochial school, which is open to all, and is taken advantage of to the extent I have described. We want a directly compulsory method to improve matters."

"The ploughmen here are poor; their wages are good, better than ploughmen's wages 10 years ago

Perthshire.

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s.

were, but as their wives are generally farm servants and thus more accustomed to outdoor than indoor duties, they do not make thrifty wives; hence ploughmen are not often in a position to spend much money on education."

Cottages.

"Some of the cottages in this parish are bad, not fit for habitation; others are pretty fair. They are not over-crowded."

"I consider the '*bothy system*' which we have here productive of bad influences both as regards education and morals. The boys who are in the bothies are generally the sons of ploughmen or agricultural labourers who have been educated as I have described. I never yet, however, met a lad in a bothy who could not read in a fairish way. Our bothies are well looked after, but I am given to understand that in the Carse, where the system prevails extensively, many irregularities can be traced to the bothy system."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"*Potato ground* is sometimes allowed."

"A great many cottages are deficient in accommodation; there is no progress being made towards increasing it that I know of."

51. *Mr. Edmund Robertson*, parochial school teacher, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 10 years old upwards in spring, summer, and autumn."

"*Women* are employed throughout the year in various employments of a light kind."

"*Females and children* are subject to no ill-treatment."

"Youths employed on farms are generally stiff and inactive in their habits, but why I do not know."

"Field work has a decidedly injurious effect on the morals of females, it is painfully witnessed when a number of men and women are working in a field near the public road they invariably attack the passers by in the coarsest manner, and very generally the women of the band are remarkable for their filthy and abominable talk. Very often people who are desirous of avoiding these attacks, manage to go some other way rather than submit to them."

"Owing to the disappearance of villages in rural parishes, farmers have now a difficulty in getting hands to work on their farms. Many fields of turnips have been lost from this circumstance of late. For this reason too (the want of hands) the potatoes in autumn are sometimes lost. Many of the farmers in the Carse of Gowrie cannot get hands till November when the frost is very severe and a considerable proportion of the tubers are destroyed. I cannot see how farmers would get on if women were restrained from working. Children, too, are in active employment during potato lifting, and earn as much as the women. At this season, too, the schools are only beginning to open and the loss of education is not very great."

"I am decidedly of opinion that boys and girls under 13 should be kept at school, at least from the middle of November until the succeeding August, when the general vacation takes place; during harvest children can earn a considerable sum for herding and various other employments."

"Half day at school and half day at work would be infinitely preferable to alternate day at work and day at school, because the day the child would be at home might be wet and unsuitable for field work, and thus it would be lost."

"The half day system is in force in this parish, where the parents have a cow or two. One or two of the children look after the cows and do not come to school till an hour or an hour and a half after the usual time. These children have to leave school an hour earlier in the afternoon to look after the cows again. I find no inconvenience from this plan and it keeps the children advancing with the class.

"There is a *parish school* with a master and pupil-teacher; the school is well attended,"

"*The cottages* of farm servants are now much improved, in fact they are better than the houses of some farmers in the highlands of Perthshire. The[re] are only two proprietors in this parish, and on bo[th] properties particular attention has been given to t[he] improvement of the cottages; they have genera[lly] two rooms besides the kitchen, these are floor[ed] with either flags or bricks, which can easily be ke[pt] clean; the cottages also have windows which ca[n] be opened at pleasure. In some localities prizes a[re] given for the best kept cottages; this system h[as] vastly improved the habits of the ploughmen['s] wives."

"There are two or *three bothies* in this parish eac[h] containing two lads of about 20 years of age [or] younger. When the bothies are large and contai[n] 8 or 10 men they become very rough; these rud[e] rough ploughmen know no discipline, and the[ir] language and manners are coarse and vulgar in th[e] extreme; their poor horses not only experience th[e] lash but are assailed with most shocking oaths an[d] imprecations."

LONGFORGAN.

Population, 1,823. - Acreage, 11,247.

52. *The Rev. W. Ritchie, D.D.*, says:

"The *cultivation* is arable."

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 12 years [of] age and upwards, during spring and through th[e] summer and harvest, and especially during potat[o] lifting."

"All *women* who are able may be employed in th[e] same work as boys and girls during summer an[d] autumn."

"Men usually work from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. in sum[-] mer."

"*Women and children* work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m[.] with two hours interval from noon to 2 p.m."

"Females are sometimes exposed to rudeness an[d] foul language; but in their work they are not expose[d] to physical injury."

"I think the employment of women in agricultur[e] is bad for their morals and has an unfavourable effec[t] on their proper training for domestic duties."

"I do not think it necessary to restrict the employ[-] ment in agriculture of *adult females*, but with regar[d] to children, there ought to be some restriction to th[e] employment of those who have received little or n[o] instruction. I also consider the hours of work [of] children are too long."

"I do not think any one of the modes of enforcin[g] school attendance mentioned in the circular would b[e] applicable in a rural district."

"Sufficient means of education are provided in th[e] parish; but in many cases they are not taken advan[-] tage of, sometimes from the poverty of the parent[s] sometimes from carelessness."

"*The cottages* in general are being greatly im[-] proved as to comfort and extent of accommoda[-] tion; but they are not sufficient in number for th[e] supply of labour required. In general the cottage[s] are conveniently situated with respect to the farms[,] but they are usually overcrowded, the effects of whic[h] are injurious to modesty and correct moral feelin[g] and the cause of not a little of the immorality whic[h] prevails."

"*The bothy system* prevails to a considerable exte[nt] in this parish. The lads have generally received a[ll] the education they get previous to their entering th[e] bothy. Of course when young men are intimately associated with one another, as in the bothy, and on[e] or more is unprincipled, his influence will be preju[-] dicial to the others; still I am of opinion that th[e] bothy system is less injurious to morals than the othe[r] system which prevails in some parts of the county o[f] lodging young men in the houses of the marrie[d] ploughmen."

"Most of the cottages have *gardens*."

"A few of the foremen have *cows*, and some als[o] have *potato ground*; but such are exceptions to th[e] general rule."

"*Cottages* seem rather to be *decreasing*."

I think there might be a greater variety in the
is for house accommodation than the Inclosure
missioners seem to allow."

Schools.

Besides the male and female parochial schools, of
ch I have given a return, there is a large school
Mylnfield in this parish."

There is no evening class in our parish schools;
Lord Kinnaird has for several years had evening
sses for the ploughmen of the district, which are
ty well attended, and have done not a little good."

METHVEN.

Population, 2,290. - Acreage, 12,983.
Cultivation, chiefly arable, with a large extent of woodland.

53. *Mr. W. Smythe*, landowner and convener of
county of Perth, says:

'*Boys and girls* from 9 to 10 years of age are oc-
sionally employed in weeding and singling turnips
d in picking potatoes and herding cattle; but they
not regularly employed in farm work till they are
or 15 years old."

"Some *women* are employed in outdoor work, hoe-
, spreading dung, &c., and in harvest work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours per
y."

"I do not think that females are subject to any ill-
atment. The only other employment is hand-loom
aving, which is not so healthy as out-door work."

"I could not say that farm work acts injuriously on
e conduct of women; but the standard of morality
ong the labouring classes generally as regards the
astity of women is very low, and the number of
egitimate children is very great."

"I do not think any special benefit would arise
om restricting the employment of women and children
agriculture."

"I believe that among the native population there
e very few, if any, children who do not receive a
rtain amount of *education*; but we have a good
any Irish in the village of Methven, whose children
e not sent to school. The Roman Catholic priests
o not countenance the parish school."

"The means of education are, I believe, quite suf-
cient and (as qualified by the preceding answer) are
ken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are some of them indifferent; but
ithin the last two years have been much improved."

"The '*bothy system*' exists to a certain extent.
enants now prefer to have married servants, and re-
uire cottages to be built on their farms, which is
enerally done."

"The bothies have been much improved of late
ears, and the more comfortable the accommodation
rovided the less injurious will be the effect on morals
nd habits."

"All the cottages, or nearly all, have *gardens*."

"I do not think that any farm servants have *cows*;
ut they all have milk allowed as part of their wages."

"Cottages are expensive to build, and as a pecu-
iary speculation do not pay. For the best cottage
l. 4*s.* would be a high rent, and very few labourers
would pay more than 3*l.*"

54. *Rev. J. Wilson* says:

"*Boys* are employed from nine years old and upwards
during the summer months."

"*Girls* are employed about the same ages as boys,
but not to such an extent, and at lighter work."

"*Women* are employed to a considerable extent."

"Women and children do not usually go more than
two miles to their work."

"Women and children are subject to *no ill-treat-
ment*, and are not exposed to any physical injury."

"I consider that the moral sensibilities of female
workers are apt to become blunted, and when exten-
sively employed in agriculture they cannot be properly
trained for domestic duties."

"Females should certainly be restricted to the
lighter kinds of employment, and with regard to chil-
dren, considering the wages, &c., which the labouring
classes receive, they are under no necessity of putting
their children to work at too early an age."

Schools.

"Children should be kept regularly at school till
12 years of age, and during the winter months of the
three following years."

"The means of education are ample for the wants
of the parish. Not many Scotch parents neglect the
education of their children, the defaulters are chiefly
Irish Roman Catholics."

Cottages, bothies, &c.

"The condition of the cottages is good, particularly
those recently built. In a few cases they are over-
crowded, which cannot be conducive to correct moral
feeling."

"I do not think the 'bothy system' can be injuri-
ous. Under proper supervision I do not think it
can be injurious."

"There are about 50 children of the agricultural
labouring class neither at school nor at work; almost
all them are Irish Roman Catholics."

"We have an evening school, which is taken ad-
vantage of to some extent."

55. *Mr. Thos. Ross*, occupier, says:

"*Girls* are employed from say 12 to 18 years of
age in hoeing, weeding, harvesting grain and green
crops, &c."

"About half of our staff of married and grown-up
women are employed."

"Labourers live mostly in cottages on the farm, or
at least adjoining, and always within the parish."

"Labourers, male and female, except ploughmen,
work from 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 7 p.m., with about
15 minutes rest at midyoking morning and afternoon.
Ploughmen are expected to be in the stables at 5 a.m.
in summer to clean out, feed, and groom their horses,
get breakfast, and be ready to start for the field pre-
cisely at 7 o'clock."

"Women and children are subject to no ill-treat-
ment. I do not consider the morality of females
employed in agriculture is any lower on the whole
than it is among household female servants, and as
the young women return at night to their parents'
roof, they are then instructed in domestic duties. I
certainly would not encourage young children to be
removed from school to eke out the parents' means of
living before they are 10 years of age. During har-
vest we employ a few children even under this age,
making ropes (when the schools are up). I consider
the pecuniary resources of our agricultural workers
fully as good as any other class, taking all perquisites
into account."

"I would suggest that children be sent to and kept
at school from 5½ to 10 years of age."

"We have an efficient parish schoolmaster, with
three excellent female teachers; the schools are con-
veniently situated for the whole parish, and are all
well attended. There are other occupations besides
agricultural labour which take children from school,
such as oak barking, &c."

Cottages and bothies.

"I should say the cottages are generally insufficient
for the supply of labour required, and usually wanting
in accommodation sufficient to separate the sexes."

"The 'bothy system' exists upon almost every
farm, and if proper superintendence is exercised I do
not fear any injury to morals. There should be a
separate sleeping room for each man and a common
living room."

"It is impossible but we must have young unmar-
ried ploughmen coming up, and I infinitely prefer the
bothy system to lodging them either with married
labourers or in the farm offices while receiving their
food in the farmhouse. Nearly all our ploughmen
marry too soon, before they have gathered something
to furnish a house or keep a wife half comfortably."

Perthshire.
Mr. Culley.
S.

"All my cottages have good gardens. Each family is allowed potato ground sufficient to supply the family with potatoes throughout the year. Each family is also supplied with a Scotch pint (16 gills) of new milk daily. Farm servants are not allowed to keep cows."

General observations.

"The method of hiring in markets is most objectionable and greatly tends to lower the morality of all our young farm workers, both male and female. They meet with old comrades, frequent the dens or hells, where they get the worst stuff imaginable to drink, and the after scenes, as I have witnessed them are truly deplorable. But what can be done, seeing they will go. And it is a fact that although you arrange with a servant, and hire him for another year, he *invariably* stipulates that the new bargain is not to prevent his getting to the usual market; and this holds good even with married ploughmen; and still worse, a large portion of the wives accompany the men to these wretched hiring markets."

"Another and an increasing evil is the migratory habits of our farm servants; there is a great desire for change. Ever restless, for the merest trifle and even where they are not benefitting themselves, they will change. I can see where young men may benefit themselves often by moving—especially as, on some advanced farms, they get to learn to work with a superior set of animals and implements, and they see every operation conducted in an orderly and regular method. But that married men with wives and families should tear down their furniture and entail a heavy outlay for breakage is most melancholy. It is bad for themselves in a moral point of view. The clergyman has little or no interest in them, because by the time he has made their acquaintance, they are on the move again. It is worse for their children and their education, as the teacher has perhaps a different set of books, a different system of teaching, so that by the time he has got the children into his ways off they are again, and all the old expenses, &c. require to be again incurred."

"It is, however, consolitary to know that there are others who stop for years in one place (although I am sorry to say it is the exception). I have had one foreman for 14 years, and several of the others have been nearly as long. At an average they have been about six or eight years consecutively. Another strange feature is that even married men will leave you, and at the very next term they will return. I had an instance of this lately. A man served here in 1867, left for 1868; and again served me in 1869, and left again for a neighbouring farm—even although I would have liked him to remain."

"Among my staff I have three, all married, whom I found on this farm when I entered in 1852."

"As a rule, I think farm servants begin to do odd jobs about the farm at 10 years of age; they are very fond of getting a horse and cart to drive, even the young female workers like this. Sometimes they are sent with a ploughman to lead one of his horses in a roller, which is a very light and favourite employment."

"About 14 and 15 years of age, they (the boys) are very fond of trying to hold a drill harrow among green crops, and so on they advance, some of them very readily getting on to get liberty to try their hand at the plough when we are sterring land for green crops, and so on they move, so that when they are from 17 to 20 many of them are among our best ploughmen. They have generally a great pride in keeping their horses, harness, &c., in good order."

"About this time they are very keen also to try their hand at sowing, and also stacking. I make it a rule that my foreman always encourages them by giving them an opportunity of trying their hand, in order to advance them."

"Although there are many exceptions where landlords provide good cottages on their farms, still it cannot be concealed that on many estates a different state of things exist—old cottages have been pulled down without others being substituted, and the tenants in many instances have to bear the expense of conveying workers either by rail or carts to do their work five and six miles, or lodge them in gangs—a wretched system. Two causes have led to this,—one the undue care displayed on a few estates for game rearing; the second, to avoid paupers obtaining a residential settlement. Both reasons are most miserable, and to be deplored by every right constituted mind, and are only leading on to a wider allocation of poor rates, &c."

56. *Mr. J. Graham*, occupier, says:

"The cultivation is arable, generally five course, thus: 1st, green crop; 2nd, wheat or barley; 3rd, grass seeds, cut; 4th, grass, pastured; 5th., oats."

"*Boys* are not employed here till they are 13 years of age. On my farm, and on several others in this parish, it is usual to engage a boy of 13 or 14 at 6*l.* or 8*l.* per annum, with board and lodging in the farm-house or in the bothy. The duty of these boys is to attend to the cattle in the winter, and to drive horses during the spring, and to do any other work they may be capable of performing."

"*Girls* are employed from the age of 13 years and upwards in spreading manure, hoeing green crops and working in the barn, &c."

"*Women* are extensively employed. They spread dung, hoe the green crops, lift potatoes and turnips and occasionally drive horses and carts."

"Some of the girls and women reside in cottages on the farms where they labour; others have a mile to walk, and few have to walk two or three miles to and from their work."

"*The hours of work* are generally 10 hours in summer for all servants, and eight in winter, but for three months in summer the men work fully 11 hours per day."

"No workers are subject to any ill-treatment. The labour is sometimes severe for girls, but rarely such as to cause any physical injury."

"I think *no restriction* should be placed on the employment of females or children in agriculture."

"There are *ample means of education* in the parish. About 120 children attend the parish school, and nearly as many more attend an elementary school under the auspices of Mrs. Smythe, of Methven. With very few exceptions advantage is taken of the schools. As a proof that the education of the farm labourer is not neglected, I may state that I have had five or six men in my employment for nearly 20 years in a district where they are continually changing, and I believe I *never had one who could not read and write*."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages in this parish are mostly in good condition, and sufficient for the labour required."

"*Bothies* for young men are numerous in this parish. I do not see how we could well dispense with them for single ploughmen."

"Cottages here have gardens attached to them."

"It is not customary to keep a cow for the labourers."

57. *Mr. Allan*, occupier, says:

"Few *boys* are employed in this parish till they reach 13 or 14 years of age."

"*Girls* are employed in hand weeding and other light work from 12 up to 15 or 16 years of age, after that they do the work of women, which is spreading manure, hoeing green crops, harvest and barn work &c."

"*Women* are extensively employed as mentioned above."

"Some of the children and women *reside on the farm*, others come from the village about *a mile off*."

"Men, women, and children work 10 *hours a day in summer*, and about eight hours in winter."

"It is not necessary to restrict the employment of females or children in agriculture."

"The *cottages* in the parish are in good condition and will soon be sufficient for the supply of labour required."

see no bad effects of a *bothy system* for male
.ts. It is absolutely necessary on large farms."
ll the cottages have *gardens*. *Potato ground*
wed, but not the keep of a cow."
ottages are yearly increasing."

Notes on Methven.

Visited two bothies, one for four the other
x men; two beds in one and three in the other.
y men, if left to themselves, seem to like to sleep
e; you will often find two sleeping together
other beds are vacant. All these men healthy,
g looking ploughmen, well dressed for their
, and seemingly contented with their life. Three
ose I spoke were strangers to the county, from
or Forfar. All gave the same account of their
porridge for breakfast and supper, and brose
inner, not forgetting the milk. They appear to
ome of their meal and buy wheaten bread, but,
rding to their own account, they seldom or never
animal food. Very little furniture in the bothies,
s much as they require. Except in gardeners'
ies, I have seldom seen much literature, save an
Bible and an occasional newspaper. Musical
uments are very common—concertinas, bag pipes,
fiddles seem most popular.
isited three cottages of married farm labourers.
wives have all worked out or do now. They
all of them young families, but I did not find any
l over five at home. Two of them who have
ral children at school and none at work told me
would rather work out themselves ("indeed,
liked fine to work out when they could get")
keep their children from school for work. It
er seems to occur to them that any hardship is
se enough for not educating their children. The
ages had each two rooms ("but and ben"). It is
custom, apparently generally except in some new
ages, for the fire-grate to belong to the cottager.
ere is no boiler or oven to be seen; the only aid
ards baking or boiling is the "swey," which is
riably kept very bright. Cottages very nicely
t. Box beds with short curtain instead of old fold-
doors.

MONEYDIE.

Population, 252. - Acreage, 4,464.

59. *Mr. Robert Smith*, occupier, says:
"The cultivation is mostly arable, but a consider-
e portion is wood."
"*Children* are seldom employed in agriculture.
bourers live generally on the farm or in the neigh-
urhood."
"*Men* work 11 hours a day in summer and 9 in
nter; *women* work 10 hours a day in summer, and
in winter."
"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."
"I do not consider that agricultural labour has
y demoralising effect on the characters of women
children more than any other employment, and it
quite as likely to fit them for domestic duties."

MONZIEVAIRD AND STROWAN.

Population, 782. - Acreage, 26,493.

60. *Mr. T. J. Graham*, Stirling, landowner, says:
"The cultivation is mixed. A considerable extent
f the united parishes is moorland. The cultivated
nd is usually treated under a six-course shift (*i.e.*,
st, oats; 2nd, green crops; 3rd, barley or wheat or
ats; 4th, clover hay; 5th and 6th, grass pastured.")
"*Boys and girls* from 12 years old and upwards,
re employed in agriculture, principally from May
ill October. Their work is gathering weeds and
stones, spreading manure, planting potatoes, and
helping in hay-time and harvest."
"*Women* are employed in the proportion of four
to one man."
"Farm servants usually reside on the spot, if not
in the vicinity of a town or village. Some women go
three miles to their work."

Hours of work.

"Ploughmen from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner. Ordinary labourers (men, women, and children) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour for dinner."
"I am not aware of any child or female having suffered ill-treatment."
"I do not think that females employed in farm work are more exposed to immoral influences than those engaged in any other calling. I should be sorry to see any restriction placed on the employment of females in agriculture. To them it is a source of enjoyment, and during the summer months they follow that calling for the benefit of their health, after they have been occupied in factory or other in-door work. Agricultural work and oak and larch peeling are the chief employments followed by the younger females."
"*Education* is always looked upon as the first consideration by the agricultural classes, and it is followed out during the entire school session. The parish school is ample in all respects for the necessities of this locality."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are sufficient and convenient, and not overcrowded."
"The 'bothy system' exists to a certain extent, but the bothy is generally in immediate connection with the farm buildings, and under the eye of the farmer or overseer."
"The number of cottages has greatly increased within the last five years."
"The expense of building cottages under loans sanctioned by the *Inclosure Commissioners* is so great that many people are deterred from applying for such aid."
"We get extra hands when required from the neighbouring towns of Crieff and Comrie."
"In most cases *gardens* are attached to the cottages."
"There is a general practice of giving farm labourers and other work people, ground for potatoes or turnips, so far as they supply manure for the same."
61. *Mr. Mc Rostie*, parochial school teacher, says:
"*Boys* are employed from 10 years old and upwards to a small extent, mostly during summer. Lads from 13 and upwards are engaged throughout the year."
"Few *girls* below 14 or 15 are employed in agriculture in this parish."
"*Women* are employed to a large extent during summer and harvest. Extra hands are engaged during the busy seasons of turnip thinning, hay-making, and harvest; these extra hands go home to Crieff and Comrie at the end of the day."
"*Men, women, and children* who work in the fields, go from one mile to three to their work."
"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."
"Out-door workers are generally more rude and coarser in speech and behavour than domestic servants. Most mothers of illegitimate children belong to the class of farm servants engaged in agriculture."
"There is no need in this parish of any compulsion in enforcing *attendance at school*. Every parent is most anxious that his children should be educated. Landowners and farmers encourage this feeling and in some instances pay the fees of their labourers' children. If I thought it necessary I could get any landowner in the parish to speak to any labourer on his estate, who was neglecting the education of his children. During 18 years I have only found it necessary to do so once. The only thing I have to complain of is irregular attendance among the very poor, the children being kept at home to assist their mothers in some way, but seldom I believe without good reason."
"The parish school, which is well attended, is the means of education provided in this parish."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

s.

"The *cottages* in general are excellent. They are not sufficient in number for the supply of labour required, but are conveniently situated with respect to the farms; they are not overcrowded."

"There are *bothies* on several farms here, not more than two or three men live in each. I do not think the system has much influence on education or morals in this parish."

"Most of the cottages have *gardens*, and some have in addition *allotments* of land."

"The labourers on the Ochtertyre estate generally keep *a cow*. On the other estates they do not. No farm servant, as far as I know, keeps a cow."

"There is some progress towards increasing the present deficient supply of cottages."

62. *Mr. Peter Kay*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are seldom employed under 12 years old, except in herding cows. From 12 they are employed chiefly in summer weeding and cleaning turnips, &c., and in harvest work."

"*Women* are employed to a considerable extent in cleaning turnips, haymaking, &c.

"Women and children towards the central part of the parish have to go about three miles to their work."

"The general hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 12, and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Those who come from a distance begin work at 8, and rest one hour in the middle of the day, quitting work at 6 o'clock."

"Of the *Factory Act principles* the Printworks Act would certainly be the most applicable to an agricultural community."

Cottages, &c.

"Those recently erected are good, while some of the older ones are scarcely fit to be inhabited."

The *bothy system* proper does not exist in this parish. Women servants generally sleep in the farmer's kitchen. The men sometimes in a place prepared for them in the stable loft, and sometimes in a house built especially for them, which in a certain sense may be called a bothy. In this parish generally all men and women get their victuals in the farm kitchen. I don't see that the system is injurious to morals or education."

"Some of the proprietors are erecting additional cottages."

"It is not the custom to allow the keep of a cow. When a pig is kept, ground is generally given so far as the manure will suffice for potatoes."

NUTHILL.

Population, 2,808. - Acreage, 22,095.

63. *Mr. Duncan McInnes*, owner and occupier, says:

"*The cultivation* is mixed. Six coarse rotation generally, 1st, grain; 2nd, green crops; 3rd, grain; 4th, hay; 5th and 6th, pasture; is the usual mode of cropping."

"*Children* are rarely employed under 13 years of age."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"Females are rarely ill-treated, and are not compelled to work in stormy weather. I consider out-door employment healthy."

"The farmer or overseer, if well principled, has a good influence upon the morals of the labourers, but if careless the effect is often the reverse. No gangs are employed in this part of the country."

"*Cottages* are still scarce in this district, but the want is being supplied, a good many having been built within the last two or three years. What is called the cottage system is in every point of view the best way of accommodating agricultural labourers, in my opinion. As to bothies, they are very objectionable, according to the present system of management; there is no controlling power. Each ploughman, when within the bothy, considering himself his own master."

REDGORTON.

Population, 1,596. - Acreage, 6,167.

64. *Mr. Joseph Dobbie*, parochial schoolmast says:

"*The cultivation* is chiefly arable."

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 10 years age and upwards in summer and autumn."

"*Women* are employed to a very considera extent."

"Labourers have in general a short distance to to their work."

"*Men, women, and children*, work 10 hours a da

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"I think the employment of females in agricultu has an unfavourable effect on their morals and prop training for domestic duties."

"I recommend the Printworks Act's mode obtaining school attendance."

"*The cottages* here are good but scarcely sufficie in number for the supply of labour. They are co veniently situated with regard to the farms. I ha seen no evil results from overcrowding."

"I disapprove of the bothy system."

"The cottages have gardens generally."

"There is an evening school, which is take advantage of."

RHYND.

Population, 297. - Acreage, 2,894.

65. *The Rev. R. Ramsay*, says:

"*The cultivation* of the parish is chiefly arabl and very good."

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age, and all times of the year."

"*Girls and women* are also employed about th farms."

"The distance to which women and children go their work is trivial, unless when the farmers brin Irish workers from Perth, a distance of six miles."

"I think the effect of the employment of femal in agriculture on morals and on proper training f domestic duties is bad."

"I do not think any restriction on the employme of adult females in agriculture is necessary."

"I think no child should be sent to service until can read and write."

"All classes may be educated if they are willing t be so."

Cottages, &c.

"The condition of the cottages in this parish, wit a few exceptions, is not good. They are on son farms sufficient for the supply of labour required, an conveniently situated. They are not overcrowded."

"The bothy system, especially the female bothy is bad in the extreme, and the influence on morals great. Farmers say they cannot do without bothies.

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"It is not the custom of the parish to allow th keep of a cow or potato ground."

"There is no progress being made towards increasin the deficient cottage accommodation."

66. *Mr. Thos. Landale*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 14 years age in lifting potatoes in October, but in little else."

"*Women* do all the light work on the farm."

"Labourers reside in general on the farm, excep when extra hands are required in harvest, and potato lifting times; these labourers come in car from Perth."

"Women and children work 9½ hours a day."

"I consider that females and children are *very we treated*, and are exposed to no injury from the natur of their work."

"I think that females employed in agriculture ar less exposed to bad effects on morals than factor girls, weavers, &c."

"*I do not consider restriction* as to employment c females or children necessary."

The cottages are generally good, but too few in ber; they are conveniently situated."

The bothy system exists here. We could not do out it. The men are as comfortable and as well d after in a bothy as in a private home."

There is no other mode of lodging farm servants."

All the cottages have *gardens*."

Married men have an allowance of *potato ground* r their garden."

There is a want of labour in this parish, both and female, and this cannot be remedied without more cottages; such cottages under the charge he tenants and conveniently situated, would readily occupants with families who would be regularly oyed."

There is a great demand for men during the salmon ng time (beginning of February to end of August), his farm alone 30 men are so employed; the men efore would get good wages during that period he year, and after the fishing season they would constant employment on the farm during harvest potato lifting time up to Martinmas, and after generally on the farm. I employ eight extra from the beginning of harvest up to Martinmas, these I bring from a distance. I mention this to that plenty of work at good wages can always had even were more cottages built. I consider two or three extra cottages on a farm of this nt (880 acres of which 360 are arable), would in reat measure remedy the want of labour I have rred to."

7. *Mr. Pitcaithly*, occupier, says:

Farm work does not much interfere with children nding school, as it is generally during the months uly and August they are employed."

The outworkers on my farm have never above a to walk to work, but at times I get women and s from Perth, a distance of six miles."

Neither boys, girls, or women are employed in any k attended with danger, nor do they receive any reatment."

So long as women and children are paid by daily es there is no necessity for any restriction on r employment. So far as this parish is concerned ink the parents are generally careful and anxious eep their children at school."

Cottages, &c.

The cottages are mostly old thatched hovels, and re are too few of them."

"I think the 'bothy system' the best mode of sing unmarried ploughmen for health, morality, l instruction. Most bothies are clean and well d, and no women have any occasion to go near m. The bothy men have opportunities of reading l teaching themselves that they could not have if ged in the farmhouses or in cotter houses. My nion is that the bothy system is a great means of venting immorality."

"No new cottages are being put up in this parish, far as I am aware."

68. *Mr. Thos. Robb*, occupier, says:

"I employ no boys nor girls, but I employ four men, who live on the farm." [NOTE. Two of these men live in a bothy.]

"The hours of work of men and women are 9½ urs."

69. *Mr. James Drysdale*, occupier, says:

"I neither employ *boys nor girls*."

"I employ *six women*, all living close on the farm."

"The *cottage accommodation* is insufficient for this rish."

"All cottages have *gardens*."

"We neither give cows nor potato ground. We ve a pint of sweet milk (12 gills) to each man per y, and 10 cwt. of potatoes to married men."

"I have three married men living in cottages on farm, and four unmarried ploughmen in a bothy. o of my women live at home with their parents, no have a bit of land and a cow. Two other cottages are let on condition of finding a woman worker. I have command of nine cottages altogether, but they are very poor ones.

70. *Mr. Macleish*, parochial school teacher, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 10 years old and upwards, during summer and autumn."

"*Girls* are not so much employed as boys, they usually remain at home, while their mothers work out."

"*Children and females* are subject to *no ill-treatment*. I think females so closely associated with males, who indulge in loose talk and swear, suffer as to their morals, and while engaged in field work their domestic training is neglected."

"I think that female hours of work should be shortened, and that children should not be employed under 14 years of age."

"In my opinion it would be better that the child's education be finished before he engages in manual labour of any kind. A child at school for a few hours a day, or even on alternate days, is apt to dissipate his time, while his mind his occupied with his after work. The interruption tells too injuriously against his studies. I think the Printworks Act still more objectionable. The small amount of learning acquired during the previous six months is almost always lost before the child again returns to school.

The only drawback to the children attending school is the early age at which they leave for out-door work."

"*The cottages* are generally good, and are situated near the farms."

"*Bothies* exist here to a great extent. Exposed to the corrupting influences of their fellows, while they are removed from the superintendence of their master, servants lodged in bothies are generally the most depraved of any."

"I think female bothies even more objectionable than male ones."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

71. *Female worker* (on Mr. Drysdale's farm):

"We get the house for finding a woman worker, and I do the work. At summer we go out at 6½ o'clock, and go on till 11½, and begin again at 1½ o'clock and work till 6½."

"We have tea and loaf-bread and butter at breakfast; broth of barley, vegetables, and bacon at dinner; and tea and bread and butter for supper."

72. [NOTE.—This girl lives in one of three or four cottages on the hill side, at Rhynd, which Mr. Drysdale holds with his farm, and lets to any family which will undertake to provide a female worker. These are very old cottages, by no means desirable dwellings, with very low mud and stone walls, and straw thatch; formerly crofter's cottages.—G. C.]

ST. MADOES.

Population, 280. - Acreage, 1,417.

73. *The Rev. Walter Tait* says:

"The *cultivation* is entirely arable."

"I think a certain amount of school attendance during the year might be enforced with advantage, but it seems to me that the chief thing is to see that children are able to read, write, and cipher before they are allowed to go out to field work at all."

"There are ample means of *education* in this parish; I think they are taken advantage of to a very fair extent, though not as fully as they ought to be."

"The *cottages* in this parish are on the whole, and with few exceptions, in a fair condition."

"The *bothy system* hardly prevails at all in this parish, but it does to a large extent in the neighbouring parishes, and I have no hesitation in saying that on the whole it has a hurtful effect on morals, and that it is in vain to look for any improvement in the moral tone of the community as long as such a system exists to the extent to which it does."

"All the cottages in this parish are provided with *gardens*."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

S.

Feeing Markets.

"There is a subject which I think ought to receive particular attention in any attempt to improve the condition of agricultural labourers, and that is, hiring or feeing markets. Such a mode of engaging servants is degrading to them, and unsatisfactory to the masters. One great evil in this part of the country is the constant changing or 'flitting' which goes on among the ploughmen. Many of them never remain more than a year on the same farm. For this I blame, first, the 'bothy system,' which gives young men an unsettled habit, and prevents the growth of home feeling; and, second, the hiring markets, which put it into men's heads to change. I am sure that if engagements through register offices could be substituted for hiring markets the temptation to constant change would be diminished, and character would become more important."

ST. MARTIN'S.

Population, 904. - Acreage, 6,636.

74. *Mr. P. M. Matthew*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed after 13 years of age in hoeing, planting, and lifting potatoes, and at harvest work."

"*Women are* employed in light work such as scattering manure, hoeing, collecting weeds, pulling turnips, planting and lifting potatoes, harvest work, and occasionally at barn work."

"Labourers live for the most part on the farm; some come from neighbouring villages about a mile distant."

"*Men, women, and children* work 10 hours a day, *i.e.*, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with two hours' rest for dinner."

"There is nothing injurious to the morals of females in agricultural employment; on the contrary they are mostly respectable girls, and when the weather is unsuitable for out-door work, they assist in household duties at home, which I think is good training."

"The condition of the *cottages* is generally good, but they are not sufficient for the supply of labour, they are conveniently situated with respect to the farms, and are not overcrowded."

"The unmarried men are mostly lodged in bothies, they are generally respectable in their moral character; some of them improve their education by attending evening classes."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"It is not the custom to allow farm servants *a cow;* I believe a few have *potato ground*, but I cannot say to what extent."

"I think there is not much advance in cottage accommodation."

SCONE.

Population, 2,199. - Acreage, 7,954.

75. *The Rev. J. Crombie*, D.D., says:

"The cultivation is chiefly arable, and for the most part good."

"*Boys and girls* are employed at about 13 or 14 years of age in hoeing green crops and herding cattle during summer and autumn."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent; a great proportion of the field work is done by them, such as weeding, hoeing, harvesting, &c."

"The *women and children* rarely go above a mile to their work; sometimes they go a mile and a half."

"I never heard of women or children being subject to any ill-treatment. Being exposed to all kinds of weather must necessarily be injurious to the immature constitutions of children."

"I know it sometimes happens when neither the farmer nor his grieve follows close after the field workers, that there is much wanton and indecent conversation by the elder women, in presence of their younger companions."

"It would be well were it possible that neither boy nor girl should be removed from school under 14, though in some kinds of field work a stout boy will do as much as a full-grown woman, yet I think they ought not to receive the same amount of wages. They get possession of money which they account their own, using it too frequently without discretion for indulgence in useless and pernicious habits: they become disobedient to their parents, and generally refuse any longer to attend the Sabbath school."

"Abundant *means of education* are provided, nearly all take advantage of them, but, unhappily, when it occurs that the parents have not been educated they are indifferent as to the education of their children."

"Children are all set to work as soon as they are able for it, and it is only during the winter months that those who are able for work are sent to school. Those who live at a distance from the school cannot attend in their earlier years, and being soon removed their opportunities of obtaining instruction are small. The continual flitting of married ploughmen, almost yearly, is a great bar to continued school attendance and progress. Still, there are few left altogether without instruction,—few who connot read; and even in all our parochial schools the Bible is read, the children must be possessed of some religious knowledge. Our parochial schoolmasters are under an obligation to teach gratuitously the children of the poor."

"An *evening school* has been seldom tried in the parish. Those who have most need of it, young ploughmen, are too far distant to be able to attend after a hard day's work. We have not many who are really in want of it."

76. *The Rev. Charles C. Stewart*, Free Church minister, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed, only when women are difficult to be had."

"Women are employed in cleaning land, gathering potatoes and turnips, stoning fields, assisting at thrashing mill, hoeing, &c."

"Women and boys get 1*s.* day."

"Agricultural labour for females and boys is inconstant and fitful, that no restriction appears to me to be necessary on such employment."

"The inhabitants of the village of Scone are chiefly weavers or artisans, &c. The head of the family go to Perth, or anywhere else where work can be obtained, and the children of 12 or 14 and women are employed by the neighbouring farmers in summer and autumn. Occasional farm labour withdraws the children from regular attendance at school, but does not materially deprive them of a tolerably good education."

"*The cottages* in the village afford tolerably good accommodation for all who are likely to occupy them, and they do not seem over-crowded. Country cottages present all varieties of convenience and inconvenience, suitableness or the reverse, according to the prevailing interests and wishes of landlords and tenants."

77. *Mr. John Murray Graham*, landowner, says:

"I should not consider broken days or weeks of alternate schooling and working desirable; besides the employers, farmers would not find such irregularity suit their work."

"There are, I think, *three schools* in the parish of Scone. Agricultural children in general take advantage of them, but when there is a demand for field labour I believe that both the school terms will be shortened, and children may be taken from school altogether earlier than might be desirable."

"The condition of the *cottages* in this neighbourhood is pretty good, each having two or three rooms."

78. *Mr. P. Geekie*, factor to the Earl of Mansfield, says:

"*Children* of hired servants and farm labourers generally attend school up to 10 years of age. If they can obtain light work from 10 to 14 they take it; such as hand-thinning turnips, cutting weeds in pasture, and other summer operations. They generally return to school in winter."

"*Women* are employed in any light farm work they are capable of from April till November."

The hours of work are from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. a rest between 12 and 2 o'clock for dinner, or option of resting one hour from 1 to 2 o' clock dropping work at six."

Women and children are subject to no ill-treat-t, and need no restriction on their labour."

Cottages.

Cottages have been much improved during the 20 years, and are generally conveniently situated ne farms."

The 'bothy system' exists to a certain extent. ve had long experience of it and have found no results of it. Much depends on the character of man who overlooks or has charge of the bothy ."

9. *Mrs. Dewer*, wife of farm labourer, says:

My husband and all farm labourers here about 6½ bolls of oatmeal in the year, (i.e., Linlithgow asure, two pecks of about 14 lbs. each per week)."

Some men like the bothy life, and some like ng in the kitchen best."

When a farm labourer marries about here he ects the lass he's married on to provide napery, (towels, sheets, table-cloths, and bed clothes,) crockery, and a chest of drawers; he provides beds, dresser, chairs, and a table. When a girl has'nt got her providing, if a man wants her he must just take her without."

"We have to pay 45*s.* a year for this bit place (two very small rooms, one merely a closet,) and a very small bit of garden."

"The farm places on —— —— estate are very good, but he has some awful-like places for the servants."

"My husband has—
20*l.* in money;
House rent paid for us 45*s.*;
A garden worth, may be, 20*s.*;
3 bolls of potatoes.
6½ bolls of meal.

"If you don't plant the potatoes for yourself you only get two bolls, if you plant them you have the chance of more. Foremen and grieves get a little more, and some big farms keep an 'idle grieve' who just goes about waiting on the rest and may be looking after a few work women."

EVIDENCE ON MODE OF HIRING, MANNER OF PAYING, AND VALUE OF WAGES.

Abernyte.

80. *The Rev. R. Leitch* says:

"The average value of an ordinary farm servant's ges is about 30*l.*, besides a cottage and garden rent e. This is derivable from money, meal, milk, and nerally potatoes or potato ground."

81. *Mr. Alex. Tweedie*, schoolmaster, says:

"From inquiry at several farms I find that the best *male labourers*, harvest wages included, earn from *l.* to 12*l.* per annum."

82. *Ploughman's* evidence:—

"I have—
22*l.* in money;
6½ bolls of meal;
16 gills (Scotch pint) of sweet milk per day;
A cottage and garden free;
2 tons of coals (leadage free);
20 'falls' of potato ground.
6½ bolls of meal.

"A married woman seldom earns more than 5*l.* a ear, I should say."

Auchterarder.

83. *Mr. G. Richmond*, landowner and occupier, says:

"We hire our labourers at markets. Men are paid artly in money partly in kind. Women are paid holly in money."

"All told, the annual earnings of a farm labourer re worth 35*l.*"

Auchtergaben.

84. *Mr. Thos. Wylie*, owner and occupier, says:

"Ploughmen are generally engaged from Martinmas o Martinmas, generally getting from 19*l.* to 24*l.* in money with meal and milk. There average wage would be:—
Money, 20*l.*;
6½ bolls of oatmeal yearly;
Scotch pint of sweet milk daily.

"Cattle men and what are termed 'orra' men (working farm work without having horses) are generally paid in money only, and have from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week."

Shepherds have the same wages as good ploughmen, with the addition of half an allowance of meal for the dog."

"Women are generally paid 1*s.* a day, except in harvest, when they get from 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day."

85. On *Mr. McDuff's* farm single men living in a bothy have:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	21	0	0
Meal	6	10	0
Milk (Scotch pint)	5	4	0
Bothy lodging	2	12	0
	£35	2	0

'Married men have a cottage and garden and potato ground, and Mr. McDuff considers their wage worth 3*l.* more than the bothy men. An able-bodied roadman (whose daughter works on Mr. McDuff's farm) has 13*s.* a week upstanding wage.

Blair-Athole, Blairgowrie, Caputh, Clunie, Logierait, Moulin } Highland parishes including some arable land.

86. *Mr. R. Elliot*, occupier, of Laighwood, in the parish of Clunie, says:

"The general mode of hiring is by making inquiry amongst friends and neighhours, especially as regards females. There are, however, hiring markets at most towns twice a year, and in some thrice, at which those who have not fallen in with situations privately are picked up. Married men and shepherds are rarely engaged at these hiring markets, generally privately. There are also register offices in some of the villages. All shepherds, on hill farms at least, are paid partly in money partly in kind. Bothy men in money, with an allowance of meal and milk. My own married men are mostly paid in money and a cow's keep; females always in money, excepting domestic servants, who are paid with money and board in the house.

"The average value of the earnings for 12 months of an ordinary able-bodied farm labourer is about 36*l.* per annum. My own labourers, who are paid entirely in money, get as follows:—

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

s.

	£	s.	d.
35 weeks in spring, summer, &c., 14s. per week	25	4	0
4 weeks, and sometimes 5, in harvest, 25s. per week	5	0	0
13 weeks in winter, 11s. per week	7	3	0
	£37	7	0

"As, however, they are not paid on stormy days when not working. 36*l.* may be considered the fair average of their earnings. They are also allowed implements. It is difficult to give details when the men are paid partly in money partly in kind, the value of meal, &c. fluctuates too much. When the men are paid in kind as well as money they get milk and meal as a portion; the married men over and above milk and meal get a cottage and garden. I am the only farmer in the neighbourhood I know of who gives a cow to his labourers; some of these cows are my own property, some of them the labourers. I am in favour of the labourer being the owner of the cow, but when circumstances prevent it I give one. When the cow is mine I get the calf free, when it is the property of the labourer he sells it. When milk and meal are given, and not a cow and meal, a Scotch pint (about a quart and a half imperial) of milk is given to each man, fresh from the cow, daily for 365 days, and 65 heavy stones of oatmeal per annum.

"Women are paid 1*s.* 2*d.* a day for 10 hours work in summer and 2*s.* 6*d.* in harvest."

Collace.

87. *Mr. W. Henderson*, occupier, says

"Agricultural labourers are hired by the year principally in the market. Ploughmen are paid in money, meal and milk."

"The money wage varies from 17*l.* to 24*l.* I think an average ploughman's wage may be stated as below:

	£	s.	d.
Money	20	0	0
Meal	6	10	0
Milk	5	10	0
Lodging, fuel, and light	4	0	0
	£36	0	0

Within the last 10 years both married and single men have been constantly changing their service. The best of our men have emigrated. If our parish ministers would visit the bothies more, they would do a deal of good, and farmers would be glad to find them light. Our Free Church minister does much good in this way. The lads like the bothy; I have three sons of my foreman on my farms, one on the same farm as his father, all living in bothies."

Dron.

88. *Mr. John Richmond*, occupier, says:

"I have 19 ploughmen, all single men, living in bothies; their average wage is,—

	£	s.	d.
Money	20	0	0
6½ bolls meal at 20*s.*	6	10	0
Milk at 4*d.* per pint	6	1	8
Bothy, bed clothes, and coals	2	12	0
	£35	3	8

Married men, such as cattlemen, have,—

	£	s.	d.
Money	17	0	0
Meal (as above)	6	10	0
Milk do.	6	1	8
Cottage and garden	3	0	0
Three tons of coals	1	10	0
Three bolls of potatoes (5 cwt.)	1	10	0
	£35	11	8

Women are paid 1*s.* a day at ordinary work, 2*s.* 6*d.* in harvest, and 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in potato lifting."

"A woman regularly employed will earn,—

	£	s.	d.
Twenty days harvest at 2*s.* 6*d.*	2	10	0
Say 230 days at 1*s.*	11	10	0
Ten days at 1*s.* 6*d.*	0	15	8
	£14	15	0

"In turnip season I get about 20 Irish women from Perth."

Dull, Fortingal, Weem. } Highland parishes.

89. *Sir Robert Menzies, Bart.*, owner and occupier says:

"Men are paid in money and food, and engaged by the year or half-year. Yearly servants have,—

In money, 22*l.* to 26*l.*
6½ bolls of oatmeal in the year.
Two quarts of milk per day.

Females are paid 5*s.*, 6*s.*, 7*s.*, and 9*s.* per week according to ability."

Shepherd's Wages.

Head shepherds,—
In money, 40*l.*
6½ bolls oatmeal.
Two quarts milk per day.
Fuel.
Dog tax paid.

Married under shepherds,—
In money, 18*l.*
Grass and hay for two cows.
6½ bolls oatmeal.
House free.
Potato land.

"They get as much potato land as they can enclose and dig, and are allowed to cut hay for their cows where they can find it."

"Unmarried shepherds who live in a bothy have 20*l.* with meal and milk."

"A shepherd whose house is near a "fank" where strange sheep are collected, gets an extra supply of meal to provide food for strange shepherds who come to collect strayed sheep."

"On my farms, which include 600 acres arable and 14,000 acres of hill pasture, I employ no children save a herd boy, who is over 13 years of age."

Highland District.

90. *Mr. F. N. Menzies*, occupier (secretary to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland), says

"Day labourers are paid in money, and are either paid weekly or at the half-yearly terms May and November."

"*Shepherds* have from 18*l.* to 24*l.* with 65 stone of oatmeal per annum, and two quarts of milk daily or an addition to their wage of 4*l.* or 5*l.* a year in lieu of milk."

"*Ploughmen's* wages are the same as above."

"*Managers* have 30*l.* to 40*l.* besides allowances 30*l.* to 35*l.* being the general rule."

"I use mowers and reapers and all the machinery I can find that is useful, hence the usual staff of the farm can get through our work in haytime and harvest, &c."

Errol.

91. *Mr. R. Just*, occupier, says:

"Yearly servants (farm) are hired sometimes at market, sometimes at home. Day labourers from time to time as they are required, and harvest workers by special written agreement."

The yearly earnings of an unmarried ploughman be stated as follows,—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - -	20	0	0
6½ bolls of meal at 19s. -	5	14	0
One Scotch pint (12 gills) of milk per day at 3½d. per pint	5	6	6
Lodging and fire in bothy -	3	0	0
Allowances throughout the year, especially in harvest - -	1	0	0
	£35	0	6

A married man has in lieu of lodging and fire in bothy,—

	£	s.	d.
A cottage and garden, say -	2	10	0
Potatoes or potato ground, say -	2	0	0
Leadage of fuel, say - -	0	10	0
Straw for pig, say - -	0	10	0
	£5	10	0

hat his yearly pay, calculated as above, is worth 10s. 6d."

About 11 "falls" for potatoes are usually given, n equivalent in potatoes."

The pint of sweet milk I have put at 3½d. It is lly sold at 4d., sometimes 4½d., and when we are t we pay the men 4d. a pint for all deficiency."

I have put the meal at 19s. a boll. The average he Perthshire 'fiars' for the last 19 years gives 5d., and as carse meal is of the finest quality I e put it at 19s."

Besides leading coal, say from two to three tons annum for married men from the station, we lead load of brush-wood for each family, sometimes n a considerable distance. Coals cost at the way station about 10s. 6d. per ton in summer, and 6d. in winter. About one ton per man is the wance for bothy men."

The average earnings of married women, exclusive harvest, are about 26s. per month for about six nths. In harvest they earn about 3l. During months of the year they are generally indoors. e of my women would therefore earn about 16s. in the year."

92. *Mr. R. Clark*, occupier, says:

"Male labourers are generally hired at markets, hales more commonly through register offices. ose hired by the year are paid yearly with small ments to account running on. Those not hired by year are generally paid fortnightly."

Married as well as single men have,—

	£	s.	d.
In money - - -	20	0	0
Meal, 65 stones (14 lbs.) 5 stone every 4 weeks at 2s. per stone	6	10	0
Milk, 1 Scotch pint per day, worth say 4d. a day - -	6	1	8
	£32	11	8

Besides this a married man has a cottage and rden free, and about 10 "falls" of potato ground. ngle men have bothy lodging and fuel, and are nerally allowed, though this is no part of their rgain, to take potatoes for their supper on week ys and for their dinner on Sabbath."

(Note.—On one farm of 455 Scotch acres of carse nd Mr. Clark works 13 pairs of horses, *i.e.*, one ir to 35 Scotch acres. On 710 acres (Scotch) of able land Mr. Clark's ordinary staff of men consists :—

2 Grieves.
3 Cattlemen.
2 "Orra" men.
20 Ploughmen.

During the greater part of the year 20 women, 2 of whom are married, are employed on the same rm (10 of these, seven of whom are married, are employed, weather permitting, in winter. Part of these farms are stiff carse land, part the more friable dark land found on the "inches." The courses of cropping are as follows:

7 Course.	9 Course.
1. Grass (half mown).	1. Grass.
2. Grass and wheat (on what was mown).	2. Wheat.
3. Oats.	3. Green crop.
4. Potatoes.	4. Wheat.
5. Wheat.	5. Green crop.
6. Turnips.	6. Wheat.
7. Barley.	7. Green crop.
	8. Wheat.
	9. Oats.

93. *Mr. Constable*, occupier, thus gives the wages of farm labourers:

Married Ploughmen.	£	s.	d.	Unmarried Ploughmen.	£	s.	d.
Money - -	20	0	0	Money - -	20	0	0
Meal - -	6	10	0	Meal - -	6	10	0
Milk - -	6	0	0	Milk - -	6	0	0
House and garden - -	3	10	0	Lodging and and fuel, &c.	4	0	0
Harvest and other allowances - -	1	0	0	Harvest and other allowances -	1	0	0
Carriage of fuel	0	10	0				
	£37	10	0		£37	10	0

Grieves, Mr. Constable says, have 6l. more.

Women in regular employment, he says, average an earning of 15l. a year.

Mr. Constable farms 360 acres (imperial) of clay and black carse land, with an ordinary staff, winter and summer, of,—

11 Men.
2 Lads over 13.
4 Married women,
2 Girls over 13.

The course of husbandry is thus given:

Black land. 8 Course.	Clay land. 7 Course.
1. Grass.	1. Grass.
2. Oats.	2. Oats.
3. Turnips (yellow).	3. Bare-fallow.
4. Wheat.	4. Wheat.
5. Potatoes.	5. Beans.
6. Wheat.	6. Wheat.
7. Swedes.	7. Barley.
8. Barley.	

Fortingal.

Shepherds' wages.

94. *Duncan McPherson*, shepherd, says:

"Unmarried shepherds have 20l., and their food in the farm house. Married shepherd's, he has a cottage, eight bolls of meal, as much potato land as he can work, two, and sometimes three, cows, for which he can cut hay in the bogs, and as many peats as he likes to cut besides his 20l. A shepherd can look after 600 ewes and lambs, with help in lambing time."

Inchture.

95. The *Rev. J. A. Honey, D.D.*, says:

1. "A grieve or head manager has yearly from 27l. to 30l., with six bolls and a half of oatmeal, and one pint (Scotch) of sweet milk daily."

2. "A foreman who works a pair of horses and takes charge of the men, has from 22l. to 24l., and the same allowance of meal and milk."

3. "A ploughman has from 21l. to 22l., with the same allowances. All the above have housing in addition, either in a cottage or bothy."

4. "A labourer has, on an average, 12s. a week with neither board nor lodging."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

s.

5. "A woman has 1*s.* a day, except in potato lifting and harvest time, when the wage ranges from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day."

6. "A servant woman who is hired to work in the house and to work out of doors also has at present 8*l.* per annum, and of course maintenance besides."

Evidence of *two bothy men on Powgarie farm*:—

"We have 20*l.* in money, six bolls and a half of meal, and a small pint (12 gills) of milk daily. Besides this we have the bothy with bedding and fire; no candles nor potatoes."

96. *Mr. McClaren*, factor to Lord Kinnaird, thus gives the earnings of different classes of hired farm servants.

	1st Class Foreman.	2nd Class Foreman.	1st Class Married Ploughman.	2nd Class Married Ploughman.	1st Class Unmarried Ploughman.	2nd Class Unmarried Ploughman.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Money	30 0 0	25 0 0	23 0 0	19 0 0	24 0 0	19 0 0
Meal	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0
Milk	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0
House and garden	3 0 0	3 0 0	2 10 0	2 10 0	—	—
Bothy lodging	—	—	—	—	2 12 0	2 12 0
Potatoes	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	—	—
Firing and lights	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
Haulage of fuel	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	—	—
Food in harvest, &c.	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Pig manure	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	—	—
Totals	47 14 0	42 14 0	40 4 0	36 4 0	40 6 0	35 6 0

Mr. McClaren says, "I have taken the meal boll (equal to 140 lbs.) as worth 20*s.* a boll or 2*s.* a stone. The Scotch pint (sometimes 12 and sometimes 16 gills) of milk I have taken as worth 2*s.* a week, as that was the allowance in lieu of the milk fixed by the sheriff at the time of the cattle plague. Where a foreman has a cow I consider the allowance worth 3*l.* more than the milk. If potatoes or potato ground is not given free the labourer generally has as many falls as his pig manure will cover, at 1*s.* a 'fall,' the crop will be worth to him say 2*s.* a 'fall.' When ploughmen are away from home they get an allowance of meal, and if they are laid up with sickness they get full pay for six weeks. The master is also a loser by a certain number of holidays."

"Female workers have from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day; at ordinary seasons 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day in harvest."

"Labouring men have 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week."

"In 1836 the money wage of a foreman was 14*l.*, now, 25*l.* to 30*l.* First and second class ploughmen in 1836 received 11*l.* and 8*l.* in money, now 24*l.* and 19*l.* Their houses now are much better, and the allowance of milk costs the farmer more. So with women: in 1836 their wages were 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day. The wages of labouring men in 1836 were 8*s.* to 10*s.* a week, now 12*s.* to 15*s.*"

"Piece-work, such as thrashing in harvest, has risen in the same proportion.

Kinfauns.

97. *Mr. McEwen*, occupier, gives a ploughman's wage as follows:

	£ *s.* *d.*
Money	20 0 0
Meal (6½ bolls)	6 10 0
Milk (Scotch pint)	5 4 0
Cottage and garden	2 12 0
Potatoes (2 bolls or 10 cwt.)	1 5 0
Straw, for pig	0 10 0
Harvest money in lieu of dinner for a month	0 10 0
	£36 11 0

Foremen have 4*l.* more money.

Mr. McEwen says, "The women I employ in winter are the wives of my labourers; they are paid 1*s.* a day and 3*s.* a day in harvest. In harvest a woman earns about 2*l.* I get some of the fisher's wives occasionally, and when I am hard pressed I get some Irish women from Perth sending a cart for them."

Kilspindie.

98. *Mr. Millar*, occupier and land agent, says:

"Men are generally hired by the year. A married man will have—

	£ *s.* *d.*
In money	21 0 0
Meal, 6½ bolls (140 lbs. each)	6 10 0
Milk at 4*d.* a day	6 1 8
Cottage and garden	3 0 0
	£36 11 8

"Besides this I allow them to plant potatoes in my field at a nominal rate, and cart fuel free for them. Bothy men have their bothy quarters, firing, bedding, and occasionally potatoes in lieu of cottage and garden. Both classes have holidays."

"Women are paid generally in money by the day at from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and in harvest from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day."

99. *Mr. Jas. Robertson*, land steward to Sir P. Murray Threipland, says:

"The general mode of hiring is at 'feeing' or hiring markets. Hiring by certificates of character was attempted to be established in the district, but only succeeded very partially owing to the prejudice against it of both employers and employed. No good reason can be given why farm servants should not be hired on the strength of their character as other servants are.

"Men are hired from Martinmas to Martinmas. The allowances of all classes are the same in meal and milk, viz., 6½ bolls of meal worth 6*l.* 10*s.* and 1 gills (per day) of new milk, generally reckoned worth 5*l.* The money wage varies from 18*l.* to 26*l.* Besides money, meal, and milk, a married man has a cottage and about 20 poles of garden free, and his coals led free of charge, as well as straw for his pig. A bothy man has his bothy, bed, bedding (and washing of bedding), and firing free."

100. *Mr. G. Muirhead*, occupier, says:

"The labourers and female workers are almost universally (for, I presume, 'agricultural labourer' is not intended to embrace the 'ploughman') hired by the week at weekly wages. An account of their time is daily recorded by the grieve or overseer in the 'Labour Book,' and they are paid at the end of the week or fortnight for the actual time they have been at work. The general body of the servants, ploughmen, and others, are hired in this district at the annual hiring market in October, and are engaged

he year from the old term of Martinmas (22nd mber) to the same term in the following year. ir money wages are paid to them sometimes at end of each half year, and in many cases at the of the twelve months for which they are engaged; every man is allowed so much to account of his es whenever he desires it, leaving the balance to adjusted at the expiry of his engagement. His es 'in kind' are supplied to him in the shape of pecks (=35 lbs. imp.) of oatmeal served out to once a fortnight, and, in most cases, what is ed the old Scotch pint (=12 gills or three im- al pints), in others the imperial Scotch pint (=16 s or an imperial half gallon) of sweet milk fresh n the cow, with which he is suppled every morn- ."

The average value of the earnings for 12 nths of an ordinary able-bodied farm labourer will ount to 36*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, being at the rate of 13*s.* 6*d.* eek all the year through, with the exception of weeks during harvest, when he will obtain 20*s.* per ek. The above calculation is made on the under- nding that the labourer is engaged closely on the m during the whole year, which, I may state, is dom or never the case, the farmer much preferring hire such men as shepherds, cattlemen, &c., in the he way as his ordinary ploughmen, viz., for the ole year. He is then sure of their services at any ne, which he can never be in the case of a man gaged by week's wages, and has them housed in cottages or bothy."

'The average earnings of a female field worker gularly employed for the year will be about 12*l.* to *l.* Of course the term 'regularly' must be ac- pted with a certain amount of reservation, for no male worker is employed every day in the year. onstant employment will consist on the average of, y, in the three months of—

Spring (March to May) - -	55 days
Summer (June to August) -	80 ,,
Autumn (Sept. to Nov.) - -	60 ,,
Winter (Dec. to Feb.) - -	25 ,,

Taking in all 220 days out of the 313 working days the year. The wages in this district are 1*s.* per ay all the year round (some two years ago they were ever above 9*d.* and 10*d.*), except three weeks at arvest, when the female workers are paid at the te of 3*s.* a day, and a week at potato lifting, when ne wages range from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day."

"The average wages of an ordinary married plough- an living in one of the cottages on the farm, 'whether money or kind,' are as follows:

	Per annum.			Equal to. per week.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - - - -	21	0	0	0	8	1
Meal, 6½ bolls per annum, 20*s.* (1 boll =140 lbs. =10 imp. =8 Dutch, stones) - -	6	10	0	0	2	6
Milk, one Scotch pint per day, 4*d.* (1 Scotch pint = 12 gills =2 chopins =3 imp. pints) - - - - -	6	1	8	0	2	4
Bread and beer allowance at harvest - - - - -	0	15	0	0	0	3½
Potato ground—labour and manure - - - -	1	0	0	0	0	4½
Home and garden (free) -	3	0	0	0	1	1¾
Carriage of coals - -	0	10	0	0	0	2¼
£	38	16	8	0	14	11

The bothy man's wages are very similar, as will be seen from the following statement:—

	Per annum.			Equal to per week.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money, 21*l.*; meal, 6*s.* 10*d.*; and milk., 6*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, all as above - - - - -	33	11	8	0	12	11
Allowance of bread and beer, as above - - - - -	0	15	0	0	0	3½
Lodgings, including bedding, cooking, utensils, coals, &c.	1	10	0	0	0	6¾
£	35	16	8	0	13	9¼

The difference of 3*l.* is more apparent than real, being made up, as will be readily seen, from the full rent of the cottage being charged against one man, while in the latter instance the bothy man, being one of a number in the same house, is only charged with a proportion (10*s.*) of the rent. Unmarried men seldom use all the meal they receive, and they generally dispose of the surplus to married ploughmen with large families, whose allowance is seldom sufficient to supply them with oatmeal through the year.

"Where boys of from 12 to 15 years of age are engaged by the year their wages 'in kind' are precisely the same as the above, while their wages in money range from 7*l.* to 10*l.* per annum, according to qualifications."

KINNAIRD.

101. *Mr. Robertson*, schoolmaster, says:

"The hiring is done at the local market at Errol, in the month of July where all the servants, male and female, congregate and meet the farmers. This is one of their holidays, and rough it is. A great many fights take place, and many of the farmers are nearly as bad as the ploughmen. Lord Kinnaird, with laudable zeal, tried to change the system of hiring but failed."

"It is not an easy matter to come at the truth of a man's earnings for a year. A good hand, when the days are long enough to permit him to work 10 hours, gets 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, but during winter, wages are much reduced, and a good deal of time is lost."

METHVEN.

102. *Mr. W. Smythe*, landowner, says:

"Ploughmen are hired by the year or half-year; other labourers by the day."

"Average yearly earning of an ordinary farm labourer, from 32*l.* to 35*l.* a year."

103. *Mr. Thos. Ross*, occupier, says:

"Ploughmen are hired at local feeing markets."

"The average value of the earnings of labourers are from 14*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and in harvest nearly double."

"Married men in addition to the same payment in money and kind as the unmarried have a cottage and garden in lieu of bothy quarters, and potato ground. Single men are therefore the cheapest, but often the extra wage we give to married men is counterbalanced by their being steadier and having fewer attractions for wandering after working hours. The money wage varies from 20*l.* to 23*l.* per annum, and I put the average cost of a *married man* thus:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money wage (average of men) -	21	10	0
House and garden, rent free -	2	10	0
6½ bolls of oatmeal, at 20*s.* -	6	10	0
Scotch pint of sweet milk, at 4*d.* per day - - - - -	6	1	8
Potato land yielding, say 6 bolls at 15*s.* - - - - -	4	10	0
Value of privilege of keeping a pig - - - - - -	3	0	0(?)
	£44	1	8

Or showing an average rate of wages of 17*s.* a week, which contrasts favourably with any other class of out or even in-door workers."

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Other workers furnish and keep up their tools, pay rent for their houses, &c., whereas the married ploughman has everything found him and kept up by the master. Besides a great portion of the rural labourers who are not hired farm labourers, have to travel long distances night and morning, or as in some cases only get home on Saturday nights. If a ploughman is away from home on his master's work, his keep is found for him. Moreover the ploughman has no broken time as other out-door tradesmen, and labourers have. Masons, slaters, quarrymen, &c., though their wages are apparently higher, lose at least from 1½ to 2 days per week."

"Trades unions and strikes among the operatives a few years ago, had a bad effect on our agricultural population. In my own case it led me to part with my foreman or principal servant who had been with me 14 years. In this locality a combination of ploughmen was formed, having for its object to reduce or shorten the hours of labour, and to restrict the labour to a certain kind, at certain hours; that all extra labour beyond that done either at *seed time* or *harvest even* must be paid for extra (at the rate of 6*d.* per hour); that during harvest they must have dinner, &c., extra, and that their pay should be quarterly, &c., &c. I and a few of the largest farmers over the county at once determined to oppose any such combination. We would have been willing to pay any wages, but could not submit to be under our servants' control, and we resisted successfully. This kind of things may suit any business carried on *under cover within doors,* but never can in agricultural work, where we are ever liable to the vicissitudes of weather. We must have a *full, faithful,* and well paid band ever willing to make a strong pull when the *land* and the *weather* is suitable; knowing that it is worse than folly to go on land to work or touch crops to secure them unless they are in suitable trim.

Our workpeople also know that when farming is rightly gone about, they often get a fair share of leisure or resting time in the way of a holiday for visiting friends at a distance.

Another feature in the consideration of wages is, that in cases of sickness the master never (so far as I know) deducts anything from the wages when a servant is off work, and this frequently happens, I should say it might affect them perhaps 1*s.* a week on an average for the year, and their meal, milk, &c., &c., is all running on.

We supply coals and firewood for bothy men, and salt, beds and clothing, and towels. For married men we only cart the coals, they paying the price at railway station.

104. *Mr. J. Graham,* occupier, says:

"Tippermallo contains 295 acres (imp.) all arable. The soil is heavy loam and clay treated in five course husbandry, viz.:

1st. Green crop.
2nd. Wheat or barley.
3rd. New grass (mown).
4th. Second year's grass pastured.
5th. Oats.

"I employ in winter six able-bodied men and a lad of 15, two girls between 13 and 18, and two women above 18. In summer I have eight women from 13 upwards."

"Male servants are chiefly engaged by the year at hiring fairs. They are paid partly in kind and partly in money, *e.g.*, an

Ordinary poughman (unmarried) has,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	22	0	0
70 lbs. or ½ boll of oatmeal per month - - -	6	10	0
One Scotch pint (12 gills) of sweet milk per day - -	6	10	0
Value of bothy accommodation, fuel, bedding, &c. - -	4	0	0
Meat in harvest - -	1	0	0
	£40	0	0

"A female servant when hired for the year has 6*l.* or 10*l.* wages and board."

"A female day labourer in regular employment earns 12*l.* a year."

"The wages of a grieve or first-class married ploughman will amount to 44*l.* or 45*l.* a year, as besides the sum allowed for ordinary unmarried men he will have a house and garden worth say 4*l.*, and the privilege of keeping a pig worth say at least 1*l.* a year on some allowance of potatoes made to him."

105. *Mr. Allan,* occupier, says:

"Men are engaged by the year at hiring markets."

"An ordinary ploughman receives,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	22	0	0
6½ bolls of oatmeal at 20*s.* -	6	10	0
1 Scotch pint of new milk at 4*d.*	6	1	8
Bothy accommodation - -	2	0	0
Extra food in harvest - -	1	0	0
Total -	37	15	0

"Married men receive from 3*l.* to 4*l.* more in the shape of cottage, garden, and potato ground."

"Female labourers earn about 11*l.* year."

106. *Increase in wages since* 1864.

Money wages of Tippermallo staff 1870 and 1864, other allowances remaining the same.

		1870.			1864.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Grieve (also shepherd) -		27	10	0	25	0	0
Cattleman - -		24	0	0	20	0	0
1st. Ploughman	1st class	23	10	0	21	10	0
2nd. „		22	0	0	19	0	0
3rd. „		21	0	0	18	0	0
4th. „	2nd class	19	0	0	15	0	0
Lad - - -		8	10	0	8	0	0

Since 1867 wages have remained the same. Of the above four ploughmen, one is married, others live in a bothy. Four women are employed in winter and six in summer. These as well as the extra hands come from the village of Methven. Extra hands generally Irish.

MONEYDIE.

107. *Mr. Robt. Smith.* occupier, says:

"Men are paid partly in money and partly in kind. A bothy man's wages would be as under,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - - -	20	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls at 20*s.* - -	6	10	0
Milk, half an imperial gallon per day - - - -	6	1	8
Harvest allowance in lieu of food	0	10	0
Bothy lodging, bedding and fuel, (1 ton of coal) - -	2	12	0
	£35	13	8

A married man has in lieu of the bothy, &c., a cottage and garden worth say 52*s.*, potato ground worth say 40*s.*, and leadage of fuel say 20*s.*, in all about 38*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* per annum."

"Females when hired by the year get from 10*l.* to 12*l.* and their keep in the farmhouse, others get 1*s.* a day ordinarily and 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day in harvest."

108. [NOTE.—In Moneydie on each farm there are generally one or two women hired by the year who do light field work and milk cows, &c. They receive the same wages as a farmer's domestic servant and are treated in the same manner. Their wages now from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year, as stated by Mr. Smith, were 5*l.* 20 years ago. They are a saving class, and one instance of a woman hired in this way saving 100*l.*

years, was mentioned by Mr. McDuff an ier in the parish who puts the whole earnings of ed women as occasional field workers at 6*l.* ling harvest. G.C.]

MONZIEVAIRD.

2. *Mr. T. J. Graham*, Stirling, says:
Except in cases where cottages are supplied, pay- is by day wages. Ordinary labourers earn from d. to 2*s.* a day. Contractors' men 3*s.* a day."

3. *Mr. Peter Kay*, occupier, says:
Both men and women are generally hired from inmas to Martinmas with a fixed money wage and ns, or in the case of bothy men a payment in y and kind, *e.g.*.

average ploughman has,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	20	0	0
Meal (6½ bolls) - -	6	10	0
Milk (say 4*d.* a day) - -	6	1	8
Lodging in bothy and fuel, say -	2	12	0
	£35	3	8

MUTHILL.

1. *Mr. D. McInnes*, occupier, gives the following unt of his servants' wages, &c.
Three male servants all unmarried who are hired he year and receive in money 22*l.*, 15*l.*, and 8*l.* ectively, the last being a lad of 15 years. Two ales also hired by the year and receiving 9*l.* 10*s.* 9*l.* respectively."
The above five servants all receive their food in farm kitchen. The males have a large sleeping tment adjoining the kitchen, where they are plied with fire and light during winter and to which retire after meals. I supply them with periodicals and give them in winter an occasional lesson in three R's."
I employ at hay, turnip, and harvest-work from o 12 occasional labourers from the village of Com- (half a mile distant); they are all grown up and ive, males from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day, females from 3*d.* to 2*s.* besides their dinner in the farm kitchen the hired servants."

RHYND.

12. *Mr. Thos. Landale*, occupier, says:
Men are hired either at home or at public hiring kets. I adopt the former mode as far as practic- e. They are paid partly in money and partly in d, thus:—

Married men.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money (average) - -	20	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls, at 20*s.* -	6	10	0
Milk, ½ gallon daily, at 4*d.*	6	1	8
Potatoes, 1½ tons, at 50*s.* -	3	15	0
Meat for month in harvest -	0	15	0
Haulage of coals, 4 tons, at 2*s.* 6*d.* - - -	0	10	0
House and garden - -	3	0	0
	£40	11	8

Single men.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - - -	20	0	0
Meal - - - -	6	10	0
Milk - - - -	6	1	8
Meat in harvest - -	0	15	0
Lodging and coal - -	4	0	0
Potatoes, say - - -	2	0	0
	£39	6	8

"They however cost their master 30*s.* each more than this for lost time, say, on an average, a fortnight a year, *i.e.*, the above wage is certain to them while their work is not certain to the master.

"Besides the above wages married men are allowed to keep a pig, which I calculate as being fully worth 1*l.* more.

"Women are paid 1*s.* a day all the year through, except in harvest, when for about a month they earn 3*s.* a day; and during potato lifting time when for three or four weeks they earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day."

Highland women.

"The wives and daughters of the married ploughmen are employed on my farm, but as I do not get a sufficient number of workers from this source I employ six women from the *Isle of Skye*, who come south every year in the beginning of March and return home (if they do not get married, as oftens happens, or are not wanted for winter work) in December. These women, besides the wages I have given for native women, cost me their travelling expenses from Skye, a few potatoes, and eight gills of milk per day, lodging, coals, and bedding, and I calculate that besides the higher wages at harvest and potato lifting they cost me 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. Women are paid fortnightly, and I find the earnings of a woman for 12 months to be from 16*l.* to 18*l.* The Skye girls live in a house by themselves, and are exceedingly steady, quiet, and well conducted. I have some now who have come to me for seven or eight years, and have had three who remained with me three years without returning home."

113. *Mr. Pitcaithly*, occupier, gives the wages of ploughmen as under:

Unmarried men.	Married men.
Money, 22*l.*	Money 19*l.*
Meal, 2 pecks weekly.	Meal, 2 pecks weekly.
Milk, 1 pint daily.	Milk, 1 pint daily.
Bothy, bedclothes, and coal.	House and garden.
	Haulage of coals.
	1 ton of potatoes.

Women, he says, are paid 1*s.* a day for nine hours work.

114. *Mr. Jas. Drysdale*, occupier, puts the earnings of a married ploughman as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - - -	21	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls, at 20*s.* -	6	10	0
Milk, 12 gills per day, at 3*d.* - - - -	4	11	0
Potatoes, 10 cwt. at 3*s.*, or 4½*d.* a stone (*i.e.*, 2 Perth bolls) - - - -	1	10	0
House and garden - -	3	10	0
Haulage of coals, 5 carts at 2*s.* 6*d.* - - -	0	12	6
	£37	13	6

"Mr. Drysdale has three married men in cottages and four unmarried ploughmen in a bothy. The bothymen get no potatoes, 'except what they take.'"

In the time of turnip singling Mr. Drysdale pays Irish women from Perth 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and says, "they "do it well." These Irish women support themselves by bark peeling, turnip singling and hoeing, potato planting, hoeing and lifting, and harvest work.

There are nine cottages on this farm, six of which are let, some of them to secure female workers. Several of these cottages consist of one long room, divided by box beds. The walls are low of mud as are the floors. Rooms open to the roof.

The ordinary staff of this farm, which contains 445 acres, all arable, (50 acres of Carse land and 395 of Dryfield land on Whinstone), is, one foreman, one shepherd, one cattle man, one "orra" man, five ploughmen, and six women.

Perthshire.

Mr. Culley.

S.

SCONE AND ST. MARTIN'S.

115. *Mr. P. M. Matthew*, occupier, gives the ordinary ploughman's wage thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	21	0	0
Meal (6½ bolls) - -	6	10	0
Milk (1 pint per day) -	6	1	8
Lodging and fuel - -	3	0	0
	£36	11	8

Mr. Matthew puts the lost time by holidays and sickness at 30*s.* a man per annum, i.e., about a fortnight's loss to the master.

116. *Mr. Peter Geekie* gives the average wage paid to the hired men on Lord Mansfield's farm thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	23	0	7
6½ bolls of meal - -	6	10	0
1 pint of sweet milk per day	6	1	8
House and garden - -	2	10	0
	£38	2	3

There are no other allowances.

"Women earn 1*s.* a day at ordinary times and 3*s.* day in harvest for 10 hours work."

"Children from 10 to 14 hand-thinning turnips, a get 7*d.* a day."

117. *The Rev. J. Crombie, D.D.*, says:

"Labourers are hired too frequently, I am sorry say, at 'feeing markets,' though private hiring coming more into practice."

"Ploughmen have from 18*l.* to 25*l.* in money, a cording to age, strength, and experience; ho accommodation in a cottage or bothy; a Scotch p (2 chopins) of milk daily, and 6½ bolls of oatme equal to 4·73 imperial quarters, yearly. Marri ploughmen have very generally some garden grou and an allowance of potatoes or leave to plant a d or two in the potato field."

APPENDIX B.—EVIDENCE FROM THE LOTHIANS.

COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

Linlithgow.

Mr. Culley.

CARRIDEN.

Population, 1,821. - Acreage, 3,309.
Cultivation chiefly arable.

1. *Mr. George Davidson*, farm overseer, Walton, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 18 years of age, chiefly in summer. They are engaged by the half year."

"*Girls* are not much employed. Some few are employed for a few days at a time weeding, after they are 13 years of age."

"Most of the barn work and light out-door work is done by women."

"Horsemen work 10 *hours* a day, besides attending to their horses. Labourers, women, and children (above 12 years) work 10 hours a day."

"Females are subject to no ill-treatment. Out-door work is healthy."

Effect of Female Employment.

"Though outwardly ruder in their manners I do not think that women employed in agriculture are more immoral than any other class who have to earn their bread. I have known some servants turn out well who had been employed a good deal out of doors, and the reverse as to some who had been very little so employed. As a rule, in this district, mothers endeavour to get their daughters out to service as soon as they are fit for it. I seldom employ girls, and when I do it is to oblige a mother (who may be working out) if their daughter is out of place."

"As the females employed on a farm are very much employed in work of which horse labour forms a part, *any restriction as to their employment* would lead to confusion, or it would seriously affect the economy of the farm and result in loss, and very probably in evasion of the enactments of any law having that tendency."

School Attendance.

"The general operations of agriculture, and in particular those in which boys and girls take a part, being dependent on weather, the provisions of the Factory Act will not apply. The enforcement of an educational test is a difficult question, but if practicable it is in the direction indicated under the third division, viz., the Printworks Act, say, *That a farmer shall engage by the year or half-year a boy under* 13 *who has not attended school during a certain portion of his life, and produce a teacher's certificate to that effect; nor employ casually a boy under* 11 *who has not attended school during a certain portion of the preceding* 12 *months.* Parents would thus be unable to derive any benefit from the children's labour, except they had paid some attention to their education. There are still many difficulties to get over."

Schools.

"This parish is exceptionally well off in regard to schools, and the farm labourer's children, with very few exceptions, are regular in their attendance to the time they leave school for service. An organised system of night schools would be of immense advantage to the rural population."

"The *cottages* on this estate are excellent."

"The *bothy system* does not exist here."

"There is no other mode of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously on their education and morals."

"Most of the cottages have *gardens*. The allotment system has not been tried."

"It is not the custom to allow farm servants to *keep of a cow*, there may be an occasional exception to this rule, but rarely."

DALMENY.

Population, 804. - Acreage, 6,797.

2. *Mr. James Dundas*, landowner, vice-lieutenant of the county, says:

"I employ one or two *boys* occasionally from 14 to 16 years of age."

"I employ *girls* at certain seasons planting potatoes and thinning turnips."

"I employ six or eight *women* nearly all the year round. Some of these are the wives of my farm labourers."

"*Men, women, and children work* 10 *hours* a day in summer."

emales are subject to no ill-treatment, nor are exposed to any physical injury."

I believe that, generally speaking, females employed in agriculture are not well suited to become household domestic servants, and this for want proper training when young by a tidy mother, who been well trained herself."

I do not think it would be desirable to place restriction on the employment of females in culture."

There is an excellent *parish school* at Dalmeny, h is well attended by the children of labourers."

On my farms *the cottages* are excellent, and st all have two apartments."

The farm servants now-a-days are mostly marmen, and live in the cottages provided on the s."

All my cottages have gardens."

None of the farm servants keep cows."

The houses in the west end of the town of ensferry are disgracefully bad, and should be ed down. They were feus from this estate some years ago, and are now occupied by the lowest Irish ulation, who came here almost 40 years ago, when ir services were much required for cutting drains, which they excel. The formation of the railway s also brought a considerable addition to the nber of Irish about 30 years ago, and the effect been greatly to increase pauperism and the poor's e."

3. *Mr. Peter Glendinning*, occupier and land agent, s:

"*Boys* are seldom employed in field work until y are 12 years old, and then they are employed oughout the year."

"*Girls* are employed after 12 years old in light m work, such as hoeing, &c.

"*Women* are employed to the extent of four to 100 res."

"Labourers have never more than two miles to to work, and seldom so far as that."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and are posed to *no physical injury* from their work."

"The employment of females in agriculture does t unfit them for domestic duties, nor does it affect eir morals any more than employment as domestic rvants."

"I think it would be a mistake to put *any restriction* upon the employment of women and children, as ey or their parents are quite able to judge for emselves what is best."

"I think children should be compelled to attend chool until 12 years of age, leaving it optional after hat age; and where parents are unable to pay the es, as to which inability the parochial board should e judge, those fees should be paid from the poor's ssessment."

"In this as well as in adjacent parishes there is at least one *good parochial school*, at which all the branches of a good education are taught for merely nominal fees, say from 8*s*. to 20*s*. per annum."

"The *cottages* in this parish are all comfortable; there is rather a limited supply, and on that account it is difficult to procure a sufficient supply of women labourers. I have never seen, however, any case of over-crowding."

"There are *almost no bothies* in this district."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"*No cows are allowed to farm servants* in this district."

Inclosure Commissioners' Loans.

"The only objection to the employment of Government money for building cottages, &c. is the expense and trouble incurred in obtaining the grant, which is quite 'sickening.' It should be left to the proprietor in possession to spend the money as he thinks best, binding him to show plans and specifications, with vouchers, that the work has been efficiently done, and the fee given to an inspector of the work should be restricted to a moderate sum, say, 3*l*. 3*s*. for each order for inspection."

4. *Mr. George Thomas*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed about 14 years of age throughout the year, but principally during summer."

"*Girls* are employed from 12 to 16 years of age in light farm work, such as weeding and singling turnips."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of four to 100 acres, exclusive of harvest."

"Labourers who do not live on the farm have a mile to go to their work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 *hours* in summer, and during daylight in winter."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*; they are not much exposed to bad weather."

"I think females employed in agriculture are less exposed to bad effects on their morals than females employed in factories, but I cannot say I think their training is good for domestic duties."

"Children ought to attend school during winter."

"There is often a greater desire on the part of the parents to get work instead of education for their children."

"The *cottages* on this farm are good, but not subdivided. They are not sufficient for the supply of female labour required. They are conveniently situated. Where the family is large they are crowded, and though no evil results to morality have come under my notice, more rooms and subdivisions would be most beneficial in this respect."

"The *bothy system* exists to some extent, but only *for grown-up women* here."

"No other mode of lodging farm servants exists here."

"Most, but not all, the cottages have *gardens*."

"No cows allowed. Potato ground is sometimes allowed."

"The cottages now built are a great improvement as to accommodation on the old ones."

LINLITHGOW.

Population, 5,784. - Acreage, 11,603.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

5. *Mr. A. Dawson*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 16 years of age almost all the year."

"*Girls* of from 12 to 16 years of age are employed for a few weeks in autumn in gathering potatoes."

"*Women* are employed to a greater extent than men are."

"Labourers go from one to three miles to their work."

"*Men* work 10 *hours* a day, women 9 *hours*."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"The general impression among agricultural labourers is that domestic servants make extravagant wives, while those working in the fields make good economical wives."

"*No restriction* should be placed on any labourer, whether male or female; they should have perfect free trade with their labour, and sell it in the dearest market, and work as much or as little as they choose."

School Attendance.

"The half day at school and half day at work and the alternate day at school and at work modes of enforcing school attendance would not suit here. We could not feed the cattle nor attend to work under such systems; they would simply lead to the dismissal of the boys employed in agriculture."

"I think *night schools* might do good for boys."

"*Public, private, and charitable schools* are the means of education provided for the education of labourer's children; these schools are all more or less well attended. All the children in this parish can be educated if they choose, either by payment or by charity."

Linlithgow.

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s.

"The profession of teacher is now so reduced by competition that they can scarcely earn a labourer's wages by teaching."

"The *cottages* are good, and generally sufficient for the supply of labour required. They are situated on the farm; they are in general overcrowded, as the agricultural labourer has usually from five to ten children. As a general rule the labourers' daughters marry early, so that no evil results to morality arise from overcrowding."

"The *bothy system* does not exist here."

"There is no other mode of lodging farm servants, which acts injuriously on their education or morals."

"Most of the cottages have *gardens*; where there are no gardens the cottagers have *allotments* of land."

"The *keep of a cow is not allowed* here."

6. *Mr. W. Wilson*, occupier, says:

"During summer and harvest a few *boys* are employed under 14 years of age; above 14 they are employed throughout the year."

"*Girls* above 14 are employed in general farm work."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of three or four to each 100 acres of cultivated land; this includes girls over 14 years of age."

"Labourers generally live on the farm; those resident in Linlithgow have a mile or two to walk to their work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 *hours a day* (6 to 12 and 2 to 6) in summer, and from light to dark in winter."

"I think that females engaged in agriculture in this neighbourhood will contrast favourably as to moral character within a similar grade working in factories. Many female labourers marry ploughmen, and are well qualified for the discharge of their duties as ploughmen's wives."

School Attendance.

"No restriction is necessary for children over 14 years of age, but under that age they should all attend school during the winter months, and be taught not merely to read and write, but to sew and knit, and cook plain food."

"Neither the half day at school and half day at work nor the alternate whole days at school and whole days at work modes would suit on a farm, and I should think would have a very doubtful effect on the children. Farm work must be pushed on while the weather permits."

"I should prefer that education be given in winter, and that the children were allowed to earn something in summer."

"There are plenty of schools in the parish, but ploughmen cannot afford to pay much for the education of their families."

"Wherever *cottages* have fallen into decay a very superior kind have been constructed in their place; but many of the older cottages are still used, and some of the ploughmen deem these more comfortable than the new. On the farms close to the town of Linlithgow there is less cottage accommodation, as workers are got there. I don't think the cottages more crowded than those of working men generally, and I believe that there is more propriety of feeling, and a truer and sounder loyalty to Church and Queen, among the agricultural labouring class, than among many of the classes who are so desirous to stigmatize the ignorance and immorality of the former."

"The *bothy system* is all but unknown in this parish. It depends much upon the master whether this system works well or ill, as I think there is nothing objectionable in the system on principle. I admit, however, that it will lead to abuses if neither the master nor the parish clergyman take any care of the men. Poor young unmarried ploughmen have little choice. If bothies are tabooed, and small farmers prevented allowing unmarried men servants to take their meals in his kitchen, there seems no other course left than to allow them to board in a small cottage where there might be unmarried daughters. I think there is a great deal said by people who are ignorant of the matter; and for myself I think it may be very imprudent to legislate on the subject at all, except perhaps to the effect of providing that there shall be a certain number of cottages on each farm, and leave the people to shift for themselves. The men and women cannot be compelled to marry, and courtship in the lower ranks frequently leads to the breaches of the moral law. If, however, a girl has a child by a young man, they not unfrequently marry after saving 8*l.* or 10*l.* to furnish a house. I would strongly advocate the abolition of the fees paid to session clerks &c. for proclamations of marriage, as I consider that these operate as a hindrance to marriage among the lower classes."

Loans under Inclosure Commissioners.

"I do not think the provisions of this Act (27 & 28 Vict. c. 114.) are generally known to farmers. If the Commissioners were to communicate with the secretaries of the various farmers' societies throughout the country, the benefits of the Act would be brought before the meetings."

"There are 58 farms in this parish, ranging from 50 to 500 acres, 200 being almost an average. There are about 9,000 acres of arable land, and probably about 200 ploughmen."

LIVINGSTON.

Population, 1,366. - Acreage, 5,391.

7. *The Rev. J. Gardner*, says:

"Before permitting *boys* to work on the land, I would subject them to an educational test, but I would not insist on their having arrived at any particular age."

"Many females can find employment only in agriculture, but it is desirable that they should, as much as possible, work separately from the male labourers. I have reason to believe that when both sexes work together, especially under a foreman of indifferent character, the conversation is often of an impure and demoralising description."

"Ample means of education are provided for the education of the children of the agricultural labouring class in this parish, but the indifference of the parents prevents them in many cases from being taken full advantage of."

8. *The Rev. C. L. C. Tulloch*, Free Church minister, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 12 years old and upwards during seed time and harvest."

"Women are employed all the year round, except that in rough wet weather they are not employed in the fields."

"Labourers reside on or close to the farms where they work."

"I think in the interest of education *it is desirable to place some restriction* on the age at which *boys* should be allowed to work on the land. I would have no boy employed under 13 years of age, and then only on condition of his having attained to a certain proficiency in education."

"I consider that the working by women of out-door work is demoralising. In seed time and harvest it may be that it cannot be avoided, but for ordinary regular field work *no woman, and especially no 'unmarried woman,' ought to be allowed to work.*"

"*There is an excellent parish school*, provided as a means of education for the children of the agricultural labourers; it is to a large extent taken advantage of, but the facilities for young people earning wages interferes materially with the regularity of attendance. Any restriction which would obviate this would be a blessing."

"The *cottages* are generally good. Quite sufficient for the supply of labour required, and conveniently situated. I fear they are over-crowded by the tenants of such cottages taking lodgers, and immorality in consequence is often the result."

"The cottages have nearly all *gardens*."

Mr. John Kerr, occupier, says:

Boys and girls are employed from 12 years and wards in potato, turnip, and harvest seasons."

Women are employed all the year round."

Labourers generally live on the farm; some have n one to three miles to go to work in busy seasons the year."

Men, women, and children work from nine to hours a day."

Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and in weather women and children do not work in the ls."

If it could be avoided I am of opinion that the ular employment of females in field work should limited, on moral considerations. It is not favour- e to their training for domestic duties."

Educational Restrictions.

"No child should be employed under 12 to 13 rs of age, and then only in such measure as would ow of their education being carried on."

"I consider the system of a quarter or half year's ication now and then very objectionable. If no ld is employed under 13 years of age, by that time the child's education has been previously attended by the parents it ought to be so far advanced that ere need be no difficulty on this point."

"The *means of education provided* here are ple."

"There is the parish school, which is well taught, d to a great extent well attended. Early labour, here the carelessness of parents has not provided r early education is the chief cause of non-attend- ce at school."

"*The cottages* are good and sufficient in number r the supply of labour."

"The *bothy system* does not exist in this parish, it further west men and women get their food in the tchen; the men sleep over the stables, and the omen sleep in the kitchen."

"It is not the custom here to allow farm servants e keep of a cow or to give potato ground."

10. [NOTE.—In Kirknewton parish the custom of men and women receiving their food in the kitchen is common.]

The spring staff on a farm of 300 acres arable land in this parish is—

Males over 18	- - 4	7.
„ over 13	- - 1	
„ over 10	- - 2	
Females, married	- - 1	8.
„ over 18	- - 4	
„ over 13	- - 3	

The winter staff is the same, dropping one of the boys under 13, and the married women.

The arable land is in six shift, thus:—

1. Barley or wheat.
2. Grass (cut).
3. 4. Do. grazed.
5. Oats.
6. Turnips or potatoes.

11. *Mr. Calder*, master of parochial school, says:

"Children should be required to attend school at least during the winter months."

"There are six or eight children near the village who are not at work, and ought to be at school (April 20th)."

"The school return gives *only the children of agricultural labourers*."

This shows an average attendance of—

37 boys and 14 girls in summer.
29 boys and 11 girls in winter.

Of boys over 10 years there are 10 in summer against 12 in winter.

Of those under 10, 27 in summer against 17 in winter.

12. [NOTES.—The two labourers' cottages I visited in Livingston each consisted of two rooms on ground floor, and both were exceedingly dirty. The mother of the family told me she had four children, all at school. "The eldest is 14, and he's still there; but I daresay we may take him away; he's been 10 years at school, and he makes little of it; his brother of 11 is a better scholar than him."]

EVIDENCE OF MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

CARRIDEN.

13. *Mr. Geo. Davidson*, farm overseer, says:

"Men are hired by the year and half year. Married men are paid in money and kind; young men in money and board in the kitchen, or money only. Females are hired by the day and paid in money.

Men working with horses receive—

	£	s.	d.
In money for 26*l.* to 29*l.*, say -	27	0	0
In oatmeal - - -	6	10	0
Potatoes - - - -	2	10	0
Allowance for harvest victuals -	1	0	0
House rent and coals driven, &c. -	3	0	0
	£40	0	0

"Labourers not engaged with horses generally receive 15*s.* a week when actually working. In harvest they earn 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week more."

"In harvest the male extra hands come direct from Ireland, and return there again. Some women who are not in the habit of doing field work come out in harvest for a fortnight's cutting, and do the same again in potato lifting time."

DALMENY.

14. *Mr. Peter Glendinning*, occupier and land agent, says:

"The mode of hiring yearly servants is privately, and the men's wages are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	28	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls, say -	6	0	0
Free house, say - -	2	0	0
Potatoes, 4 bolls, say -	2	0	0
One month's meat in harvest -	1	0	0
	£39	0	0

"An able-bodied woman earns 7*s.* a week for say 40 weeks, exclusive of about 30 shillings extra for harvest, which makes her earnings for the year amount to about 15*l.* 10*s.*"

15. *Mr. George Thomas*, occupier, says:

"Farm servants are generally hired at market; I do not resort to them if I can avoid it. Ploughmen are paid chiefly in money, other labourers wholly."

Linlithgow.

Mr. Culley.

s.

A ploughman's wages, including house and garden, are worth from 38*l.* to 39*l.*; thus:

	£	s.	d.
Cash - - - -	27	0	0
Meal - - - -	6	0	0
Potatoes - - - -	1	10	0
Light wheat - - -	0	10	0
Food in harvest - - -	1	0	0
Free house and garden - -	2	10	0
	£38	10	0

"Ordinary labourers have from 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week."

LINLITHGOW.

16. *Mr. W. Wilson*, occupier, says:

"Most of our *ploughmen* are hired privately from neighbouring farms, but many of them prefer going to the hiring fair at Mid Calder in the month of March. The bulk of the wage is in money; thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Money, say as an average -	27	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls at 18*s.* - -	5	17	0
Potatoes, 16 cwt. - -	2	8	0
House and garden (costing 100*l.* to 120*l.*) - -	5	0	0
Value of driving coal - -	1	0	0
Food in harvest - -	1	0	0
	£42	5	0

"*Women and girls* are usually paid 1*s.* 2*d.* per day throughout the year, and for harvest work they receive in money 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* a day, and food worth 10*d.* per day."

17. *Mr. A. Dawson*, landowner and occupier, says:

"Half of my ordinary staff of men are hired by the year, the rest by the day. Women by the day. All are paid in money. The average earnings of an able-bodied farm labourer are in my own case worth 44*l.* 6*s.*; thus—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	39	0	0
Boll of wheat - - -	1	0	0
Bag of potatoes - -	0	6	0
Gas-light paid - - -	0	7	0
Driving coals - - -	0	3	0
Garden - - -	1	0	0
House rent - - -	2	10	0
	£44	6	0

LIVINGSTON.

18. *Mr. John Kerr*, occupier, says:

"Farm servants are engaged at hiring markets and privately. Day labourers are paid in money, hired servants in money and kind.

Average value of *hired servants'* wages:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	26	0	0
Meal - - - -	6	10	0
Potatoes - - -	2	10	0
Cottage and garden - -	4	0	0
Cartage of coal - -	1	0	0
	£40	10	0

"*Women* usually 1*s.* 2*d.* a day. Some farmers pay 1*s.* a day in winter, and 1*s.* 2*d.* in summer."

Edinburgh.

Mr. Culley.

COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.

COLINTON.

Population, 2,656. - Acreage, 5,659.

19. *The Rev. W. Lockhart*, says:

"*Boys and girls* under 13 or 14 years of age are all at school, except during the vacation at harvest time."

"All the farmers here employ some single *women*, and married women go out to work during harvest."

"Labourers have less than a mile to go to their work. The cottages are generally on a central part of the farm."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"I do not think that employment in agriculture has a bad effect on females, provided they have proper homes to go to at night, and that they have had an industrial training or instruction in sewing or knitting with their ordinary education in youth."

"I do not disapprove of the daughters and wives of farm labourers working out in time of harvest, or on any stray occasions when they may be required. I think it promotes their health and the health of their children, and helps to increase the income of the family. Of course I approve of the wives being out only during harvest, and when they are able to leave their children (there are always some at home at that time to take charge of them). I see no objection to the daughters of labourers working constantly on the farm, provided (as I said before) they have had a sound religious instruction in their youth. I rather think however that mothers prefer to send their daughters out to domestic service, as a general rule, rather than keep them on the farm."

"I do not think restriction should be placed on the employment of females and children in agriculture. The only thing I would be inclined to complain of is the putting of several single women into one house. I think it would be much better for them if they were lodged one by one in respectable families. The price of their lodgings would be a little help to the families, and the women themselves would have a comfortable home to go to at night, and have a salutory restraint put upon them."

"The *cottages* are generally good, and are not overcrowded."

"I decidedly approve of the cottages being attached to the farm, not only because it is more convenient for the worker and more beneficial for the working of the farm, but because it keeps the employer and employed together, and creates and fosters a reciprocal and kindly feeling between them. It compels the farmer to take an interest not only in the person he employs but in their families, so that in time of sickness he is brought to a knowledge of their distress, and has an opportunity afforded him of extending to them sympathy and help; and on the other hand, there is a beneficial and proper restraint put upon the work people by their coming as it were into daily contact with their employer and those in his house; they see a superior training and more refined habits than they see among their own class, and this secret influence goes a great way to increase their self-respect, and to elevate them in the social scale."

"The agricultural population in this parish are a most respectable class; they all, as a rule, go to church, attend the communion, send their children to day an

ıth schools and to church. They are sober, eable, contented, intelligent, and well clothed."
think the character of the farmer must ever ly influence the character of his workpeople. A employer will soon create respectable and ous people about him."
All the cottages have *gardens*."

. *Mr. James Russell*, schoolmaster, Colington,

The Rev. W. Lockhart, minister of this parish, g shown me what he has written in answer to Commissioners' questions, it is needless for me to ble the Commission with words to the same t. Suffice it to say that I think legislation on the ation question will in a great measure be a dead if a compulsory clause be not added to pel careless parents to send and keep their children hool until a certain age, or at least until they mastered the three R's."

. *Mr. John Curror*, occupier, says:
Boys are seldom employed before 12 years of age, then only in herding the crops and potato lifting."
Girls are employed at about 14 years of age ng summer."
Women are employed in hoeing and cleaning the n crops, in harvest work, and potato lifting."
Except during summer and potato-lifting time, ploughmen's wives and daughters do the necessary work; the others, who come in summer and ato-lifting time have about three miles to come to r work."
Men, women, and children work 10 *hours* a day in mer, and in winter during daylight."
I do not think there is anything to hurt the morals women employed in agriculture."

School Attendance, &c.

In the country where children are at school they st attend every day, as the distance from school vents them from both working and attending ool."
There is a *first-class parochial school* (to which I e a right to send two children), and two others hin reach of the children of my servants. The tch servants all take advantage of the schools, the sh sometimes do not."
"There are *no bothies* in this parish."
"I know of no other mode of lodging farm servants ich acts injuriously on their morals."
"All farm servants and labourers employed in riculture *have gardens* sufficient for summer vege-bles."
"*No cows* are allowed, and no potato ground is cessary" [Note: potatoes are given.—G. C.].

Cottages.

"The cottages have been much improved during e last 30 years; in my own case I built new cot-ges for my servants at the beginning of my lease; y landlord is to repay me at the end."

22. *Mr. John Reed*, grieve, Swanstone:
"We have eight cottar women with every one a use, for which they pay 30*s.*, and get their coals d free, and three young women, daughters of our ired men, work out, but they're not bound. Some f the married women used to work out, but they on't now. We get women from Edinburgh some-imes; they are a terrible loose lot, and I do without hem as much as I can. They are bad workers, and se fearful language, and they're very difficult to keep uiet. I always put them under the charge of a good teady man when I am obliged to have them, but that s as seldom as possible. Our people send their chil-dren to school as much as they are able I think; sometimes the eldest has to leave early to help to send he others. I think it a good thing to teach the higher branches in the schools; if a lad's weakly and not fit for farm work it gives him a chance to get learning enough to take him away from it. I have been 48 years on this farm, ploughman and grieve. The shepherd has been here 17 years; another man 35 years; and three others from 16 to 18 years. I believe the late master's family have been on the farm for 200 years."

23. [This farm consists of about 600 acres of arable land and 900 acres of hill pasture. Three out of seven ploughmen are unmarried men, two having a double hinding with their mother as housekeeper, the other living with his father, an old man who works occasionally, having been 35 years on the farm. The cottages are all old thatched ones, having been somewhat improved about 20 years ago; 13 new ones are to be built under agreement for a new lease, and some of the old ones left for cottar women. It is a common custom in this district when renewing cottages to leave some of the older ones if possible for cottar women, *i.e.*, for widows or elderly single women, to take on condition of doing field work whenever required at a fixed price on their farm—1*s.* 2*d.* a day. When such old cottages are left it is generally understood as in this case that the tenant is not bound to keep them in repair.—G. C.]

24. *An old woman* who keeps house for her sons (ploughmen aged 22 and 28) tells me she left the bondage district because she didn't like being obliged to keep the bondager.

"I didn't like it, though I always had the 'coo and the soo,' and now I haven't the coo." [Probably if she had now to keep a bondager this old lady would soon lose her position of housekeeper to her sons.—G. C.] The labourer's food was thus described by her:—

Breakfast	-	Porridge and milk.*
Dinner	-	Broth with bacon in it.
Supper	-	Porridge and milk, or tea and bread and butter.

25. *The grieve on Boghall Farm* (Mr. Steadman's) has been on the farm for 46 years. His daughter, who is at home from service on account of her mother's ill health, says:—"Nearly all the girls do farm work before they go to service, and then go out as under-housemaids or kitchen-maids, or to farmhouses. The providing a girl is expected to have for her marriage costs about 20*l.*, and consists of a chest of drawers, blankets, bed and table linen, and crockery."

COSTORPHINE.

Population, 1,579. - Acreage, 3,653.

26. *Mr. John Dickson*, landowner, occupier, and inspector under the Inclosure Commissioners, &c., says:
"Boys are employed from 12 years of age nearly all the year."
"*Girls* from 12 years upwards, chiefly in summer and autumn, hoeing and weeding green crops, and gathering potatoes, &c."
"Men, women, and children work 10 hours in summer, and seven or eight in winter."
"Neither females nor children are subject to any ill-treatment."
"*No restriction* on the employment of children or women is necessary."
"*No mode of enforcing* school attendance is needed. Children attend school throughout the year till they are 12 years old, and after that age for some years they attend school in winter and work out in summer."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are generally in good condition, having been greatly improved and increased in accommodation during the last 20 years. The greater part of them have two or three rooms each. New cottages are still slowly increasing. As far as I am aware there is only one farm on which the *bothy system* is carried on in this parish."

* They buy skim milk at 1*d.* a Scotch pint from their employer.

Edinburgh.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Neither cows nor potato ground are allowed in this parish. All cottages have gardens.

Loans under Inclosure Commissioners.

"I think that if Government would sanction a loan for cottage building at a rate which would not make the rentcharge (say extended to 30 years) exceed five per cent., a great encouragement would be given to building, and a great boon conferred on the labouring class."

27. Mr. Dickson has 25 cottages for the use of his farm at Saughton, which contains 750 acres. The smaller and older cottages are let to cottar women to supply field workers. The ordinary staff of this farm consists of 25 lads and men (20 of them above 18 years of age), and 34 women and girls (four girls under 18, 24 unmarried women of about 18 or upwards, and 10 married women). A great deal of labour is employed on Mr. Dickson's and many other farms in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where the whole produce, including most of the straw, is sold off the farm, and home-made manure replaced by what is led out from Edinburgh. The course of cropping is generally potatoes, wheat, turnips, barley, clover, and oats, so that a good deal of extra labour is employed, and generally obtained from Edinburgh.

Cottages.

There is a row of four cottages built by Mr. Dickson, with the approval of the Inclosure Commissioners, in 1866 (the plan bears the stamp of the Inclosure Commissioners, dated 10th December 1866). These cottages contain a kitchen, with two bed closets cut off it, another bedroom, and a scullery. There are no back doors, and at the ends of the row are ash-pits and privies for the two nearest cottages. There is no upper story, and the bed closets (which are 7 feet 6 inches by 8 feet), are obtained by narrowing the kitchen to 11 feet 6 inches, the depth of the cottage inside measurement being about 20 feet. The larger bedroom is 13 feet by 8½ feet, and the kitchen 16 feet by 11½ feet.

These cottages, carriages, grates, and iron beds included, cost 120*l.* each (the quarry being 2½ miles off), and are the cheapest cottages built under sanction of the Inclosure Commissioners I have as yet inspected.—G. C.

28. *Wife of a ploughman*, living in one of these cottages, which she keeps in very good order, said: "We like the three bed closets well enough, but they are small. I think they are as handy as a bed in the room" (kitchen).

On the subject of *education* this woman said: "We just keep our children at school till they are educated. It's all we've got to give them, poor things, and we do what we can to make them scholars."

[There are some poor one-roomed cottages in Costorphine parish, chiefly occupied by catch labourers; I was, however, in one or two with one small living-room, and small bedroom, occupied by hired labourers.—G. C.]

29. *Mr. A Paterson*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 12 years of age; over that age they are constantly employed in summer, and partially in winter."

"*Girls* are seldom employed under 12 years of age; over that age they are employed during summer in hoeing, and in winter storing turnips and spreading manure."

"*Women* are employed in attending the threshing machine, preparing potatoes for market, and during harvest in gathering after the reapers."

"Labourers live on or near the farm."

"*Men, women, and children* work 10 hours a day in summer, and from light to dark in winter."

"*I do not consider the employment of females* in agriculture injurious to morals, where the females live at home. I consider the *bothy system* injurious to morals."

"As far as health is concerned, there is no need restricting the labour of children or women. T employment is very conducive to health, and many ploughman is enabled by the work of the elder of his family not only to educate the younger m bers, but also to lay past something for his old a At the same time, from what I have seen, I rather in favour of compulsory education. Half-t systems would not do; a modification of the Pr works Act's regulations might, but I think t agricultural labouring children should have nea finished their education before they go out to fields, say, except what could be done by a quarte attendance for two winters, after they are allow to work in summer."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages have been much improved and e larged during the last 10 years. We have cotta enough for our regular labourers, but the *bothy syst* exists to a considerable extent for field workers, so of whom, however, chiefly Irish girls, walk out fr Edinburgh every morning, and return in the evenin There are very few instances of a farm labourer livi in his master's house."

"The expense of building is the great hindrance an increase of cottages. A good cottage cannot built in this locality for less than 130*l.* (the tena driving materials free), which even at 5 per cent. is rent above what a farm labourer can give."

Evening School.

"Our parish teacher has an evening class duri the winter. I have not heard how it succeeded l winter. Most Scotch parents give their children fair education. The Irish and Roman Catholic ch dren are often never sent to school."

30. *Mr. W. Duncan*, parochial schoolmaster, say

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 11 years age during spring, summer, and autumn."

"Females and children are subject to no *ill treatment.*"

"I am most decidedly of opinion that the emplo ment of females in agriculture tends to make th regardless of domestic duties, such as making a mending clothes, and in the case of married females the due attention to the proper bringing up of the children."

School Attendance, &c.

"I am prepared to recommend that no child, m or female, shall be at all employed in agricultu labour till it has passed Standard IV. of Revis Code, or as an alternative attended school for 2 half days on six separate years, after the age of si and that females pass a similar standard in industr work. That after being admissible to agricultu work they shall pass Standards V. and VI. of Revis Code on two separate years, or attend school 2 half days on three separate years (if unable to p the above standards). That females in addition p similar standards in industrial work; provided alway that any parents who desired their children to educated otherwise than at a public school should allowed to have their children examined in sa standards. That fines be imposed on employers e ploying children otherwise than as above. Childr qualified as above for agricultural work might taught privately in an evening school, in order pass standards V. and VI., no children being adm sible to an evening school in order to pass Standa IV."

"There are excellent schools provided, but the are a good few cases of the parents not appreciati education for their children."

"The *bothy system* exists to a very limited exte consequently without evil result."

Crichton.

Population, 1,304. - Acreage, 4,821.

Mr. Thos. Maddison, land agent, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 10 years of nd upwards, during summer and autumn, in light work."

"*All women*, who are able and willing to work, no difficulty in getting employment during sum- and autumn."

"Labourers generally reside on the farms where work."

"Men, women, and children work *ten hours* a day."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treat-*."

"The morals of females are certainly not improved agricultural employment, and their training for estic duties is, as a rule, much neglected."

School Attendance.

"I think some restriction should be placed on the loyment of children in agriculture, and that no should be permitted to work under 12 years of

"I would enforce school attendance for children r 12 years of age."

"The parish school and other day schools are rally well attended. There is an evening school h is not generally well attended."

"The *cottages* are generally good."

"We have very little of the bothy system."

"All cottages have gardens."

"To allow the keep of a cow is becoming less mon than it used to be. Potatoes are given in tion to the gardens."

"I farmed for many years in Northumberland, and impression is that there is very little difference veen the condition of labourers here and in that nty. Labourers here are rather better edu- d."

Duddingston.

Population, 5,223. - Acreage, 1,899.
Cultivation chiefly arable.

2. *Mr. D. Scott*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed after they are 13 years old."

"The daughters of ploughmen are generally trained domestic service, and not to field work."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent during mer in hoeing and cleaning the crops."

"Most of the women come from Edinburgh,—a tance of three miles—to their work."

"Neither cows nor pigs are allowed; potatoes and al are given."

Lasswade.

Population, 5,688. - Acreage, 10,678.

33. *Mr. W. Ford*, occupier, says:

"The cultivation is chiefly arable."

"*Boys and girls* from 14 years upwards are em- yed, chiefly in summer, weeding green crops."

"They generally live on the farms on which they rk."

"About three *women to 100 acres* are employed."

"The *hours of work* are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., th two hours for meals."

"There is no ill-treatment, and no restriction on bour is necessary."

"The *cottages* in this parish are good, and sufficient the supply of labour. Great progress is being de in increasing cottage accommodation."

"We have *no bothy system*."

"As a rule, all cottages have gardens. No cows e allowed, nor potato ground given."

"There is an *evening school*, which is well at- ded."

Liberton.

Population, 3,510. - Acreage, 6,617.
Cultivation chiefly arable.

34. *Mr. Bryden Monteith*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* begin to work at about 14 years of age."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of say three to every 100 acres."

"Labourers all live on the farms."

"The hours of work are in summer from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours for dinner, and 10 or 15 minutes at 9 o'clock, when they take 'a piece,' having breakfasted before they come."

"The young are properly cared for and not exposed to any physical injury from work."

"I do not think out-door work affects the morals of females here; they live with their parents, generally speaking, and the father works on the farm."

School Attendance.

"I do not approve of enforcing school attendance, but if you were to enforce it, school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months would answer best here."

"There is *no want of cheap schooling provided* here, and, as a rule, where the parents are prudent, all are educated at least eight months in the year."

Cottages.

"The cottages are in many cases not good, but I observe when a lease falls out, they are generally improved and made comfortable."

"*No bothy system* exists here. I do not think any system can be good where the young are crowded together and under no parental care."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"*No cows nor potato ground* are allowed."

35. [Note.—Mr. Monteith for his farm of 390 acres arable has 11 cottages.

1	occupied by	grieve	All married.
1	"	shepherd	
1	"	spadehind	
6	"	ploughmen	
2	"	women bound to work.	

By the aid of labourers' wives, Mr. Monteith maintains an ordinary staff of—

9 men over 18 years.
3 boys between 13 and 18.
6 married women.
2 unmarried women or widows.
3 girls under 18.

Employed all the year round.]

36. *Thos. Thornton*, grieve to Mr. Monteith, says:

"We had a *cow* on a farm I was on about 20 years ago further south in this county. We have sold 8*l.* worth of butter and milk, besides supplying our family (two children), and the cow would not cost the master more than 6*l.* to keep, indeed he reckoned the keep at that. The cows got grass in summer, and straw and turnips in winter."

37. *Mrs. Thornton*, says:

"I think its all very well for married women to work out at turnip time and in harvest, but when there's a family, I can't see any profit in working day after day."

[The poor's rate of this parish, which is in Dalkeith combination, is 10*d.* in the pound.]

38. *Mr. Thos. Mylne*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 10 years old and upwards, principally during summer and autumn."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent in light farm work."

"Labourers generally reside on the farms."

"The hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2 p.m. to 6 in summer, and during daylight in winter. Men who drive horses have to clean and feed them beyond these hours."

Edinburgh.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and out-door employment is decidedly beneficial to their health."

"I do not think the employment of females in agriculture as conducted here is at all against their morals or such domestic duties as they are likely to perform."

"There are *sufficient means of education provided* at a cheap rate, which are generally taken advantage of, though a few cases may be found where it is neglected. Some teachers have an evening class for grown up lads."

"*The cottages* have been greatly improved of late years, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms."

"There is no mode of lodging farm servants which hurts their morals or education, farm servants here being all married men, or in some cases sons living with their fathers until they have learned their business. No young men are lodged or fed in the farm houses."

"I consider it most important that there should be a sufficient number of cottages on the farms, not only to accommodate all the married men required, but also to contain a sufficient number of women workers, such as widows with daughters or sisters, to carry on the hoeing and cleaning of the crops, barn work, &c., which operations are generally done by females here."

39. [NOTE.—The *number of cottages* attached to Mr. Mylne's farm (500 acres of black loam, all in cultivation under four and five course shift) is 20; 14 of these are occupied by married men, hired by the year from 15th May; six cottages are let to women workers (widows with families), and each cottage turns out an average of two workers. The cottage in the latter case, with its garden and a bonus of 30*s.* is given free to the occupant, on condition of supplying at least one female worker. One widow holding one of these "cottar houses" supplies five workers; herself, three daughters, and a son. In harvest Irish labourers come direct from Ireland, the same families coming year after year.]

MID-CALDER.

Population, 1,389. - Acreage, 12,324.

40. *Mr. P. McLagan*, landowner and occupier, and M.P. for Linlithgow, says:

"In the lower and middle districts of the parish the cultivation is arable in five-course rotation (*i.e.*, two-fifths in grass, two-fifths in white crop, and one-fifth in green crop); in the higher district it is either wholly hill pasture or partly hill pasture and partly arable."

Employment.

"On the farm in my own hands no child is employed when the school is open, who cannot read and write, and generally do a sum in arithmetic, and no inducement is given to parents to take their children from school by offering employment. During the vacation the children are employed in light work in harvest, or with their mothers in gathering potatoes. It is also a rule on the farm, that if a workman has more than two children at school at a time, I shall pay for the education of every such child.

Children are rarely employed in the parish under 11 or 12 years of age. Their first employment is generally the herding of cattle, or scaring of birds from the crops in the summer months. If sent to employment before 12, they frequently return to school for a year or two after, during the winter months."

"The foregoing remarks apply equally to girls. The gang system is quite unknown in the district; and the boys and girls when they leave their parents' house lodge and board with the farmer who engages them."

"Women are employed to a large extent in weeding, harvesting, and threshing the crops, spreading manure, singling turnips, hay-making, planting a gathering potatoes, &c. It is not usual for boys abo 16 years of age to be employed in the same land wi them, excepting in hay-making and during harve Boys above 16 are usually employed driving horses.

"The greater part of the people employed live the farm, either in the farmers' houses according what is called the kitchen system, or in cotta which are given free to married servants, who hired by the year. They are employed from 6 in t morning to 12, and from 2 to 6 in the afternoon. from 7 to 12 and from 1 to 6 in summer; in win from daylight to dark, with one hour's interval dinner."

School Attendance, &c.

"No child should be put to constant work und 10 years of age. But I see no objection to allowi a child even under that age to do some light wo for a week now and then, if the school is not ope One child may be more vigorous and robust and mo fit for work at eight years of age than another at or 11. No child should be put to constant emplo ment under 13 or 14 who cannot read and write, a show some progress in arithmetic."

Female Labour.

"I am not prepared to recommend any restricti on the employment of females more than what have stated as regards the age at which boys girls should be employed. It would certainly better if circumstances were such that there was necessity for employing them at all in the fie But in the present state of the labour market, t green crop system could not be practised in Scotla without female labour; and if there was any p hibition of this labour in agriculture the women n employed would not find any other occupation in t country. They would migrate to the towns, a probably lead a miserable life. It is worthy of mark that Irish women have in field labour now t considerable extent taken the place of the Scot women, born and reared in the district. I attrib this to the education of the latter being better; th aspire to a higher service, and make every exerti to become house servants, while the Irish women content with a lower service and lower wages."

"We have no lack of the means of education in parish and district, of which the labouring clas avail themselves."

Cottages.

"About 30 or 40 years ago there were comparativ few cottages in the parish, the men and women e ployed being unmarried and living in the farm hou Any married men employed lived in the villag Such cottages as there were contained only one roo Since then more married men have been employ and more cottages have been built, which genera contain two rooms. And during the last 10 ye there has been a more rapid increase in the num of cottages, and these of a superior class, contain two sleeping apartments, with the kitchen having bed in the recess, a scullery, and outhouse. Th are to be found in the district examples of all t three classes of cottages, which are given free as p of the wages of the labourer. They are genera built on the farm where the labourers work. Th is no doubt that the immorality for which Scotland unfortunately notorious is to be traced in some m sure, but certainly not entirely, to the one and t roomed cottages. But I have observed that tho in the majority of marriages in the district there been antenuptial connexion, and the first child born either before or shortly after the marriage, improper conduct appears to have taken place wh the parties were serving together, and were boar in a farmer's house, and not when the woman living in the cottage with the parents and rest of family."

NEWTON.

Population, 1,553. - Acreage, 2,034.

1. *Mr. John Gibson*, occupier, says:

"The cultivation is almost all arable."

The population of the parish has been reduced from 1,553 in 1861 to about 1,300, owing to the reduction in the working of coal.

The number of persons connected with agriculture is about - - - - 900
Do. with other occupations (chiefly colliers and brickmakers) - - - - 400
Number of paupers and their dependants connected with agriculture - - - 19
Do. with other occupations - - 78

[NOTE.—The dependants are children under 14, and wives of paupers unable to support themselves.]

Agricultural Employment.

"*Children* under 13 are not employed."

"*Women* are extensively employed. I employ 14 regularly (*i.e.*, on 480 acres arable) with possibly the exception of a few bad days when there happens to be no indoor work or not enough to employ them all. These are *not bound* in any way, but are free to leave at the end of any week. They are composed of daughters of farm labourers and ploughmen living on the farm, and daughters of colliers living in the parish."

"Cottages when let to farm labourers [not ploughmen.—G.C.] are rented at from 2*l.* to 3*l.* according to accommodation. None of them are bound to provide female labour."

"In the winter half year many of the female workers go to town service, and in summer and autumn prefer working in the fields. When hard pressed I often cart out workers from Edinburgh for the day."

"The hours of work are 10 hours in summer and during daylight in winter."

"Children and women are subject to no ill-treatment."

"I don't see how female morals can be corrupted by agricultural labour, and as women only work out in good weather their constitutions are strengthened for all domestic duties in after life."

"The only restriction necessary is to prevent children being employed under 12 *years of age*."

"We have good schools (two) in the parish and a night school during the winter months, and early labour does not interfere with attendance in this parish."

Cottages, &c.

"Our cottages are good and sufficient in number. We have *no bothy system*. All cottages have gardens."

42. [Mr. Gibson was good enough to send me the following account of the regular male staff of his farm.—G.C.]

Quality of Servant.	Married or Single.	Number of Years Service on Farm.	Remarks as to Age, &c.
Overseer - -	M.	34	Age 54.
Groom - -	M.	35	„ 49.
Woman's grieve* -	M.	9	„ 54.
Ploughman - -	M.	25	„ 56. †
Do. - -	M.	17	„ 50.
Do. - -	M.	17	„ 46.
Do. - -	M.	4	„ 40.
Do. - -	S.	4	„ 24. ‡
Do. - -	S.	4	„ 23. ‡
Do. - -	M.	3	„ 34.
4 labourers -	All M.	Average 12	Ages from 50 to 65.§

* [Man who takes charge of female workers.—G. C.]
† [For payment, *see* evidence on wages, &c.—G. C.]
‡ Have a "double hinding." Their mother keeps their house.
§ Were ploughmen till past 50 years of age.

RATHO.

Population, 1,659. - Acreage, 6,168.
Cultivation chiefly arable.

43. *Mr. Jas. Melvin*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 13 years of age, and then only in summer and autumn."

"*Girls* after 13 years of age are employed in light field and barn work."

"Women are employed in greater numbers than men." [NOTE.—On 720 acres arable land, of which one-third is in artificial grass, Mr. Melvin employs in spring 26 females against 21 males, and in winter 24 females against 20 males.—G.C.]

"The *hours of work* for all over 13 years of age are the same, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, with two hours off at midday, and light to dark with one and a half hours off in winter."

"There is no ill-treatment."

"Farm labour is not more injurious to females morals than domestic service, and is much healthier."

School Restrictions.

"All children ought to be free to work during the vacation, which embraces corn and potato harvest, but no child ought to be employed during the rest of the year under 10 years of age. Between 10 and 13 they ought to be allowed to work only six months of the year. The other six months they ought to be at school; six months education from between 13 and 14 years of age is worth more than a year and a half under 10."

"We have a free church school within a quarter of a mile of us, which is attended by about 100 children, and there is a teacher of sewing, which is of vast importance to the girls, but some careless families would be the better of having some sort of compulsion as to sending their children to school."

"*The cottages* are good, indifferent, and bad; they are sufficient in number for the supply of labour. They are well situated with respect to the farm, and are not overcrowded, except in cases where the cottages are bad, these however are becoming fewer in number."

"There are on the estate which I farm (720 acres arable) 33 cottages.

1 farm grieve's cottage.
1 joiner's cottage.
1 blacksmith's cottage.
24 occupied by men and women employed on farm.
6 occupied by roadmen and quarrymen.

From these there are 60 children under 14 years of age; 20 are too young to go to school; seven are at work, 25 at school, and eight idling or attending school very irregularly."

"We have *no bothy system*. I consider bothies, and especially female bothies, an abomination."

"There is an evening class attended by young men chiefly from 16 to 18 years of age, and some few above 30, but some compulsion is necessary to induce uneducated parents to send their children to school."

Edinburgh.

Mr. Culley.

S.

EVIDENCE ON MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Colinton.

44. *Mr. John Curror*, occupier, says:

Two grieves have in money each 32*l.*; their allowances in kind are—

65 stones of oatmeal.
3 bolls (4 cwt. each) of potatoes.
Breakfast and dinner for four weeks in harvest.
A good two-roomed cottage and garden free.

One man who has charge of selling potatoes has 29*l.* and the same allowances.

Common ploughmen have 26*l.* and the same allowances.

Common labourers who cannot plough (mostly Irish) have 13*s.* a week wet and dry. In harvest their food and extra wages.

45. *Mr. John Reed*, grieve, Swanstone, gives a ploughman's wage as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	25	0	0
6½ bolls of oatmeal - -	6	10	0
4 bolls (16 cwt.) potatoes -	3	0	0
Cottage and garden - -	3	0	0
Harvest food - - -	1	0	0
	38	10	0

Women are paid 1*s.* 2*d.* a day (cottar women). [These cottar women pay 30*s.* a year for their cottage and garden and get their coals led free (formerly they used to give 23 days work for their cottage). They are always at the call of the farmer, and receive 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, except in harvest, when they have 2*s.* and three meals.—G.C.]

Wages of shepherd according to Mr. Reed:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	29	0	0
Meal (6½ bolls) - -	6	10	0
Potatoes, 4 bolls - -	3	0	0
Cow's keep - - -	6	0	0
Six or seven sheep, say -	4	10	0
Cottage and garden - -	3	0	0
	52	0	8

Costorphine.

46. *Mr. John Dickson*, landowner and occupier, says:

"Farm labourers are chiefly engaged at hiring markets. Ploughmen get in money 27*l.*, and have besides 16 cwt. of potatoes, 910 lbs. of oatmeal, food in harvest and a cottage and garden rent free."

47. *Mr. A. Paterson*, occupier, says:

"Field labourers are all paid in money, Ploughmen when they hear of a vacancy apply for the situation and are hired for a year, though many of them remain for many years under the same master. Some are hired at fairs, but the better servants are hired at home."

"Ordinary labourers (not horsemen) earn over the whole year about 15*s.* a week with a house and garden. Ploughmen have—

In money from 27*l.* to 30*l.*
65 stones of oatmeal.
16 cwt. of potatoes.
Coals led from the pit.
Meat for four weeks in harvest.
A house and garden free.

Neither labourers nor ploughmen have any broken time from bad weather, and ploughmen are paid when sick and unable to work."

"Female workers have 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, summer and winter, and higher wages with food in harvest."

"I consider that our farm labourers and ploughmen are more comfortable and bring up their families better than masons or mechanics with far higher wages. They are much better off than the town labourer, who has 18*s.* or 20*s.* a week."

[Mr. Paterson was kind enough to send me the following account of the labour and labourers on his farm in Costorphine parish, which consists of 22 acres of friable loam in high cultivation, from which, as is the custom near Edinburgh, nearly all the produce is sold and very little live stock kept.—G.C.]

Quality of Servant.	Married or Single.	Number of Years Service on Farm.	Remarks on Wages &c.
Grieve - -	M.	21	Money, 35*l.*
*Quarter-man -	M.	4	„ 28*l.*
Ploughman -	M.	13	„ 27*l.* †
„ -	M.	4	„ 26*l.*
„ -	M.	4	„ 25*l.*
Groom and gardener.	M.	3	„ 15*s.* per week.‡
Young ploughman	S.	5	„ 9*s.* 6*d.* p week, and food i harvest.
Labourer - -	M.	4	Money, 13*s.* 6*d.*§
„ - -	M.	8	„ 9*s.*; an ol man who doe light work.

* *i.e.* man who sells straw, potatoes, &c.

† Besides money, these have,—65 stones oatmeal, 4 boll potatoes, 2 meals per day in harvest, carriage of coals, hous and garden free.

‡ House and garden, 3 bolls of potatoes, coals led, and food i harvest.

§ Harvest food, house and garden, coals carried.

Mr. Paterson goes on to say, "I generally emplo in the fields 10 women and boys at 7*s.* a week. Thes women are the wives and daughters of ploughmen o labourers living on the farm. In harvest I require few additional hands, but the number is greatl reduced since reaping machines came into use. A harvest, too, every woman on the farm turns out."

"Our farm servants are sober and obedient, an generally take an interest in their horses and work."

Pay during Sickness.

"I may mention that with the yearly servants thei wages and allowances go on during sickness."

Crichton.

48. *Mr. Thos. Maddison*, land agent and farm manager, says:

"Farm servants are engaged at hiring markets."

"Females are paid in money. Males chiefly i money with the addition of oatmeal and potatoes besides a free house and garden."

Duddingston.

49. *Mr. D. Scott*, occupier, says:

"When a change is desired, hiring fairs ar attended for men and boys. Women are engaged b the day or week."

Ploughmen have,—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - - -	27	0	0
Meal, 6½ bolls, 140 lbs. each -	6	0	0
Potatoes, 3 bolls of 4 cwt. each	2	0	0
Harvest meat - - -	1	0	0
Cartage of coals, say 6 tons -	1	0	0
House and garden free - -	3	0	0
	£40	0	0

Labourers 14*s.* to 15*s.* a week, and higher wages i harvest.

Women, 1*s.* a day in winter, and 1*s.* 2*d.* in summer. harvest 2*s.* a day and meat.
Boys same as women."
"Wages have risen nearly 1*s.* 3*d.* during the last years, and labourers show no sign of being better unless the dress of the young women on Sundays taken as a sign of improvement."

LIBERTON.

50. *Mr. Bryden Monteith*, occupier, says:
"My ploughmen are all married. An ordinary nd receives—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In money - - -	26	0	0
Oatmeal, 45 stones } value this }	4	10	0
Potatoes, 3 bolls - } year }	2	2	0
Food for a month in harvest -	1	0	0
House and garden rent free -	3	10	0
Haulage of coals, say - -	0	10	0
	£37	12	0

"Daily labourers have from 14*s.* to 15*s.* a week, d more in harvest; but frost and rough weather ill affect their average for the year."

51. *Mr. Thos. Mylne*, occupier, says:
"Hired men receive from 38*l.* to 42*l.* a year in oney or 'gains.'"
"Women are paid 1*s.* a day at ordinary times; in rvest 2*s.* a day and two meals. Those who do barn ork in winter earn from 12*l.* to 15*l.* (This would pply to seven women on Mr. Mylne's farm, and lding the value of cottage and garden, bonus of 30*s.*, nd harvest food, say 10*s.*, a cottar woman may earn money or money's worth from 17*l.* to 20*l.*, putting e cottage and garden at 3*l.*—G.C.)
"Irish reapers receive on an average, besides beding and three meals a day, 2*s.* 6*d.* a day."

NEWTON.

52. *Mr. John Gibson*, occupier, says:
"All *labourers* [*i.e.*, not yearly hired men, such as loughmen.—G.C.] are paid in money, and average 14*s.* week for the year. Women average 7*s.* a week for he year."

Ploughmen are paid as follows—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - - -	28	0	0
Oatmeal - -	5	15	0
Potatoes - - -	2	2	0
Haulage of fuel - -	1	0	0
Harvest food - -	1	3	0
House and garden - -	3	0	0
	£41	0	0

"I estimate the yearly earnings of females above 15 years of age in regular employment on my farms to be 18*l.*" [This would apply to an ordinary staff of 19.—G.C.]
"I have had farm servants frequently (several members of the family being engaged on the farm) who have received for their own and their families' services from 70*l.* to 100*l.* per annum in money or kind."

LASSWADE.

53. *Mr. Wm. Ford*, occupier, says:
"Men are hired for 12 months and paid two-thirds in money and one in gains, with a free house and garden. In case of sickness the wage goes on. The average value of their yearly earnings is from 35*l.* to 40*l.*, exclusive of a free house and garden," [say from 38*l.* to 43*l.*—G.C.]

RATHO.

54. *Mr. Jas. Melvin*, occupier, says:
"Ordinary hired men have—
In cash, 26*l.*
Oatmeal, 1,050 lbs. (7½ bolls of 140 lbs.—G.C.)
Wheat, 120 lbs.
Potatoes, 896 lbs. (2 bolls, of 4 cwt. each.—G.C.)
Coals, cartage of 4 tons.
Harvest food, 2 diets a day for 4 weeks.
Cottage and garden free.
There is no deduction for sickness." [Note.—This applies to 14 men on Mr. Melvin's farm, including some who have a higher weekly money wage.—G.C.]
"Three labourers, old men, unfit to go with horses, are paid 14*s.* a week."
"Women are paid 1*s.* 2*d.* a day at ordinary work; in harvest 2*s.* 6*d.* a day and food, and in potato gathering, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day."

COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

ABERLADY.

Population, 1,019. - Acreage, 4,927.
Cultivation chiefly arable.

55. *The Rev. J. H. Tait*, says:
"A few cases have come under my notice of the degrading influence of the moral tone of female field-work. Regular and continued field work must prevent proper training for the discharge of domestic duties. I have known instances of field workers who fulfilled their domestic duties well; but this is rare."
"I do not think *restriction* as to the employment of females and children in agriculture necessary. There are parents who take their children from school too soon; but I cannot complain of this being common in my parish."
"If any mode of enforcing school attendance is necessary, I think school attendance for a certain number of hours during the preceding six months would be best of the methods suggested."
"The *cottages* are sufficient for the supply of labour, and are conveniently situated with respect to the farms."
"There are two *bothies* in my parish; these are occupied by Highland and Irish girls. I have never heard of any evil result arising from their existence."

56. *Mr. Jas. Skirving*, occupier, says:
"The land is cultivated in a six and seven years rotation, *i.e.*, alternate white and green crops, with grass every six or seven years."
"Neither *boys nor girls* are employed under 12 years of age. After 12 they do light work, such as weeding carrots, hoeing turnips, &c."
"All work from 9 to 10 hours; about 9 generally, and 10 when we are busy."
"All live on the farm."

Effect of Female Labour, &c.

"On this farm the daughters of my ploughmen and labourers generally work on the farm from 14 to about 18 years of age. After that they go out as domestic servants, in which capacity they behave themselves well and make good servants."
"I do not think any restriction on field labour either for women or children necessary; parents could not do without the earnings of their children, and farmers could not do without their work."

School Attendance.

"Children here go to school at least six months in the year, and need no compulsion."
"We have an excellent parish school, with an attendance of from 80 to 100 out of a population of 1,019, and there is an evening school which lads above 14 attend after their work."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are good and not overcrowded, and their occupants well behaved."

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Never having bound my labourers to keep 'bondagers,' I have a *female bothy*, occupied by girls from Skye, who have been uniformly well behaved, and have in several cases saved a good deal of money. Such bothies are common in this district, and the system is liked by the labourers much better than the 'bondage system,' consequently my labourers never think of changing; some have been with me all their lives."

"All cottages have gardens."

"Farm servants *generally keep a cow*."

The following is an account of the services of hired male labourers on Luffness Mains farm, given to me by Mr. Jas. Skirving.—G.C.

The farm includes 467 acres arable and 50 acre pasture.

Quality of Servant.	Married or Single.	Number of Years Service on Farm.	Remarks as to Wages, Age, &c.
1. Grieve -	M.	34	Age 45, on full wages.
2. Shepherd	M.	4	„ 28 „
3. Groom -	M.	35	„ 35 „
4. Ploughman.	M.	26	„ 60 „
5. „ -	M.	17	„ 45 „
6. „ -	M.	18	„ 50 „
7. „ -	S.	4	„ 32 „
8. „ -	S.	23	„ 23 „
9. „ -	S.	2	„ 16, 20*l.* and food (son of No. 1.)
10. „ -	S.	2	„ 20, 9*s.* a week and potatoes.
11. Orra man	M.	15	„ 40; full wages.
12. Cattleman	M.	4	„ 35; 9*s.* per week.
13. Labourer	S.	All his life.	„ 60; 8*s.* per week.
14. Driver of odd horse.	S.	1	„ 14; — (son of No. 5.)

Nine of these men (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11) receive full men's wages, *i.e.*, a ploughman's wage or above it.

Five were born on the farm (Nos. 3, 4, 8, 9, and 13).

No. 4 has twice left and returned to Mr. Skirving's service.

Of the nine men above 30 years of age seven have served on the farm for periods exceeding 15 years.

57. *Notes on Aberlady.*

There is one of the best school houses in Aberlady that I have been in, in Scotland, very recently built. About 80 children in attendance, and kept in better order than is usual. The children showed great aptitude for mental arithmetic, and did their dictation well. Boys' and girls' playground separated; a plan which the master approves of, but of the benefits of which I am somewhat doubtful.—G.C.

At Luffness Mains there is a row of eight cottages, which by having the two centre and end cottages raised gives a very good architectural effect. These cottages were all very clean and do much credit to their occupants. There is a small bothy, inhabited by eight Highland girls, consisting of one small living room and two small bedrooms, with two beds in each. These girls or women range from 17 to 35 years of age, and are, I believe, all more or less related, coming from Broadford and Portree, in the Island of Skye. Their male belongings come to see them in harvest, and work for Mr. Skirving. Sometimes these women go back and others come and take their place. Mr. Skirving has only known one of these women have an illegitimate child, and that to a Highlander, whom she afterwards married. They appear to mix very little with the native population, and were all at home knitting and mending their clothes when I visited the bothy. Only two of the eldest, one of whom has been on the farm for 17 years, appeared to be able to speak English with any facility. Their food appears generally to be—

Breakfast - Porridge and milk or tea and bread and butter.
Dinner - Potatoes and salt fish.
Supper - Tea and bread and butter (scones or baker's bread).

Cows.—Hired men on Luffness Mains farm have cows if they like. Their cows are summered on one of the Luffness grass-parks or on second year's grass, and in winter they get oats, straw, as much as they like, and about one ton of turnips. The grieve considers this keep worth from 6*l.* to 8*l.*, according to the value of the grass.

Athelstaneford.

Population, 902. - Acreage, 5,080.
Cultivation chiefly arable, in 5 and 6 course shift.

58. *Mr. Jas. Douglas*, occupier, says:

"A few *boys* are employed from March till November every year."

"A few *girls* are employed from 14 to 18 years of age."

"As many *women* as can be had are employed."

"A few come from Haddington, a distance of three miles; but a cart is sent for them and back with them at night."

"Men, women, and children work 10 *hours a day*."

"Most of the females employed in agriculture are very well behaved."

School Attendance.

"Children generally attend school all winter; they are well up in reading, writing, and arithmetic."

"Parents here send their children to school without any compulsion."

Cottages and Bothies.

"The cottages are very good and are conveniently situated for the farms."

"There are a good many bothies in the parish where Highland women are accommodated for about six months of the year. At the end of six months they generally go home; a few, however, remain over the year. The conduct of these women is invariably good. There is no 'bondage system' now as a rule, hence a few bothies are required to supply female workers. These bothies are comfortably fitted up, and no evil results from their use."

"We have no other mode of lodging farm servants, *i.e.*, other than cottage or bothy."

"All cottages have gardens."

"Farm servants have 1,000 yards of a drill of potatoes. A few have cows, others have 6*l.* in lieu of cows' keep."

Dirleton.

Population, 1,540. - Acreage, 10,798.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

59. *The Rev. Wm. Logie, D.D.*, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed in farm labour during spring and summer from 12 or 13 years of age."

"From 50 to 80 *women* are employed."

"Labourers have a very short distance to go to work; they usually live on or quite near the farms."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, but the work is too hard for them."

"The effect of field work on the morals of females is not worse than that of other kinds of employment, but their proper training for domestic duties is almost completely prevented."

Restrictions on Labour.

"I think restriction as to female employment is unnecessary. All artificial restrictions in such matters do more harm than good. The great evil here is the extinction of small holdings, so that the sources of native labour are dried up."

Education.

"I think a continuous attendance at school up to a certain prescribed age is the most applicable mode for securing education in this neighbourhood."

ıple means of superior education are provided, nerally speaking, taken advantage of freely. is nothing to complain of here in this respect."

Cottages, &c.

ıe *cottages* are generally excellent, and on the They are not overcrowded."

ere are no *bothies*, excepting for a few female s imported from the Highlands."

here is no other mode of lodging farm servants acts injuriously on their education or morals; ily system generally prevails."

ost of the cottages have *gardens*."

is generally the custom to allow a cow's keep or ground, but it is not universal."

Mr. William Palmer, master of parochial , says:

he preceding return (see school returns) refers sively to my own school, in the village of Dir- There are four other schools in the parish lation, 1,540), so that there is no want of school modation, and, as a general rule, advantage is of it; but there are some families who cannot the temptation of the high wages obtained by en in agricultural labour, especially since the luction of carrot husbandry, and who conse- ly allow them to grow up with a very imperfect ıtion. Our school fees vary according to age ıdvancement, from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per week, and are cheerfully paid by the great majority of abouring class. When a case has occurred of a y expressing a wish for education, but an inabi- to pay for it, I have always found means of oming the difficulty."

Our attendance does not vary much throughout year. The number of the older children is er in winter than in summer, while the number ounger children is greater in summer than in r. The number at present in attendance ı March) may be taken as a fair average."

There is no evening school at present."

. *Mr. George Hope*, occupier, says:

Children are not generally employed under 14 of age. Above 19 they are employed in hoeing. ling, preparing turnips, and sorting potatoes, re is, however, one exception, young children are loyed in June and July weeding carrots when ought to be at school."

Nearly one half of the people employed in summer autumn are *women*."

Most of the labourers are housed on the farms."

The hours of work are nine hours and a half, and etimes 10 in summer. In winter about eight s."

There is no ill-treatment or oppressive work."

Agricultural work is not injurious to female als, but is against their training for domestic es, such as tidiness, and a knowledge of cooking."

There is no need of restricting adult female ur, but children up to 12 or 13 years of age ld be kept regularly at school, and, with the ex- tion named above, they generally are in this sh."

There are five schools in this parish, all well con- ted. They are taken advantage of by the native ulation, but the children of some Irish families do attend regularly."

Cottages, &c.

The cottages have been much improved of late rs in size and comfort. They are not quite suffi- nt for the supply of labour, as more labourers might more advantageously employed on many farms. ave one half more cottages on this farm in propor- ı to the acreage than is generally the case. I have s no difficulty in getting labourers and find a profit employing them."

Note.—The regular staff of Mr. Hope's farm, ich in 660 acres of arable land, consist of—

27 men
8 lads } in winter.
28 women

In spring, summer, and autumn these numbers, especially of women, are considerably increased. Of the 28 females employed in spring all are unmarried. —G.C.]

"Most farms have *bothies*, in which five or six Highland women are housed from May till November. These women are generally well behaved."

"The ploughmen and higher class of servants have cows kept on the farms."

"The cottages are being made better, but their number is not increased."

62. [Notes.—Mr. Hope has 27 cottages for the use of 660 acres (imperial), which supply an ordinary staff of 58 persons. Owing to the number of hands in constant employ on this farm only about 15 strangers are needed in harvest.]

One Irishman (taking care of sheep) I spoke to had been 17 years in Mr. Hope's service.

On one of Mr. Hope's farms,—a small one to the north of the village of Dirleton,—is a labouring family who contribute very largely to the labour of the farm. The father and two eldest sons are ploughmen, and a third son takes charge of the cattle; the remainder of this family consists of the mother, two children at school, and one too young to leave home. This family must receive considerably over 120*l.* a year from its employer.

Some farmers in this parish sell potatoes on the ground, which are lifted by gangs sent by the buyer and lodged anywhere.

63. Notes taken at meeting of parochial board at Dirleton:—

Board highly approve of the plan of boarding out pauper children as against educating them in a workhouse or district school. When parents are too poor to pay for the education of their children the board puts the parent or parents on the poor's roll to enable it to pay the school fees; some of these children do not attend well. Poor's rate of Dirleton 7*d.* in the £. School rate entirely paid by landowners, as in many other parishes I have visited. (The heritors are entitled to charge half the rate on the occupiers, but as far as I have seen this has only been done in about half of the parishes where I have made the inquiry.) Parochial schoolmaster, who has an excellent school attended by children of large farmers as well as labourers, is also, as is usually the case, collector of poor's rate and inspector of poor, at a salary of 30*l.* for the two offices.

64. *Mr. Thos. Begbie*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years old generally throughout the year, but in many cases they are at school after that age for four or six months in winter."

"Girls are employed for light farm work in summer from 12 years of age."

"In summer, out of 24 workers I may have four boys and as many girls between 12 and 14 years of age."

"All my labourers live on the farm."

"All work 10 hours a day in summer and about seven in winter."

"The existing system of education in this parish could not be improved."

"The cottages are generally good, and in most cases sufficient for the supply of labour."

"The *bothy system* has existed here since the 'bondager system' was abolished. I have a bothy for eight women, generally filled in summer and half filled in winter."

[Note.—This was the case with several female bothies I visited in East Lothian.—G.C.]

"The women are all grown up, and come from the island of Skye. I have had no instances of bad conduct."

"All cottages have gardens, and 1,000 yards of potatoes are given in addition. A cow's grass is given as part of hired men's wages, and valued at 5*l.* or 6*l.*"

65. *Mr. H. Deans*, occupier, says:

"No *girls* are employed on this farm."

"Only *Highland women* are employed."

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

s.

"Labourers reside on the farm."

"Improvement as *to cottages* is required."

"There is a *bothy* for Highland women; they are comfortable and behave well."

"Farm servants have each a cow, a pig, and 1,000 yards of potatoe ground allowed."

[Note.—The rest of Mr. Deans' evidence is to the same effect as that of Messrs. Hope and Begbie.]

66. *Mr. Robert Pringle* gives evidence similar to the foregoing, except that on Archerfield farm there is a male as well as female bothy. Of three ploughmen two are unmarried, and, with a lad who looks after the stables, live in a *bothy* "furnished with all the furni- "ture, cooking utensils, dishes, bedding, and towels re- "quired." The bedding and towels are washed for the men, "but they furnish and cook all their own meat." Another peculiarity of this return is that 13*s.* a week of the wages is paid in money. As to the habit of changing Mr. Pringle says, "although the engage- "ments are only for the year or half year the men "don't shift so much as one might expect; one of the "two men has been six years in the bothy and the "married ploughman has been 20 years on the farm, "for several of which before he was married he was "in the bothy."

Of the *female bothy* Mr. Pringle says, "Six of the "female workers who work in summer and two of "those who work in winter live in a bothy furnished "for them with all the furniture they require."

Mr. Pringle employs *eight boys between* 10 *and* 13 *years* of age for short periods, of which he says, "I "only employ the young boys for about eight or 10 "weeks in summer and two or three weeks in autumn. "In summer in weeding and thinning carrots, and in "autumn in gathering potatoes, which allows them "six or eight months to go to school if they choose.

Mr. Samuel Shirriff, occupier, says:

"My *cottages* are very good. I have 10 of them (this for 318 acres arable) which afford me a plentiful supply of labour [note,—the ordinary labour staff is 10 males and 10 unmarried females]. During 20 years I have only known one case of immorality. Of the occupants of the 10 cottages, two have been in them for 20 years; one for 18; six for about 12 years, and one for eight."

"We have *bothies*, most respectable abodes. The Highland girls who occupy them are of a superior caste, and an instance of any one having a child is most rare. They come in large numbers and replace the Lowland girls who mostly go to domestic service. The bothy system has allowed the farmers to abolish the vilest custom of all called "bondage labour," by which farmers forced their married ploughmen to keep each one a single woman whom the ploughman hired by the year."

"From the middle of May till the middle of July, *boys and girls*, from 10 to 15 years of age are employed weeding carrots [note,—Mr. Shirriff returns six boys and six girls under 13 as so employed, G.C.]. In October they may again be employed gathering potatoes."

"Women are not equal to children for weeding carrots, though of course of more value for the grain and potato harvest."

"Women generally live on the farm, but if a number of children are wanted, the farmer must drive (cart) them from a distance. Two miles is the longest distance they can have to walk for employment."

"In summer, children work from 7 till 12, and from 1 till 5."

"There is no ill-treatment. The children are always full of fun and mischief, and by no means under much discipline."

Restrictions on Labour.

"I do not think a woman who has been long at farm labour would make a good domestic servant, her manners and not her morals I would object to. I cannot see, however, that restrictions on females are necessary or desirable. The demand is every year increasing, and 1*d.* a day added to female wages. At many kinds of work they beat men hollow; and th are indispensable to the well-doing of a farm summer. Children under 14 are not much employ except on farms where carrots are grown, and these children have fully seven months of the yea attend school."

"The 'bondage system' is still continued on large farm in this parish. It is only an inferior of servants who will accept it, viz., those who ca fall in with employment elsewhere."

DUNBAR.

Population, 4,944. - Acreage, 8,803.

67. *Mr. James Murray*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed throughout the year from or 13 years of age."

"*Girls* are employed from about the same age light work."

"Women are very extensively employed in lighter farm work."

"All my labourers reside on my farm."

"The hours of work are 10 hours."

"The work in which females are employed ha detrimental effect neither on their health, their mor nor their proper training for domestic duties."

School Attendance, &c.

"Boys and girls are kept at school until they 12 or 13 years of age, by which time it is understo that their education is finished. Occasionally, afte year's interval, they are again sent to school for a months to revise their stock of learning. Even schools also exist, at which the young people fr 15 to 20 years of age have an opportunity of an ad tional revisal, of which they readily avail themselv As far, therefore, as we are concerned, I see no nec sity for interfering either with the labour of childr or women."

Cottages, &c.

"The condition of the cottages is generally go great improvements having been made of late ye They are also conveniently situated for the farms, sufficient for the supply of labour."

"The *bothy system* does not exist in the parish is entirely a family system here."

"Stewards, shepherds, and ploughmen have c kept for them (*i.e.*, the food of the cow given) if th wish it, and it is the usual custom for them to do They as well as the cottars have also a considera extent of potato ground."

How Female Labour obtained.

"My people have all their houses free, nor hav for many years bound any of my ploughmen to k a female worker; there are always some of them w have daughters who like to stay at home and wo and they get extra payment."

68. The following table, showing the number persons employed on East Barns farm, giving th number of years' service and showing also the c nexion between the families, is printed as it was gi to me by Mr. Murray, and exhibits the compl success of a strictly *family system*. Here is *neit bothy nor bondage* system, and it is interesting see how the large requirement of labourers, m and female, is supplied, and the number of cotta necessary for that supply.

The farm, which is four miles from the small to of Dunbar, and 33 miles south of Edinburgh on North British Railway line, owes its success to production of ordinary agricultural crops, and the fe ing of stock. As will be seen from the course cropping thus described by Mr. Murray, who says

"The farm is entirely arable and includes acres (imperial) of rich red loam, and is cropped seven course rotation, thus—

1. Turnips.
2. Barley sown down with grass seeds.

5. Grass partly cut for hay and partly pastured.
6. Grass pastured.
7. Oats and potatoes, one-half each.
8. Potatoes and beans, or beans and peas mixed (the potatoes after oats and beans after potatoes).
7. Wheat."

e rent of the farm (500 acres) is 2,400*l.*

-des the use of a blacksmith's and joiner's ge in common with his neighbour's, and three strictly farm cottages for a groom, gardener, gatekeeper, Mr. Murray has 22 cottages let with rm for its use. These cottages are inhabited—

1 by a grieve.
1 by woman's grieve (also engineman).
1 by shepherd.
7 by ploughmen; two other ploughmen live with their families.
1 by cattleman.
2 by spademan (another spademan lives with his father).
9 by cottar women (supplying 14 female workers, of whom 13 are single and one a widow).

The remaining eight female workers are supplied by the families of married men (one being daughter of the gardener and another of the groom), not included in the above holders of cottages. Upon the whole, including domestic servants, grooms, and gardeners, and giving Mr. Murray half share of the work of the blacksmith, and joiner, there are 50 persons regularly employed and 26 families dependent on the success of this farm.—G.C.

69. *Service of Farm Servants, East Barns, Dunbar.*

Name or Quality of Servant.		Married or Single.	Number of Years Service.	Remarks as to relationship to other Servants, &c.
Grieve	John Kirkwood -	M.	17	Son of James Kirkwood, 24 years servant at East Barn before his death, a few weeks ago, born and brought up on the farm.
Women's grieve and engineman.	John Turner -	W.	16	Daughter keeps his house.
Shepherd	Wm. Caxton - -	M.	10	Wife and family.
Ploughman	Robt. Aitchison -	M.	16	Wife and family.
"	Alex. Runciman -	S.	2	His father, who died two years ago, had been 20 years ploughman at East Barn, and his son when 13 years of age was put in his place at the same wages. Nephew to blacksmith.
"	James Cowe - -	M.	1	Came in place of Hepburn Purves, who had been 15 years in service and recently died.
"	George Purves -	M.	15	Son of Hepburn Purves.
"	Wm. Kirkwood -	M.	19	Son of James Kirkwood, and brother to grieve; 14 years ploughman.
"	Wm. Neilson -	M.	10	Son of John Neilson, spademan.
"	David Young -	M.	1	Young wife a few months married.
"	Thos. Neilson -	S.	6	Son of John Neilson.
Spademan	John Neilson - -	M.	20	Wife and family.
"	Wm. Aitchison -	S.	8	Began to work on farm when 13 years of age. } Sons of Robert Aitchison.
Ploughman	John Aitchison -	S.	6	Do. Do. Do. } Sons of Robert Aitchison.
Spademan	David Hamilton -	S.	24	Old bachelor, lives with sister.
Cattleman	James Buchanan -	M.	3	Wife and family.
Boy	Andrew Cowe -	S.	1	Son of James Cowe, ploughman.
"	George Buchanan -	S.	3	Son of James Buchanan, cattleman.
Gardener	Andrew Denholm -	M.	10	Wife and family.
"	Robert Denholm -	S.	4	Son of Andrew Denholm, gardener.
"	Peter Goodall -	S.	1	Brother of Agnes and Margaret Goodall.
Groom	Wm. Barnett - -	M.	7	Wife and family.
Stableman	Charles Barnett -	S.	4	Son of William Barnett, groom.
Gatekeeper	Margt. Weatherston	W.	24	Widow of John Weatherston, shepherd from 1846 till his death in 1862; Margaret is aged 88.
Cottar	Jane Runciman -	S.	24	Resides with her sister.
"	Margt. Purves -	S.	16	Daughter of the late Hepburn Purves, and resides with her mother
"	Margt. Allan - -	S.	24	} Sisters living together in family.
"	Jane Allan - -	S.	24	
"	Agnes Goodall -	W.	1	Mother of Peter, Agnes, and Margaret Goodall.
"	Agnes Goodall, jun.	S.	1	} Daughters of the above Agnes Goodall.
"	Margt. Goodall -	S.	1	
"	Susan Barnett -	S.	5	Daughter of William Barnett, groom.
"	Alison Watson -	S.	17	Daughter of the late Peter Watson, limeburner, East Barns. Resides with her mother.
"	Christina Bald -	S.	2	} Daughters of and residing with Widow Bald.
"	Margt. Bald - -	S.	2	
"	Jeanie Dickson -	S.	11	} Daughters of and residing with Widow Dickson.
"	Cath. Dickson -	S.	5	
"	Margt. Dickson -	S.	2	
"	Marion Buchanan -	S.	3	Daughter of James Buchanan, cattleman.
"	Mary Denholm -	S.	2	Daughter of Andrew Denholm, gardener.
"	Mary Ann Kirkwood	S.	11	Daughter of the late James Kirkwood, and residing with her mother.
"	Jessie Purves - -	S.	4	} Daughters of George Purves, ploughman.
"	Mary Purves - -	S.	2	
"	Janet Caxton -	S.	2	Daughter of William Caxton, shepherd.
"	Euph. Neilson -	S.	6	Daughter of John Neilson, spademan.
"	Margt. Runciman -	S.	2	Sister of Alex. Runciman, ploughman, and resides with her mother.
House servant	Margt. Aitchison -	S.	16	Daughter of Robert Aitchison, ploughman.
"	Margt. Murray -	S.	4	To be married in a few weeks to William Aitchison, No. 13.
"	Margt. Caxton -	S.	4	Daughter of William Caxton, shepherd.
Joiner	James Runciman, and three sons.	M.	22	Has the joiner work for East Barns and neighbouring farms.
Blacksmith	Alexr. Runciman, son and apprentice.	M.	3	Has the blacksmith work do. do.

East Barns, Dunbar, 26th April 1870.

JAMES MURRAY.

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

s.

70. Notes on East Barns (Parish of Dunbar).

Was present at the Presbytery examination of East Barns school, and heard about 100 well dressed and bright looking labourer's children pass a very good examination. Schoolmaster, parents, and their chief employer, Mr. Murray, all seemed to take a great interest in the work of the children.

There is a group of 10 very good cottages on East Barns' farm, forming three sides of a square, with offices at the back (approached by a passage through north side of square); in front is a plot of evergreens. These cottages (belonging to Mr. Mitchell Innes, of Ayton Castle) have a kitchen, three small bedrooms, a larder, and two closets (in one of which coals are kept), all on the ground floor. They would be improved by having coalhouses built outside, though I never saw cottages cleaner or better kept. There are four other new cottages on the same farm with three larger bedrooms, also on the ground floor. The older and smaller cottages are occupied by small families or widows, who find female workers. Amongst the occupants of cottages are eight widows (six of them widows of men who have died on the farm). I had paraded for my inspection 16 strong good looking native girls, who formed at that time the female working force of the farm. These girls were all dressed alike, pretty much as follows (winter dress):—

A jacket (or polka) of winsey.
A small shawl pinned across the shoulder.
Short petticoat of striped winsey.
Black woollen stockings, and
Strong laced boots.

All hired men who live on this farm have *cows*, which get grass in summer and oat straw and sometimes bean chaff in winter. The labourers improve the winter and spring keep of their cows by buying barley "cummings" from the breweries, oil cake and bean meal. All the cows are insured, most of them in the Spott Club, to which they appear to pay an enormous yearly premium, as they told me, 14*s.* to 16*s.* (See Miscellaneous Evidence.)

The labourers have also a "hearse fund," to which on entry they pay 2*s.* 6*d.* and have the use of the hearse to any member of the subscriber's family at a charge of 1*s.*

Gladsmuir.

Population, 1,945. - Acreage, 7,165.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

Cropping: grass, oats, turnips or potatoes, wheat or barley; or half white crop and one-sixth each grass, turnips, and potatoes or beans.

80. *Mr. Alexander Henderson*, occupier and land agent, says:

"From one to five *boys and girls* inclusive from 11 years old upwards are employed on my farm throughout the year. [This applies to a farm of 740 acres arable in high cultivation.—G.C.] They do general light work, and are never overworked."

"Women are employed on the general work of the farm."

All labourers live on the farm."

"The hours of work are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with fully two hours allowed for dinner in the middle of the day. Some take their breakfast before they come out, and some get it carried to the field by children, who afterwards go to school." [Note.—The school is in the farm village.—G.C.]

School Attendance.

"Boys and girls generally attend school regularly till they are 11 years old, and then go to light farm work in summer, going back to school in winter for a year or two following. This enables them to get a sufficient education for their station in life, besides which they have it in their power afterwards to attend an evening school. We have three good schools in the parish, and generally the children attend well."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages have been very much improved late years, but more are wanted."

"Very few servants have cows here, but all gardens."

Loans under Inclosure Commissioners.

"The Commissioners make this way of buil difficult by binding borrowers to their plans, w may not suit."

81. *Mr. Geo. Gaukroger*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed throughout the from 12 to 18 years of age."

"Five or six women are employed throughout year on this farm [220 acres arable.—G.C.], double that number in summer."

"Cows are not allowed, but 6*l.* is given in lieu cow's keep. Pigs are allowed, and potatoes are gi in lieu of potato land."

"There is an evening school, which is taken adva tage of."

"The cottages in this neighbourhood are go sufficient for the labour required, and are on t farms."

82. *The Master of Longniddry* (*Church of Sc land*) *School* says:

"Boys between 10 and 13 are employed on far from April to October."

"None of the Factory Act regulations for attendan at school would suit in this parish."

"Non-attendance arises more from the carelessn of parents than anything else. To remedy this, ra the teacher's salary, lower the fees, and make t attendance compulsory."

"There is an *evening school*, but it is not tak advantage of."

83. *A ploughman* working for Mr. Henderson (h been 15 years on the farm); has had six daughters.

Two daughters out at service did field work they were 17 or 18.

One daughter now working on the farm.

Three daughters at school.

This man's opinion is that "daughters are best k "at home till they are well able to take care of the "selves at service, and that field work strengthe "them." The same man told me that all the labour in his village (Longniddry) endeavoured to keep th children at school till they were sufficiently educat —"Boys till they're 12 or 13, and girls till they're maybe." There's only one man on the farm w can't read and write, and he never could learn."

84. Saw two Irish women, field workers, living gether in a bothy or cottage. The elder about 35 ye of age has been in England for 17 years and the oth for 10. Both of these very powerfully built wom and good workers, as well as quiet and well conduct according to Mr. Henderson. One of them told that her countrymen worked a great deal harder England than they would do at home, and were mu better off working for other people here than farmi little bits of land in Ireland.

85. *An old woman*, living with her daughter w manages the dairy, told me that she had lived 44 ye towards the south of the county, and had a cow 40 years (they are not given here). "Men we "always well off in my day, they weren't dressed j "so fine maybe, but their clothes was good. It w "considered an awfu' like thing for a family to flit "my day, and now they're always flitting."

86. The cottages in Longniddry are in good co dition. Some have three apartments besides t kitchen, but in each cottage I was in there were t beds in the kitchen. No pots or ovens in these c tages, but the usual swey to hang the kettle and gird

There is a Church of Scotland School at Longnidd consisting of two tolerably good rooms, and having attendance of about 80 healthy bright-looking ch dren; where a family has four or five children w ought to be at school the master appears to be co tent to take two or three of them for nothing.

peaking of the value of cows Mr. Henderson said
where, as in a great part of East Lothian, the
s got second years grass (instead of old grass as in
land) in summer, and straw (oat) in winter, the
of keep was called 6*l.*, and that sum given in lieu
he cow.

Haddington.

Population, 5,518. - Acreage, 12,162.

7. *Mr. Scot Skirving*, occupier, says:
Children begin to do light work about 13 years of
in summer and early autumn."
As a rule *no married women* work in the fields."
There are about an equal number of men and
nen workers on an arable farm."
'Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day
summer, and in winter during daylight."
'Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."
'I do not think legislative interference is necessary
to restricting the employment of women and
ldren in agriculture."
'The half day at school and half day at work
tem, also the alternate day at school and day at
rk system are absurd in an agricultural district.
hool attendance for a certain number of hours
ring the preceding six months might be considered
re it necessary, which it is not, as all the children
e fairly educated."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are good, but *not* in sufficient
mbers; often five old cottages have been pulled
wn, and only three or four built in their place.
ey are all conveniently situated with regard to the
rms. They are sometimes overcrowded."
"The *bothy system* is a vile one, invented by land-
rds to save their pockets."
"About one-half of the farmers allow cows to be
ept. All give potato ground in the shape of a certain
mber of yards of a drill, giving also the manure,
d all cottages have gardens."
"Each census for the last 50 years has shown a
ecreasing number of cottages in the rural districts;
t I have some hope that in that of 1871 this mis-
rtune will be less marked."

88. *Notes on Campton and Mungos Wells Farms.*

Cottages decent, rather lacking in accommodation.
ire grates and "sweys" belong to the occupants,
nd vary greatly in pattern; no pots or ovens. All
ired men who choose have cows.

A bothy with four Highland girls at Campton.
These female bothies are much more comfortable
ooking than male bothies. Beds well made, and
crockery (which you never see in a male bothy) give
hem an air of comfort. The girls knit and mend
clothes for each other, and cook in turn. A great
demand for bothy girls took place in the Lothians when
potato culture was established after the "potato dis-
ease year, 1846." Potatoes remained sound in the
Lothians that season which was the case in very few
other districts.

Innerwick.

Population, 937. - Acreage, 13,424.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

89. *Mr. J. W. Hunter*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed in summer at farm work as soon as they are fit to do it. In winter they go back to school till their parents think they have learnt enough."

"Most of the farm work is done by *women*."

"Almost all labourers live on the farm."

"The *hours of work* are from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in summer. In winter from daylight till 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. till dark.'

Effect of Employment.

"Any upper servant ill-treating women or children in the fields would be instantly dismissed, and I am not aware of any injuries arising from their work. I do not see that women engaged in farm labour are more immoral than those engaged in domestic service; they are not nearly so bad as factory women; nor do I see that farm work affects for evil the performance of their own proper domestic duties. If female labour was to be restricted farmers here might give up farming altogether and let the land go back to what it was, not so very long ago,—whins and heather." They could grow neither corn nor root crops to a profit without female labour."

Education.

"Neither a half-day nor alternate day system of school attendance would suit agricultural work. The children are now acting upon a sort of modification of the Printworks Act, *i.e.*, they continue to go to school in winter after they have taken to summer work, and while attending school regularly, there is no reason why they should not do harvest work, for instance, during the school holidays. Better leave things as they are."

"We have a parochial school and a dame's school, the latter, which is to a certain extent in opposition to the parish school, is principally supported by Lady Mary Nisbet Hamilton. Both of these schools are well attended."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages are good and sufficient for the supply of labour."

"We have *no bothy system*, unless you call lodging strange labourers at harvest time in barns, &c. a bothy system. It does not appear to me that the manner of lodging people has much to do with the immorality complained of; it is just as bad in the cottages of the farm servant, and no Act of Parliament will prevent young men and women from meeting and doing what *they think right*, or at least *not wrong*."

"All cottages have gardens, and farm servants each have a cow, 1,800 yards of potatoes, a pig, and three tons of coals."

"Government assistance towards the erection or improvement of labourers' cottages is not necessary in this parish. I have several empty cottages at present."

90. Mr. Hunter, who farms 2,300 acres (of which 1,455 are arable) of his own land, gives an interesting account of the earnings of the families he employs, which will be found farther on in the evidence, on wages, &c. Exclusive of a head grieve at each of the three farms, 75 persons form the ordinary working staff, viz.:—

Males over 18 years of age	38	49
„ between 13 and 18	11	
Females, over 18 years of age	22	26 (all unmarried).
„ between 13 and 18	4	

This is the spring and winter staff, which is somewhat increased in summer and during harvest. Four of the "helps," *i.e.*, women or lads, are supplied by families not engaged on the farm (three foresters and a roadman); the remaining 71 persons are supplied by 27 families, whose incomes from farm labour (including ploughman's gains, but exclusive of increased wages and food for harvest month) average 66*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* The highest family income is 121*l.* 10*s.* (six of the family employed). The lowest family income is 31*l.* 4*s.* (where only one member is employed). Including 66*l.* 6*s.* earned by five helps, who do not belong to these families; the total wages of the ordinary staff of 75 labourers is 1 855*l.* 18*s.* This gives an average of 16*s.* 1½*d.* per acre on the whole acreage of 2,300 acres, of which 1,455 are arable in five course (two years grass) rotation. Mr. Hunter puts the whole

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

s.

cost, including extra summer and harvest hands at 18*s.* 10*d.* This would raise the whole expenditure in wages to 2,167*s.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, or add 311*s.* 9*s.* 2*d.* for wages paid to persons other than the ordinary staff of the farm, or in extra harvest wages paid to the ordinary staff in shape of higher wages to "workers" and food to all. This increased harvest wage, which according to Mr. Hunter's schedule (see evidence on wages No. 109), is not included, will increase the family earnings given above.*

The custom of resting three hours in the middle of the day, which was formerly much more common, still prevails in this parish, and at the request of the labourers. Ploughmen leave the stable at 5 a.m., work till 10; rest till 1 p.m., and work again till 6. All workers have the same hours. Three meals a day are given in harvest, and the day's work is thus arranged :—

Morning
- Begin work at 5 a.m.
- Breakfast at 8 a.m., resting half an hour.
- "Pipes" (short rest) at 10 a.m.
- Stop work at 12 noon (dinner).

Afternoon
- Begin work at 1 p.m.
- "Pipes" at 4 p.m.
- Stop work at 6 p.m.

This system allows a long rest during the heat of the day, and giving three meals allows married women (again increasing the family earning) to work, as they have no cooking to do.

91. There is a very good group of two-storied cottages (not a usual thing in Scotland), forming three sides of a square, open to the south on Thurston Mains (Mr. Hunter's). The offices at the back are approached by an archway through the centre of the north side of the square.

The "hinds" cottages on Innerwick farm (Mr. Nisbet Hamilton's property) have a pot and oven, as well as fire-grate, supplied by the proprietor. All the servants who like, on this farm, have cows; and one ploughman's wife told me her cow was worth 10*l.* a year to her, while in lieu of its keep she would only be allowed 5*l.* or 6*l.* in money. She described the *cow's keep* thus: "In summer they get grass, and in winter oat straw; sometimes the master gives us a few turnips in spring, and we give them what cabbage we can spare." Of her own *family's food* she said, "They have porridge night and morning, and broth with pickled pork in it for dinner."

There are two schools where there need only be one, but the parochial school-room would not be large enough for the whole parish.

The schoolmaster, as in many rural parishes, makes himself useful as well as increases his income, by holding such offices as—

Inspector of Poor.
Collector of Poor's Rate.
Clerk to Kirk Session.
Collector of Heritor's Money (for repair of church, &c.).

92. *Mr. Robert Henderson*, parochial schoolmaster, says :

"*Boys* are employed from March to November."

"*Girls* are employed from 14 years of age."

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"Agricultural female workers are equally if not more virtuous than house servants."

"I think restriction as to women's and children's work unnecessary."

"I think the Factory Act and Printworks Act mode of education inapplicable here. I think children under 12 should be at school nine months of the year and children between 12 and 14, four months; but no compulsory mode of education is required here."

"The cottages are good, sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situated, and are not overcrowded."

"The *bothy system does not exist* here."

"Farm servants are allowed the keep of a cow, and have pigs and potato ground, and all cottages have gardens."

"We have no children above 14 who are not working, and no children above 5, who are not at school till they are taken thence for work."

"I open an evening school, say every five years, and get an attendance of upwards of 30 from 15 to 20 years of age."

North Berwick.

Population, 2,071. - Acreage, 5,372.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

93. *Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart.*, convener of the county of Haddington, &c., says :

"*Boys* are employed throughout the year after 14 years of age."

"*Girls* are employed in field work after they are 16 years of age."

"*Women* are very generally employed."

"Three quarters of a mile at most is the distance labourers go to their work."

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment*. Sometimes they must be exposed to the weather."

"Female agricultural workers make very good domestic servants."

"I think no restriction as to the employment in field work of women and children is necessary."

"This parish is very well off for schools in every respect, and the children attend well."

"The *cottages* on some farms are very good, and on others they are gradually improving."

"The *bothy system* exists to some extend, and if properly looked after, bothies do very well."

"Cottage accommodation is increasing; many new cottages have been built on this estate."

"Farm labourers are allowed to keep cows, and have potato ground as well as cottage gardens."

Prestonkirk.

Population, 1,960. - Acreage, 7,088.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

94. *Mr. Alexander Scott*, occupier, says :

"*Boys* above 15 years of age are employed throughout the year; boys under this age are employed in summer and go to school in winter."

"*Girls* are not employed on this farm till they are 14 years of age. At present I have two girls, one aged 14 the other 18. These girls go to school in winter to learn sewing, &c."

"*Women* are employed throughout the year."

"All labourers reside on the farm, and this is generally the case in the parish."

"The *hours of work* are for all workers 10 hours when their is light."

Cottages.

"The cottages *are now* in general convenient having two or three apartments. On the whole they are sufficient for the supply of labour."

"The *bothy system* does not exist for farm servants but since the old system of requiring a ploughman to keep a bondager has been given up, most farms have one or more cottages occupied by either Irish or Highland women. Most of these can read and write."

95. [The following account of the labourers employed on Beanstone farm was kindly given to me by Mr. Scott.—G.C.]

* In harvest the 10*d.* and 1*s.* a day of ordinary "workers" (women or lads) is increased to 2*s.* a day and three meals for one month; strangers have 12*s.* a week and three meals. Out of the 26 female workers four are *hired* by the head of the house, and are therefore "bondagers" proper.

Quality of Servant.		Married or Single.	Number of Years' Service on the Farm.	Age.	Remarks.
Steward		M.	4	46	Successor to a man who served 32 years.
Shepherd		M.	6	36	
Groom		M.	34	50	Son of an old servant.
Ploughman		M.	30	42	Do.
Do.		M.	5	40	
Do.		M.	3	56	
Do.		M.	2	34	
Do.		S.	10	24	Son of groom No. 3.
Do.		S.	4	21	Son of steward No. 1.
Women and Children.					
Woman		S.	34	60	Daughter of an old servant.
Girl		S.	3	18	Daughter of No. 4.
Do.		S.	½	14	Children of No. 5.
Boy		S.	1	15	
Do.		S.	3	17	
Do.		S.	Just entered.	14	Son of No. 4.
Do.		W.		—	Widow of an Irish servant who served 17 years.
Woman	Irish	S.		—	Daughter of do.
Do.	Irish	S.	10	—	Occupy cottage and garden together.
Do.	Irish	S.	2	—	
Do.	Highland	S.	1	—	Do.
Do.	Highland	S.	1	—	

This staff would require 11 cottages; of which two ould be devoted to the Highland and Irish women. is is for 370 acres, all arable.—G.C.]

The above is the ordinary staff in regular employnt. Mr. Scott says, "During harvest I employ four or five home men (*i.e.*, Scotchmen), and from 15 to 20 Irish reapers. Before the introduction of reaping machines I required at least double the number of Irish reapers."

Spott.

Population, 555. - Acreage, 7,582.
Cultivation mixed.

96. *Mr. J. G. Dickson*, parochial schoolmaster, ys:

"*Boys* are employed during spring and summer."

"*Girls* are employed from 9 and 10 years of age light farm work."

"All *women* and girls who are not employed in doestic service are engaged in the fields, in hoeing, preading manure, lifting grain, &c."

"*Men* work 10 hours a day."

"*Women and children* work 9 hours a day."

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatent*."

"I think field work acts injuriously on the morality f females, the women are bold, many becoming the nothers of illegitimate children, and comparatively ew make industrious housewives."

Restrictions on Labour.

"I think *some restriction is necessary* as to the employment of women and children in agriculture."

"Half-day school attendance I consider injures the school and does not benefit the child. I have always thought that in the end it would be better for both the parents and children if no child could be employed by any farmer until he had passed at least the Fifth Standard of the Revised Code, and that he should be kept at school during the winter months for at least two years after."

"*The parish school* is the means of education provided here. It is well attended; there is no cause other than early labour to which I attribute the non-attendance of the children."

"*The cottages* are generally good and conveniently situated, and are not overcrowded."

"*The bothy system* exists to a very small extent. I only know of one bothy in the parish."

"*There is no other mode of lodging* farm servants which acts injuriously on their education or morals."

"Mostly all the farm servants *are allowed the keep of a cow and potato ground*, and each cottage has a garden."

Whitekirk.

Population, 1,113. - Acreage, 7,153.

97. *Mr. Matthew Buist*, land agent, says:

1st. "It is seldom that anyone is employed in field labour in this district under 12 years of age; their work consists in the following,—to gather sweedes, spread dung, hoe and single turnips and other green crops, lift corn into the band that is cut by reaping machine, dress grain when thrashed, gather potatoes, and pick them for the market, &c."

2d. "*All are educated* and can read and write. When they first begin work it is for the summer months only; they return to school in the winter months frequently for a year or two."

3d. "*The cottage accommodation* is good and sufficient in most cases. Many of the cottages now erected for farm labourers have kitchen and two bedrooms, with fireplaces on the ground floor and also a floor above."

4th. "There are various ways of hiring farm servants. Some receive money wages, others a certain quantity of meal or money, and almost invariably the keep of a cow forms part of the wage. Taking an average of years and calculating all that the farm servant receives at a fair rate they will vary from 12*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 6*d.* a week; women and lads from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day."

5th. "The agricultural labourer is invariably desirous to have his family well educated, and in no case is this neglected. Nothing gratifies them more than to hear that their children are good scholars."

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

S.

EVIDENCE ON MODE OF HIRING AND THE MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Aberlady.

98. *Mr. Jas. Skirving*, says:

"The shepherd has the keep of four sheep, and the men who stack, sow, or feed the threshing mill have 1 boll of wheat in addition to the ordinary ploughman's wage, which is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money	14	0	0
Oatmeal, 6½ bolls at, say, 21*s.*	6	16	6
Barley, 1½ quarters, at 37*s.*	2	15	6
Beans, ½ quarter, at 42*s.*	1	1	0
Potatoes, 1,000 yards of a drill	2	2	0
Food for 5 weeks in harvest	1	0	0
Haulage of coals	1	0	0
Keep of cow	5	0	0
Cottage and garden	2	2	0
	£35	17	0

[Note.—Mr. Skirving appears to me to value the potato land, cow's keep, and rent of cottage and garden too low. The cottages are very good. On the other hand, I think the oatmeal might be taken at 20*s.* a boll. Calling the cow's keep 6*l.*, potato land 3*l.*, cottage rent 3*l.* and oatmeal 6*l.* 10*s.* makes their wage worth 38*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*—G.C.]

Athelstaneford.

99. *Mr. Jas. Douglas*, occupier, says:

"Females are paid in money, hired men part in money and part in kind."

"Ordinary able-bodied labourers earn from 33*l.* to 39*l.* a year."

Ploughmen are paid thus:—

Money (or money 15*l.* and cow's keep 6*l.*), 21*l.*
Meal, 6½ bolls of 10 stone each.
Barley, 12 bushels.
Beans, 1 boll.
Wheat, ½ boll.
Potatoes, 1,000 yards.
Coals driven free.
5 weeks food in harvest.
Cottage and garden free.

"Three of my ploughmen have cows. When such is the case 15*l.* is given in money."

"Women are paid 1*s.* a day, summer and winter. Boys have 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day."

"Day labourers 13*s.* a week."

"Grieves have usually 10*l.* money more than ploughmen."

Dirleton.

100. *Mr. Geo. Hope*, occupier, says:

"There is a hiring market at Haddington, but I do not engage any men unless they apply personally at the farm. Several of my men have been here for 40 or 50 years.

"Eleven of my men [ploughmen.—G.C.] are paid as under:—

	£	s.	d.
In money	15	0	0
Oatmeal, 65 stones at 2*s.* 2*d.*	7	0	10
Barley 10 bushels, and beans 4 bushels	4	0	0
Potatoes, 1,000 yards manured and worked	3	0	0
Cow's keep (worth 8*l.* or 9*l.*)	6	5	0
House and garden (worth 6*l.*)	2	10	0
Five weeks' food in harvest	1	0	0
Carriage of coals	1	5	0
	£40	0	10

"Women are paid 6*s.* 6*d.* a week; a few girls of 15 or 16 years 4*s.* 6*d.* Boys gets 7*s.* 6*d.* a week; ordinary labourers, some of them old, get from 9*s.* to 1[illegible] a week, with free houses and coals driven."

101. *Mr. Henry Deans*, occupier, says:

"The servants on this farm never change. They are well-to-do, and contented. Wages range from 14*s.* a week with a free house and garden."

102. *Mr. Robert Pringle* pays thus:

Shepherd,—

	£	s.	d.
Money, 14*s.* a week, paid monthly	36	8	0
Potato land, ⅙th of an acre, say	2	0	0
Carriage of coal, say	1	0	0
Food in harvest, say	1	0	0
Free house and garden, say	3	0	0
	£43	8	0

[Note.—The horse labour only on the potato land is done for him.]

A married ploughman has the same allowances as a shepherd, with 13*s.* a week, also paid monthly instead of 14*s.*, making his wages worth say 40*l.* 16*s.*

Two unmarried ploughmen have the same money wage as married men, and have besides,—

	£.	s.	d.
Bothy accommodation, &c., say	2	12	0
Two bolls of potatoes (one for six months), say	1	7	0
Half coals free and cartage	1	5	0
Harvest food, say	1	0	0

Making their wages worth 40*l.* a year.

A labourer who lives at home has 13*s.* a week and his meat in harvest. This man looks after the women and boys.

The lad who lives with the bothymen receives the same allowance as they do and 9*s.* a week. These are the whole ordinary male staff on 274 acres, of which 148 acres are arable.

"Women receive 1*s.* a day. The bothy women besides their bothy quarters have half their fuel free. Women who live in the villages (Dirleton and Gullane) have the cartage free of one load of coals."

"Boys and girls have from 9*d.* to 10*d.* a day."

103. *Mr. Samuel D. Shiriff*, occupier, says:

"Both men and cottagers [women, and sometimes called cottars.—G.C.] are hired by the year. Some men are paid in money, preferring it, others in kind and money; I have both. Women are paid in money and regular workers have besides 500 yards of potatoes."

"Hired men have about 15*s.* a week."

Dunbar.

104. *Mr. James Murray*, occupier, says:

"Men are hired by private agreement or in public markets, and are paid partly in money, partly in kind. Average income, including 'gains,' of first class hired men, 20*s.* a week; of second class, 15*s.* to 16*s.* a week."

"The ordinary female wage is 6*s.* a week. With her free house and 'gains,' each first hand from a cottar house receives an average value of 24*l.* 14*s.* per annum, or 9*s.* 6*d.* a week." [This would apply to nine of the women regularly employed on Mr. Murray's farm. The rest of the women will average say 6*s.* 6*d.* a week.—G.C.]

Gladsmuir.

105. *Mr. Alexander Henderson*, occupier, says:

"Farm servants are hired at public markets, and paid about one half in money and one half in kind."

"An able-bodied labourer averages from 14*s.* to 15*s.* a week."

106. *Mr. Geo. Gankroger*, occupier, says:

"A ploughman averages 13*s.* a week in money and kind, besides which he has a free house and garden worth 2*s.* a week more.

Haddington.

7. *Mr. Scot Skirving*, occupier, says:

n this district I regret to say a great many
ls' (farm servants) are hired from out of *a mob*
e open market. No proper enquiry as to cha-
r can be made under these circumstances. I
r hire in this manner; I *advertise in the local*
and receive personal applications. The hiring
.et is chiefly confined to males, but *some* females
lso engaged in this manner."

The following are the details of a hind's wages,
ns' as they are called. In a few cases they are
entirely in money; I prefer the payment in kind
nding to frugality:—

A cottage rent free on the farm.
A small garden with manure.
Driving of coals (making price same as at pit's mouth).
Leave to keep a pig. [This gives the garden manure.—G.C.]
A cow's keep—grass in summer; straw, and sometimes one load of turnips added in winter.
Four weeks food in harvest (consists of porridge and milk at breakfast, and bread with light beer for dinner).
Potato land, 800 lineal yards of a drill, with manure and labour, seed found by servant.
Oatmeal, 6½ bolls [65 stone.—G.C.].
Beans 4 bushels.
. Barley, 12 bushels.
. Money, 14*l.*

ertain servants have gratuities for stacking and
ping the men's time, &c."

Shepherds are paid at a higher rate; they gene-
y have leave to keep from four to eight sheep
es.—G.C.].

It will be seen that the value of a hind's wages
s and falls to some extent with the value of farm
duce. They average about 15*s.* a week."

08. *Mr. James W. Hunter*, of Thurston, land-
ler and occupier, says:

'Wages are paid in money both to male and female
ourers, except allowances to heads of families, such as cow's keep, potatoes, free cottage, and a certain quantity of coals."

Rate of wages of *married ploughmen*:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money, 8*s.* per week for 52 weeks	20	16	0
Cow's keep, say 2*s.* a week	5	4	0
Potato ground, 1,800 yards	5	4	0
House and garden rent, say 1*s.* 2*d.* a week	3	0	8
Three tons of coals free at 10*s.*	1	10	0
	£35	14	8
Fee to head of house for keeping a worker, woman or lad, 1*s.* a week	2	12	0
	£38	6	8

Labourer:—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money, 12*s.* a week for 52 weeks	31	4	0
2*s.* per week in addition for four weeks in harvest	0	8	0
House rent free, say 1*s.* 2*d.* a week	3	0	8
	£34	12	8

[Note.—Mr. Hunter has omitted harvest food. In his case three meals a day for four weeks. With regard to the allowance of 52*s.* a year to the head of the house for keeping a "help" or worker, male or female, Mr. Hunter says:—"The giving 52*s.* a year to the head of the family makes no earthly difference, and I am no gainer thereby. The woman's wage is paid to the head of the family, and he charges so much less against her keep, and it makes no difference with regard to neighbour's wages. It was done at a time when there was a threatened strike amongst the women for an increase of wages, which I stopped by giving the increase to the head of the house. Where a house provides two or three workers, the 'head' gets 52*s.*, the 'house worker' (for whom the 52*s.* is paid) gets 10*d.* a day, the other, if able-bodied, 1*s.*"]

09. Head of Family.	Class.	Number of Helps.	Number employed.	Value of Wages. £	*s.*	*d.*
A. Johnstone	Labourer	1	2	44	4	0
A. Cowe	Cattleman	1	2	44	4	0
F. Sutherland	Farm steward	1	1	31	4	0
A. Davidson	Ploughman	1	2	51	6	0
J. Black	Ploughman	—	1	38	6	0
W. Little	Ploughman	—	1	38	6	0
R. Anderson	Under grieve	1	2	51	6	0
A. Cathie	Shepherd	2	3	77	12	0
J. Angus	Roadman	1	1	13	0	0 (*b*)
T. Pierson	Ploughman	3	4	113	14	0
A. Wilson	Ploughman	2	3	82	10	0
G. Blair	Ploughman	3	4	90	6	0
G. Hogg	Labourer	1	2	60	8	0
G. Golightly	Ploughman	2	3	64	6	0
R. Angus	Cattleman	1	2	51	6	0
R. Wallace	Stableman	5	6	121	10	0
P. Shillinglaw	Forester	1	1	13	0	0 (*b*)
A. McLean	Shepherd	—	1	31	4	0
W. White	Under grieve	—	1	38	6	0
James Gibune	Labourer	2	3	82	10	0
And. Dubson	Ploughman	2	3	82	10	0
J. Allan	Under grieve	2	3	82	10	0
James Pierson	Ploughman	3	4	94	4	0
J. Dawson	Shepherd	3	4	106	12	0
P. Watts	Ploughman	2	3	72	2	0
D. Sheldon	Ploughman	1	2	51	6	0
G. Dickson	Cattleman	4	5	95	10	0
R. Robertson	Stableman	1	2	51	6	0
R. Henderson	Forester	2	2	28	12	0 (*a*)
G. Fortune	Forester	1	1	11	14	0 (*b*)
R. Turner	Shepherd	1	1	31	4	0

(*a*.) This is the earning of the two helps supplied to the farm.
(*b*.) Wages of one help supplied to farm.
The earnings given above are exclusive of extra wages in harvest, and harvest food. The harvest wage for "helps" is 2*s.* a day, with the addition in their case, as well as of all labourers, of three meals a day for four weeks. Where married women do harvest work they get 2*s.* a day and food, and in this way the earnings of several families are increased.

Haddington.

Mr. Culley.

S.

PRESTONKIRK.

110. *Mr. A. Scott*, occupier, says:

"The wages of a *ploughman* are:

	£	s.	d.
Money - - -	20	0	0
Keep of a cow or money in lieu -	6	0	0
Oatmeal, 6½ bolls, worth say -	7	10	0
12 bushels of barley at 5*s.* -	3	0	0
4 bushels of beans at 5*s.* 6*d.* -	1	2	0
1,000 yards of a drill of potatoes	3	10	0
House, garden, piggery, and carriage of coals - -	4	0	0
Food in harvest, five weeks -	1	0	0
	£40	2	0

Stewards and shepherds have higher wages. Women and boys have 1*s.* a day, except in harvest, when they are paid in proportion to the rates given for extra hands, which vary from one season te another."

SPOTT.

111. *Mr. J. G. Dickson*, schoolmaster, says:

"Hinds are hired by the year, and single servants by the half year. They are paid partly in money and partly in kind."

"The average wages of an able-bodied labourer amount to 38*l.* a year."

APPENDIX C.—EVIDENCE FROM THE COUNTIES OF BERWICK AND ROXBURGH.

COUNTY OF BERWICK.

Berwick.

Mr. Culley.

S.

EVIDENCE APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

1. Copy of a letter from *Mr. A. Campbell Swinton*, landowner, &c.:

"DEAR SIR, 15th April 1870.

"IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I have to submit the following remarks on some of the points to which you direct my attention:—

"1. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction on the employment of females or children in agriculture, as it prevails in this neighbourhood.

"I do not believe that either of these classes are exposed to any ill-treatment or physical injury from the nature of their work.

"It might certainly conduce to the *moral* improvement of the females if they were restricted to domestic services or other employments more suitable to their sex than out-door work along with male labourers.

"But I fear that the market is already fully stocked with candidates for such feminine occupations, and that both the exigencies of agriculture and the necessities of the labouring class require that females should contribute their labour, as at present, for the support of their families.

"The best correctives of any evils that exist in this matter seem to me to be (1) suitable supervision of both male and female labourers while employed in their work, and (2) the encouragement of sewing schools, in which girls may receive such an amount of industrial training as will fit them in after life for family duties. Attendance in such schools should not be incompatible with a certain amount of field labour.

"2. As far as this neighbourhood is concerned, I scarcely think that any legislative compulsion is necessary to secure a certain amount of school attendance in the case of children earning wages by field labour. The hinds or farm servants show a most commendable anxiety, and must often make considerable sacrifices to obtain education for their children. The children begin to work in the fields at the age of 12 or 14, scarcely ever earlier, and as it is only during certain months that there is any demand for their labour; they attend school during the remainder of the year. As there are probably parts of the country where th parents are more careless in this respect, I would ap prove of a provision prohibiting the employment o children who had not been at school for six month of the preceding twelve in case of children under 1(or four months in case of those between 10 and 13.

"2. The means of education provided in this paris for the education of the children of the agricultura labouring class are ample, and, as stated above, wil lingly taken advantage of. The school fees amoun to about 5*s.* a quarter for each child, if instructed i all the branches usually taught in elementary school- It might certainly be an improvement if we had even ing schools at which young persons might prosecut their education after they had left the ordinary school- and are engaged in labour during the day.

"3. The condition of the cottages in this paris and neighbourhood has greatly improved of late year- though some of them are still defective in respect o accommodation. Such a defect has, I have no doub *indirectly*, an injurious effect on the morals of th inmates by blunting their feelings of decency an self-respect. What is called 'the bothy system' i unknown among the agricultural labourers in th district. Most of the hinds or farm servants are re quired to keep a female, to whom the term 'bondager used to be applied, whose labour is available whe required on the farm. To a woman of this class th hind gives, besides her food, 8*l.* for the summer ha year and 4*l.* for the winter. The wages when em ployed on the farm are 1*s.* 2*d.* per day, and are pai to the hind. As full employment is not always give to the woman, the hind is often a loser by the arrange ment. And this, rather than the moral and soci effects of the system, has led to its unpopularit amongst the hinds. Unless the number of labourer cottages were very greatly increased it is difficult t see how this system could be dispensed with. I cases where the so called '*bondager*' is the daught or sister of the hind or his wife the system seems i no respect objectionable, and is certainly infinitel preferable to the 'bothy system,' as partaking mo of the *family* relation. But evils do undoubtedly re sult from the practice of the female labourer bein selected by the hind at a hiring market without an

ry as to her habits or character, and principally
y be with a view to her apparent bodily strength.
. The wages and perquisites of a farm servant
is district may be stated at about 40*l.* a year.
of this only 7*l.* 10*s.* is paid in money; 7*l.* may
timated as the value of the keep of cow, which
generally allowed. The remainder is made up
ain and peas, from 16*l.* to 17*l.*; potatoes 2*l.* 10*s.*;
and garden 3*l.*, to which falls to be added an
ional allowance of say 1*l.* during harvest, and
arriage of his coals. The hinds are hired by the
and the practice prevails of considering the
gements to terminate at the close of the year,
s specially renewed by the master. If the
er gives no intimation of his desire that the ser-
should remain, the latter considers himself en-
l, and indeed bound, to remove at Whitsunday
1 May), and accordingly looks out for another
ce at the hiring market, which in this district is
in the beginning of March. The frequent
ges to which this system gives rise are much to
precated, as destroying all "home" feelings on
part of the servants and preventing the cultiva-
of friendly relations between him and his master.
5. Besides the mode of providing a supply of
le labour, to which I have alluded under what is
d the 'bondager' system, there is a similar prac-
of letting cottages to old people (free of rent)
se daughters, one or more, are bound to work on
farms when required, and receive as wages when
mployed 1*s.* 2*d.* per day, and in addition about
the allowance of potato ground which is granted
hind. To substitute universally this mode of
iding female labour for the bondager system
ld require a very great addition to the number of
ages, and would, I fear, result in the erection of
llings of an inferior character. I do not see how
Legislature can be expected to provide greater
lities for the erection of labourer's houses than
at present given by the existing law.

These remarks have been unavoidably rather
riedly written, and will, I fear, be found to con-
very little information not already communicated
rou by persons of greater authority. But the sub-
s embraced in your enquiry are too important and
interesting to make it possible for me to refrain
n laying before you the views which I entertain.

"I am, dear sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

eorge Culley, Esq. A. Campbell Swinton."

Answers to Circular Questions by—

2. *Mr. D. Milne Home*, landowner, &c.

'*Boys and girls* generally go to farm work on
ving school, when they are between 13 and 14 years
age."

"*Women* are employed on farms, in singling turnips,
tting and binding corn, turning manure, and occa-
nally in driving carts between the farm offices and
e fields."

"I think that the turning of dung with heavy
apes is rather severe work for young females; but
never heard of any injury having occurred to them
consequence."

"There can be no doubt that the rough agricul-
al work females do is very prejudicial to their fit-
ss for domestic duties, except in their own cottages.
eir morals also must suffer from frequent inter-
urse with men in the fields. I have heard that
en in the fields they are exposed to very foul lan-
age and improper liberties."

"I should be glad to see a restriction on female
ricultural labour, so as to force women into other
cupations more congenial to their sex. Farmers
ploy women because their wages are about half
hat is exacted by men. The effect of restriction
ould no doubt be to cause a scarcity of labourers
r farm operations; but supply would in time follow
mand."

"I think the half day at school and half day at
ork mode of education impossible for children en-
gaged in farm work. Alternate whole days at school
and whole days at work might be adopted."

"Parish schools and private schools are generally
in every parish sufficiently numerous to give oppor-
tunity for instruction. Some parents keep their
children at home when they are old enough to be at
school to avoid paying the school fees and to get the
children's earnings for farm work. These parents,
of course, belong to the improvident and worthless
class; there are, however, not many of this class in
Berwickshire."

Condition Cottages, &c.

Generally in Berwickshire, at least in the lower
arable districts, the condition of the cottages is good;
the worst are in towns, such as Coldstream, Dunse, and
Eyemouth. See a return in the last Scotch census
showing the number of cottages having only one room
and only one window. (These are quoted for Ber-
wickshire in my pamphlet on "Social Reform,"
published by Blackwood.)

"The 'bothy system' does not exist in the county."

"The 'bondage system,' under which women of
bad character are sometimes brought on farms,
corrupting all the others, still prevails a little in
Berwickshire."

"The cottages generally have gardens. All farm
servants have potato ground, and some of them the
keep of a cow."

Evening Schools, &c.

"I have for the last two or three winters established
evening classes for young servants, which have met
with varying success. Much depends on the tact and
popularity of the schoolmaster."

"I have also a reading room for newspapers,
draughts, and dominoes on the alternate days. This
has the good effect of keeping many away from the
public house."

Cause of the Improvement in Cottage Accommodation.

"On two or three occasions tenants have come to
me at the commencement of their leases, requesting
that improved cottages should be built, as they could
not otherwise expect to have good servants."

There can be no doubt that farm servants of dissi-
pated habits and content to see their wives and
children in rags and dirt, will be content to live in
hovels, while on the other hand, well-behaved and
well-educated servants will prefer cottages with
superior accommodation. I understand that when
farmers go to the hiring fairs, one of the first ques-
tions put by the servants is "What kind of a cottage
will I get?"

"Some years ago, I co-operated with other pro-
prietors and some tenants in establishing a Farmer's
Club, one of their objects being the inspection of
cottages and gardens with a view to award prizes for
the best kept. Much good arose from this inspection,
as it was the means of pointing out to absent land-
lords the bad state of many of their farm cottages.
Good in a moral view also arises from the visits of
persons in a higher social position. This Farmers'
Club was given up some years ago, much to my
regret."

3. *Extract from a letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner by Mr. Milne Home.*

"With regard to the bearing of education on the
improvement of cottages, education only goes a
short way, but it has a certain effect. Farm servants
who are fond of reading, and who are possessed of
books, prefer a good cottage to a bad one to enable
them to read and preserve their books. An educated
man is also more sensible of the advantages to his
family in a sanitary view afforded by a good cot-
tage. I think also servants of a good moral
character, and of religious habits, will prefer a good
cottage. I am inclined to think, therefore, that if

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you find very superior cottages in a county, it would be right to attribute the circumstance quite as much to the superior moral habits and tastes of the occupants, as to the desire of landlords to give them superior cottages. They would not be so readily given, were it not known that they would be worthily occupied."

4. *Mr. Jas. Low*, landowner and land agent, &c., speaking of the county of Berwick, says:

"*Boys* from about 13 years of age are generally employed from March to November."

"*Girls* also are employed from about 13 years of age in light farm work, cleaning green crops (turnips and potatoes), &c."

"In this county one *woman* is generally employed for each pair of horses on the farm."

"All work 10 hours a day in summer and eight in winter."

Restrictions on Labour, &c.

"I am of opinion that boys under 14 years of age should not be employed on the land; a law to that effect would be desirable."

"I do not think it would be desirable to place *any restriction* on the employment of females above 14 years of age, but I am of opinion they should not b employed under that age."

Parish and other schools are the means of educati provided for labourers' children; these are genera taken advantage of. On account of bad manageme a want of means is sometimes a reason for parents n educating their children."

Cottages, &c.

"With the exception of a few old cottages, t dwellings are generally in a good condition. Th are quite sufficient for the supply of the labo required, are generally conveniently situated, and a not overcrowded."

"Nearly all the cottages have good *garde* attached to them, and in addition to their garde farm labourers are allowed about a quarter of an ac of land for growing *potatoes*, also manure for th same."

Cottage Improvement.

"The movement for the improvement of labourer dwellings, which has made great progress of late year originated with the proprietors."

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL MEN.

Dunse District.

5. *Dr. R. C. McWatt* says:

"I do not think any restriction as to the employment of boys in agriculture is necessary as they are never set to field work until they are able to do it."

"The females who work in the fields (bondagers as they are called) are very strong and healthy. No restriction as to their work is necessary on physical grounds."

"The children are generally sent to the parish schools, and are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, &c. I think the labouring class in this neighbourhood attend better to the education of their children than those of a similar class in large towns do."

Cottages.

"On most of the farms in this neighbourhood the cottages are most comfortable. A great change has taken place in this respect within the last 15 years. With very few exceptions they are not overcrowded. There is a good supply of water in every case."

"Females employed in agriculture are generally very strong and healthy and look altogether more robust than those otherwise employed. As to their morals, I am at a loss to say much in their favour; illegitimacy is of frequent occurrence; but on any other points female agricultural labourers would stand a most favourable contrast with others of the same class residing in towns."

Coldstream District.

6. *Dr. M. J. Turnbull* says:

"*Boys* from about 11 years of age are taken from school to be employed in field work."

"*Girls* from about 12 years of age are sometimes employed in field work, but not so frequently as on the south side of the Tweed."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent in field labour."

"*The hours of work* are from 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m."

"Boys should not be allowed to work on the land before they have attained the age of 13, and upon no account should they have horses under their care before they are 14 years old."

"I would place no restriction on the employment o females beyond limiting the age at which they shoul begin work."

"The *cottages* are generally satisfactory. In mo cases they are sufficient for the supply of labou required. They are conveniently situated with re spect to the farms, and are not so much overcrowde as they formerly were. The ventilation is good i recently built cottages, but very defective in the olde ones. They are as a rule badly supplied wit water."

"The health of women employed in agriculture i generally uncommonly good; their morals loose i the extreme. I am fully persuaded that much im morality is traceable to the boarding of 'bondagers (hired female workers) in small cottages, where th hired woman has frequently to sleep in the sam apartment with the hind and his wife and grown u sons if he has any."

Labourers on the North and South sides of Tweed

"In Scotland, I think the children of hinds a generally better educated than their neighbours o the south side of the Tweed (Northumberland), bu their morality is very much alike."

[Note.—Part of Dr. Turnbull's district lies i Northumberland as does that of Mr. Brown whos evidence follows.—G.C.]

7. *Mr. Alex. Brown*, surgeon, says:

"*Boys*, especially in this parish (Coldstream begin summer field work very early, I should say a 10 years of age as a rule, but I have known boys of employed as crowherds."

"*Girls* as a rule are not employed so young a boys."

"Every ploughman on a farm has to supply *woman worker;* his wife too frequently works on and his daughters as soon as they are able, so that great part of the work on a farm is done by women."

"I think it would be a great mistake to preven children being employed on the land during thei summer holidays, but in my opinion no child shoul be allowed to accept permanent employment under 1 years of age."

Condition of Cottages, &c.

he cottages are as a general rule good, and are sufficient for the supply of labour required. are situated on the farms, and are not generally rowded. I cannot say I have seen any im- ity results from overcrowding. The habit of and females sleeping in the same room is gradually going out. I hope good results will arise therefrom. There is generally a good supply of water and fairish ventilation."

"The morals of females employed in agriculture will compare favourably with the same class otherwise employed, and their health is certainly much better."

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Abbey St. Bathans.

Population, 179. - Acreage, 4,826.

Longformacus.

Population, 448. - Acreage, 19,604.

Mr. John Turnbull, landowner, says:

Boys begin farm work about 12 years of age, ly in turnip time, but occasionally throughout year."

Girls are employed from about 12 years of age in ng turnips, &c."

Each farm servant with a house is obliged to keep *man worker.*"

All labourers live on the farms, and work about ours a day in summer."

Neither children nor females are subject to any reatment, nor is the employment injurious to als, but from its nature it cannot be a good train- for domestic duties."

Restrictions on Employment.

I would not place any restriction on labour except the sake of education, and even that is not re- red in these parishes where the children are all ficiently educated. Where restrictions are required agricultural parishes the most convenient and ctive plan would be to require a certain number of nths' school attendance in each year, that number lepend on the age of the children, say eight months' endance for children under 10 years of age, and r months for the next two or three years."

Cottages, &c.

"Cottages are now generally very good. The old bad are being gradually replaced by good ones the leases of the farms fall out. In the case of ge families, some of them may occasionally be over- owded, but this is the exception. We have *no thies*, each farm and servant has his own cottage d each cottage has a garden, besides which hired rvants have potato land and cows kept for them. he cottage accommodation is suited to the extent d cultivation of the farms, and cannot be said to be ficient, except, perhaps, for the accommodation of milies who are not regular farm servants, which milies might meet the difficulty of obtaining female bour."

Bunkle and Preston.

Population, 756. - Acreage, 9,256.

9. *Mr. John Elliot*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 14 years of age and up- vards, chiefly during summer."

"*Girls* are employed from about 15 years of age n hoeing turnips and light harvest work."

"*Women* are employed in all kinds of farm work, except ploughing."

"All labourers live on the farms."

"Men, women, and children work from 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m. in summer, and shorter time in winter."

"There is no ill-treatment, and the health of females employed in farm work is generally good. Their morals are much the same as girls employed indoors. They generally make good wives."

"*No restriction* as to the employment of women and children is necessary."

"Children are generally all at school after four years of age, and remain there till fit for work."

"There are two *schools*—the parish school and one for the younger children."

"The *cottages* are nearly all new. They are situated on the farms, and are sufficient for the supply of labour required; they are not over-crowded."

"The *bothy system* does not exist in Berwickshire."

"All cottages have gardens, and hired men have potato land, and keep for a cow."

10. *Mr. John Allan*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* begin to be employed throughout the year at from 14 to 16 years of age."

"*Women* are employed to a great extent throughout the year. In winter their usual occupations are preparing roots, &c. for feeding cattle and sheep, and dressing corn for market."

"The hours of labour are usually 9 hours; in harvest 10 hours. In summer they work from 5 till 9½ a.m., and from 1 till 5½ p.m. In winter there is only one hour's rest in the middle of the day."

Bondage System.

"I give each man who keeps a bondager 2*l.* for each woman or lad he keeps. I made this arrangement at the time women's wages were raised, as I found that the 'bondager' got all the benefit, to the loss of the hind. One of my men has three daughters, only one of whom is bound to serve me; one is now away as a bondager, and the other is not bound to serve me, because her father wishes to get her out as a bondager elsewhere on account of the board. The female workers get as many days work as the weather will allow."

"The *cottages* are good and generally sufficient for the supply of labour."

"All men have cows, or 6*l.* in lieu thereof."

In other respects Mr. Allan's answers are a repetition of Mr. Elliot's.

11. *Mrs. Penman*, teacher of school at Preston (supported by Lord and Lady Home):

"The children who live near attend my school continuously, without being taken from school for any purpose of labour, from 4 or 5 years of age till 10, in all cases, and 15 in some. After 10, if they go to summer field work, the girls return in winter, especially for sewing; the boys either go for the winter months to the parish school or to one of the schools in Dunse." [Mrs. Penman has an average attendance of about 45 in summer, and upwards of 60 in winter. —G.C.]

12. *Mrs. Robertson*, husband woman's steward at Billie Mains:

"I have three children all at school: the boys are 13 and 15 years old, and the girl 10. The boys will work out in summer to pay for their winter schooling. I want to make them good scholars. I don't

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want them to be hinds draggling on the land all their lives if they can better themselves." [Of the four rooms in this cottage two were used.]

What becomes of Hind's Children.

13. *Mrs. Thompson*, (wife of hind on Mr. Wilson's farm at Preston).

Has five sons,—

Two sons are gamekeepers.
One son is a footman.
One son is an engineman.
Two sons are still at school.

14. *Mrs. Gibson*, widow of a hind (living with her eldest son now a hind with Mr. Wilson, of Cumledge, with whose family that of the witness has been for 60 years), has seven sons and one daughter.

One son (the eldest with whom the mother lives) a hind.
Two sons are coachmen.
One son a gamekeeper.
One son an under keeper.
One son an engineman (on board ship).
One son a draper.
And her daughter in domestic service.

Mrs. Gibson's evidence was as follows:

"I think house servants make undeniably the best wives [she herself was in domestic service], but a good deal depends on her mistress; I had a good careful mistress. Young women have many comforts now that we hadn't, but go far too much to dress and do fair frolishness; I've no be troubled much wi' women in my family, and I'm glad of it."

"There's not a policeman on the estate (Lord Home's), nor a public house [nor is there one in the parish. — G.C.], nor a drunken man to be seen; its a greater matter no' to be tempted."

15. Mr. Elliot, whom I have quoted above, thinks that payment in kind, owing to the different quality of the grains (corn, &c.) given tends to make hinds change their situations. Where men are well treated they usually remain; but the quality of the corn, &c. is sometimes beyond the master's power of regulating.

Notes on Bunkle and Preston.

16. On Billie Mains farm, the property of Mr. Milne Home, there are 12 cottages for the use of a farm which includes 900 acres of arable land (in five course (two years grass) husbandry), and 12 acres of pasture. These cottages, which are built in two blocks in the same line with a road passing between the blocks, consist of two rooms, with a scullery and dairy on the ground floor, and two attic bedrooms, are said to have cost, including haulage, 220*l.* each. They are specimens of some of the earliest improved cottages built in the county, and, with their gardens in front, are very comfortable looking abodes. The working staff supplied by these 12 cottages consist of,—

Twelve men.
Three lads between 13 and 18.
Three boys „ 10 and 13.
Two women (unmarried) over 18.
Eight „ „ under 18.
Three girls between 10 and 13.

17. There are 15 cottages, all in good condition, with three or four rooms (including rooms in attics), on Preston farm, which consists of 960 acres arable land in five (two years' grass) course husbandry, requiring 9 or 10 pairs of horses, with an ordinary staff of,—

Nineteen men.
Three lads under 18.
Nine women (all unmarried).

Nine of these cottages recently built form three sides of a square, open towards the south, and well placed. At the neighbouring farm of Primrose Hill there is a new block of six or eight cottages. All the cottages on Lord Home's estate in Bunkle parish have been either recently built or improved. The 15 cottages on Preston would be sufficient to supply it with labourers if it was not that there are a good many old people living on it as well as on Mr. Wilson's property and farm at Cumledge, in the adjoining parish of Dunse.

I visited 10 or a dozen cottages at Preston and Cumledge, all of which were very well kept.

There is no public house in the parish of Bunkle and the poor's rate, paid in equal shares by landlord and tenant, does not exceed 2*d.* in the pound.

18. The custom in Berwickshire is to allow for a *cow's keep*, summer's grass (usually second year's grass, sometimes old grass), oat straw and five loads of turnips (about 12 cwt. each). In the cottagers' houses I saw stores of peas meal, oil cake, or barley cummings for the use of their cows in winter and spring.

Chirnside.

Population, 1,502. - Acreage, 5,594.

Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five course husbandry.

19. *Mr. John Wilson*, occupier, says:

"*Children* are seldom employed under 12 years of age except in bird tending. At about 12 years of they work in summer only and go to school in winter.

"*Women* are employed in the proportion of 1½ to 100 acres of arable land on farms suited for turnip culture in such work as twitch-gathering, filling and spreading manure, singling and hoeing root crops, trimming and slicing turnips for sheep, barn work, &c."

"The ordinary *hours of work* are nine hours for all. In harvest 10 hours while cutting corn, and as long as light will allow when carrying."

"Any interference with the labour of women or children would be peculiarly mischievous and injurious to all concerned."

"We have a parish school and female industrial school. The labouring class keep their children at school till they have at least mastered the three R's.

"*The cottages* in general are good, and sufficient for the supply of labour. They are always situated on the farms. The greater number of cottages in Berwickshire have been rebuilt or much improved within the last 30 years, and have now generally sufficient accommodation."

"The *bothy system* does not exist."

"*Loans under the Inclosure Commissioners* for cottage building have been very little taken advantage of. Their regulations regarding the size and arrangement of the cottages are not adapted to this district."

After having answered the circular questions, Mr. Wilson continues:

20. "There is nothing unfavourable to health or morals in farm work as conducted in this county. As a rule our farm labourers and their families are well fed, well clothed, and well lodged. It is rare to find any of them, either men or women, who cannot read and write. Nearly all of them as they come to manhood or womanhood, become members of one or other of the Presbyterian churches, and are regular in the attendance on public worship on the Lord's day. During the past 50 years I cannot remember above two or three cases of a farm servant in this county being tried for a serious crime. Intemperance is exceedingly rare amongst them. Indeed the only blot on the character of the class is that 10 per cent. of the births in Berwickshire are illegitimate. (The farm population are not however responsible for the whole of this, as the return includes the population of the towns and villages.) A good deal has sometimes been made of this fact in disparagement of the character of our community. Certainly, I have no wish to extenuate this offence, which has often caused me much sorrow. But justice demands that certain facts bearing on this question of the morals of our farm people should be known and kept in view by all who would come to a sound conclusion regarding it. 1st, there is no prostitution; 2nd, conjugal unfaithfulness is nearly unknown; 3rd, as each farm requires a certain fixed number of families to overtake its labour for which it has a corresponding number of cottages, and as there are no manufactories or mines to abso-

ncrease of the population, it follows that the
e people must either defer marrying until an
ing occurs for them or leave the district. Various
pts have from time to time been made to ac-
t for such an amount of illegitimacy in a com-
ity so intelligent, so orderly, and in all other
cts so well conducted; and various suggestions
been made for its remedy. In my humble
ion the true cause of it is the impediment to early
rriage, to which I have now referred."

. The following are the number of years' service
whole staff of 21 adult male labourers employed
Ir. Wilson:—

1 man has served 38 years.
5 men have served from 20 to 25 years.
5 men have served from 9 to 16 years.
9 men, varying in age from 18 to 45 years, have been brought up on the farm, and have never been in any other service.
1 man has served two years.

2. NOTE. — I visited six cottages in a line at
gton Mains, the first (the steward's cottage) has
rooms on the ground floor, the rest only one, which
ivided by box beds to form two apartments. The
ns are lofty, but the space above the boarding is
n to the slates. The best feature about these cot-
s, which are decidedly not good, is a little dairy in
an-to at the back. Notwithstanding the little ac-
mmodation in these cottages, the people seem con-
with them; two of the women said, "We're
mfortable off in they hooses," and the others ex-
ssed themselves to the same effect. In conversa-
n about the state of the cottages, Mr. Wilson
nted out, in these words, one impediment in the
y of cottage improvement, "Instead of first putting
he cottages right, and then adding to the rent, asked,
ay 5 or 6 per cent. on the outlay, landlords are apt
o say the rent of the farm is so much, and an addi-
ional rent of 5 or 6 per cent. will be charged on
whatever outlay you ask for on account of cottages."
e option is thus left to the tenant, who proposes to
ke the farm, and where there is such a competition
farms, a tenant who will not be satisfied without
od cottages for his labourers is pretty sure to be
thidden by a man who will make the old ones serve
s purpose.

COCKBURNSPATH.

Population, 1,194. - Acreage, 12,951.

23. *Mr. Thos. Hood*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* (the sons of farm labourers) begin to work when they are about 12 years of age, when they usually work out during summer, and go to school in winter. When about 14 years of age they leave school altogether. At 12 they earn 3*s.* to 4*s.* a week."

"*Girls* begin to work when about 14 years of age; they hoe turnips, &c. At first they earn 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a week."

"Women are employed to a large extent, all the light work of the farm is done by them."

"Labourers all live on the farms."

"Men, women, and children *work* 10 *hours a day*, except in the short days of winter, when they *work* 9 *and* 8½ *hours*."

"Females are a good deal exposed to the weather, but not to the extent of injuring their health."

"The employment of women in agriculture does not at all affect their moral character, but it is a bad training for domestic duties."

"The present system of employment appears to work well, I therefore see no necessity for restructing the employment of women and children."

"The *cottages* are good and sufficient in number for the supply of labour required; they are generally well situated and not overcrowded."

"There are *no bothies* in the parish."

"All the cottages have good *gardens*, and most of the farm servants *keep a cow* and have *potato ground*."

COLDINGHAM.

Population, 3,241. - Acreage, 24,325.

24. *Mr. James Herriot*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* under 16 years of age are seldom employed except for a few weeks in summer."

"*Girls* from 12 to 16 years of age are employed in singling turnips and in lifting corn behind the reaper."

"Women are employed throughout the year, weather permitting."

"Labourers all live on the farms."

"Men and women work 9½ hours a day generally; during harvest they work 10 hours."

"Females are subject to no ill-treatment."

"A hind with a family could not live unless his family were employed on the farm. I do not think the morality of field workers is worse than that of domestic servants."

"I should say that all farm children attend school nine months of the year."

"The parish schoolmasters are paid by the heritors, and mostly all take advantage of this, except dissenters, who pay their own master."

On most farms *the cottages* are sufficient in number for the supply of labour, and are built on the farms."

"The bothy system does not exist here."

"All farm servants have *gardens*; they may *keep a cow or receive from* 6*l. to* 7*l instead. They are allowed from* 1,600 *to* 1,800 *yards of potato ground*."

"Great progress is being made towards increasing the deficient cottage accommodation all over the county."

COLDSTREAM.

Population, 2,823. - Acreage, 8,534.

25. *Mr. A. Dickson*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed during summer from 13 years of age."

"*Girls* are employed from 16 years of age throughout the year."

"Women are employed to the extent of one and a half for every pair of horses."

"All labourers reside on the farms."

"*The hours of work* are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours rest."

"Children or females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"No legislative interference as to education is required; children are all sufficiently educated."

"The *cottages* are good and generally sufficient for the requirements of the farms."

"*No bothy system nor any other system* which acts injuriously on health or morals exists here."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"Most farm servants *are allowed the keep of a cow*, and *all have potato ground*."

"Progress is being made towards increasing cottage accommodation where deficient."

26. *Mr. Thos. Hood*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed at from 12 to 14 years of age, and earn 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a week."

"*Girls* begin about 14, at 4*s.* a week."

"Women are very extensively employed."

"We have several schools, all well attended; the parish school rather overcrowded."

Cottages.

"We have a few inferior cottages, but they are generally good."

"There is no evening school."

[In other respects Mr. Hood's evidence corresponds with Mr. Dickson's and his own for Cockburnspath parish.]

27. *John Jeffrey*, farm steward, Castle Law, says:

"I think it would be a great misfortune to the county if our young women were to give up field work, and oblige the farmers to keep Highland or Irish girls in bothies. It's a great matter both

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for moral and religious training, to keep families together."

"A labourer should begin to save money as soon as his children get out to work, and young men and women may easily save."

"As to the family purse, my daughter, for instance, who is out at service, brings her money to me, and I invest it for her."

DUNSE.

Population, 3,595. - Acreage, 11,474.

Cultivation, mixed. Arable land usually in five course rotation.

28. *Mr. John Wilson*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Children* begin light farm work in summer at from 11 to 13 years of age, and are paid from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day. They attend school regularly up to the time they go to work, and during the winter half-year for two or three years afterwards.

"*Women* are employed throughout the year to the extent of five or six to 200 acres of arable land."

"All live on the farms in good cottages with their families."

"The *hours of work* in summer are 9½ hours. [It is a common practice to begin work at 5 a.m. and go on till 10 a.m., resting three hours in the middle of the day in summer.—G.C.]

"Women and children are not exposed to any physical injury arising from the nature of their work, and cases of ill-treatment are rare."

"I do not think that the morals of females employed in agriculture are more exposed to contamination than those of women employed in any other work, especially here, where the families all live together."

"I am not prepared to recommend any restriction on labour for children over 11 years of age."

"I can suggest no better plan of education than that practised on my own property and adjoining farm, which is, that the children go to school when they are about four years old, and remain continuously till they are 11 years of age at least, after that age they go to school in winter only for two or three years more. The means of education are *a school on* my farm of Preston, taught by two females, one a certificated teacher who teaches the book learning, while the other teaches sewing, knitting, cutting out and mending clothes, &c. The boys learn to knit as well as the girls. The utmost advantage is taken of the school, which is chiefly supported by the Countess of Home (the farm of Preston being Lord Home's property)."

"The cottages are good and sufficient for the supply of labour, and conveniently situated. They are not over-crowded."

"The bothy system does not exist here."

29. *Wife of hind*, at Cumledge, says:

"I have five children, the eldest 11; three of them are at school."

"They always get their lessons ready over-night; if they don't get them over-night there is not much time in the morning, and they must have them before they go to school. I help them a little when they need it, and I should think all the mothers here help their children with their lessons."

30. *Bell Fortune* says:

"I have a cot house from Mr. Wilson to keep a woman worker. I have what the girl wins (earns), and I have a cottage and garden free, my coals led (say four tons), 1,300 yards of potatoes, and three bushels of barley. I believe cottars used to have peas and the barley is in place of them."

"I pay my girl 7*l.* for the summer half and 4*l.* for the winter. I can't just tell what she costs me to meat her and wash her."

"I can't do much at outwork now, you may say, next to nothing; I'm 67, but I worked full work till I was 65."

"The girls are much better off now than they used to be, but they dress so fine; the merchants get a good deal out of them. There was no such thing in my young days"

31. [NOTE.—Mr. Wilson has another cot house let by an old woman under similar circumstances, that is she cannot now work, and has her cottage and [illegible] privileges for keeping the bondager. The difference between what they pay the girls (11*l.* a year) and the value of these privileges is all these two women ostensibly have to live upon, as well as to "meat and "wash" their bondager.—G.C.]

Neither of the bondagers kept by these old women is any relation to the woman she lives with, and both are daughters of well-to-do parents, the father of one being the steward on a neighbouring farm and the father of the other a railway porter. The cottages were both very neatly kept, and both young women and old bear excellent characters.—G.C.]

ECCLES.

Population, 1,861. - Acreage, 12,488.

32. *Mr. John Hood*, landowner, says:

"*Children* are employed from 14 years of age upwards during summer."

"Women are employed to a large extent."

"Labourers live on the farms where they work."

"The *hours of work* are 10 hours in summer and from light to dark in winter."

"Children and females are subject to *no ill treatment.*"

"In all communities, such as manufactories and agricultural occupations, where the sexes are thrown much together, morals are more endangered than in less promiscuous occupations. Girls employed in agricultural work during early life seldom like household work afterwards until they are married."

"Farm work could not be carried on without women being employed. Children are only employed in work suited to their years."

"All the children in this parish attend *school.*"

"The *cottages* are much improved of late; they are sufficient for the supply of labour, and are conveniently situated. They are not over-crowded."

"Bothies do not exist here."

33. *Mr. John Dove*, occupier, says:

"A few *boys and girls* begin work at 11 or 12 years of age, but most of them at 13; they work during summer."

"*Women* are employed, to the same extent as men."

"Labourers nearly all live on the farms where they work; a few who live in villages have about one mile to go to work."

"Men, women, and children work nine hours a day as a rule; 10 during harvest and turnip times, and eight in winter."

"I do *not think any restriction on the employment of children necessary*, and unless wages were very much raised in proportion to the expense of living the labouring class could not live in the same comfort without the employment of females in agriculture."

"There are *three schools*, the parish school and one in each of the villages of Leitholm and Birgham."

"I believe nearly every child between 7 or 8 and 12 years of age attends one of these schools all the year round; after 12 years old they attend during the winter only for a year or two more."

"The majority of the *cottages* in this parish have been rebuilt or remodelled within the last 20 years and contain a fair amount of accommodation, and are conveniently situated for the farms; the number is nearly sufficient for the supply of labour required consequently there is no over-crowding. Occasionally when there is much draining going on there are a good many lodgers. Some of the cottages are still very bad."

here are *no bothies* here. But on one or two of naller farms, there are one or two ploughmen d in the farmhouse; the custom, however, is rearing out."

.ll the cottages have *gardens*, and there are *a llotments*.'"

Mr. F. G. Rutherford, occupier, says:

Boys about 13 years of age are employed during ner; they go to school in winter."

Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

On this farm there have been no illegitimate s for nine years."

I would certainly place *no restriction* as to the oyment of females and children in agriculture. e are *the parish and Free Church schools;* they vell taken advantage of."

The cottages are good, sufficient in number for ly of labour, and conveniently situated. They ıot overcrowded."

Farm servants are *allowed the keep of a cow* and *to ground*, and their cottages have gardens."

Ploughman's wife, Printonan:

We have four children; the eldest, 12 years old, is at school; we always keep them at school as as we can afford. We bake barley and *barley peas* bannocks, and kill two pigs in the year; we've a good cow. The father and the two ngest take their *porridge* night and morning, but others dinna care for them."

They say the *bondage* is waur than ever, and ıe of the women's asking 9*l.* 5*s.* for the summer f-year, and I'll warrant they'll ask 5*l.* for the ıter."

'We're very comfortable off i' they hooses, there's much room as labouring folk want."

36. Notes on Printonan, &c.—I visited 10 new cot-ges in two blocks of five each. These cottages con-t of two rooms, a wash-up place, and a small dairy the ground floor, with a long loft, approached by a ircase over both rooms, which, in two of the cot-ges, is divided into two bedrooms, only one of nich, however, is ceiled. The floors of these cot-ges are composite, and the fire-grates fixed. (The eys belong to the occupants). These cottages seem me to have been cheaply built at 85*l.* each. These cottages are the only supply of labour for a farm 630 of arable land in four, six, and eight course ift, and are considered sufficient for that supply. he farm requires seven ploughmen. One cottage ıpplies two men and a woman.

Cows.

Mr. Rutherford gives his servants as many turnips s they like for their cows, and when the turnips fail uys cake for them. He offered the men 9*l.* in lieu f the cow, but now rather lends a man a cow than llow him to be without. When a cow is "put on" y him he gets the calf for nothing. One of his ploughmen's wives told me that a good cow was well worth 10*l.*, and some worth 12*l.* About half the cows on this farm are insured in *clubs*. Some of the cottagers belonged also to a burial society, but gave it up, not liking the management.

EDROM.

Population, 1,592. - Acreage, 9,634.
Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five course rotation.

37. Evidence of the late *Col. Logan Home*, landowner:

"Children are seldom employed under 13 years of age; at that age they are chiefly employed in summer."

"A woman worker is expected from every cottage, usually the ploughman's daughter. They do farm work of all kinds, save work connected with horses and heavy spade work."

"Labourers generally live on the farms, and all work nine hours a day."

"No restriction on labour is needed. There are four schools in the parish, and all are well attended."

"The cottages are generally good, and sufficient in number, being built for the special use of the farms. They all have gardens."

38. *Mr. R. W. Glendining*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are seldom employed under 12 years of age; from that age they are employed in cutting and gathering weeds, in corn and grass fields, and in thinning turnips during summer, while they attend school in winter up to about 14."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of one and a half to every 100 acres of arable land."

"Men, women, and children *work nine hours a day* in summer and during light in winter."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and their *work makes them healthy*."

"I do not consider that banding numbers of females together has a tendency to improve their morals; but this, I think, applies more to factories than agriculture."

"Besides the parish school we have two side schools for boys and girls, partially endowed, and one for girls alone, also partially endowed. All are well attended."

"The *cottages* are generally good and sufficient in number for the supply of labour; they are always attached to the farm, and are not overcrowded, except when the families are unusually large."

"No *bothies* exist here."

"In some few instances one or two men are boarded by the farmer and lodged in an outhouse, often the stable loft. I do not think this a good plan as they are not under the surveillance of their parents; in general they live with their parents."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

39. *Mr. R. Calder*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed after 10 years of age in spring, summer, and autumn."

"*Girls* are employed at about the same age as boys herding crows, gathering weeds, cleaning turnips, &c."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of one woman and a girl or boy to each man."

"Labourers have distances varying from 100 yards to nearly a mile to go to work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment;* farm work is only healthy exercise."

"I think education should be compulsory, and that no child should be allowed to work without a certificate of ability to read and write."

"The *parish school* is the means of education provided for the children; it is pretty well taken advantage of, but some parents grudge the expense."

"*The cottages* are good in general, not always sufficient for the supply of labour. They are conveniently situated; some are overcrowded."

"There is no other mode of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously on their morals or health. 'Bondage' is merely a name. Women engaged by a hind for six months (sometimes the hind's daughter) are called 'bondagers,' but they are under no more bond than any other servant to any master; they are generally quite independent and have healthy employment."

40. [NOTE.—Mr. Calder has nine cottages for 609 acres of arable land and 104 of pasture, on which, besides younger people, he employs—

11 men over 18.
5 lads between 13 and 18.
* 2 boys under 13.
6 women (unmarried) over 18.
3 girls between 13 and 18 (nearly 18).
* 1 girl under 13.

To supply the labour he has two double hindings, and requires a woman worker from each house.—G.C.]

41. *Mr. Jas. Thompson*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are generally employed from 12 years of age. One or two boys of about 10 years of age are employed during summer."

* Not employed in winter.

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"*Girls* from 12 years of age are employed during summer weeding and hoeing turnips."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of one or two in each family, if there are any such members of it as can work out, if not, the '*bondage system*' is resorted to. Bondage is the binding the head of the house to *hire* a woman (if none in the family) to work for the customary day's wages. This system has long been unknown on this farm, and was very much restricted in this neighbourhood in consequence of a movement among the hinds two or three years ago. The system is however extending again, because hinds who have a woman worker either in the family or hired are preferred in the hiring market to those who have not. I have three hinds who provide no workers, but then I have three cottars. When *extra* cottages are awanting the farmer is *forced* of necessity to make a bargain with the hind, whose family is going to hire a bondager."

"Men, women, and children work 10 *hours a day exclusive* of travelling in turnip and harvest times, at other times *inclusive*. In winter they work from light to dark."

"Free air and exercise are favourable to morality. Prudent mothers send their daughters in turn to house service for a half year or two that they may learn a thrifty style of housekeeping."

"I consider restriction as to field work unnecessary. Farmers consider the labour of children the dearest, and only employ them at the request of the parents and in order to increase the family earnings and consequent comfort. When all town employments are overcrowded it would be cruel to prevent women from earning their living by farm work."

"The parish and two subscription *schools* are the means of education provided for farm labourers' children. All children attend more or less; the elder ones in winter, going to field work in summer."

"*Cottage building* has been done largely of late years throughout this neighbourhood, and if there be any error it is in giving more rooms than the occupier can furnish. There are a few very old and inferior cottages which are not likely to be removed, owing to circumstances beyond the control of landlord or tenant. If ways and means could be found to rebuild these cottages, it might then be said that the number is sufficient and suitable."

Cottages are built from time to time as new leases are entered on, and I should say new cottages are in a decided majority.

42. *Grace Bell*, wife of steward at Kelloe Mains: has four children, two at school; one of 13 was at school and will be again in winter; is at home for potato planting. "There is no *night school* here, but there was where I lived last, and some of the young men attended; if there was one here I would send the two eldest lads, and I daresay a good many would go."

43. *John Bell*, says:

"Our women workers are all daughters of our men, and are well conducted girls, very willing to work. If I want extra hours to finish any job they go on quite cheerfully. I think farm girls are better conducted than most; the work keeps mischief out of their heads."

44. *Mrs. Bradford*, wife of a hind:

"I have 10 children; the eldest 22 and the youngest in the cradle. We have a double hinding, and the second boy goes with an odd horse. I had four at school in the winter, but two of 13 and 14 are working now. My daughter does the bondage work. My eldest were better educated than the younger ones, for the school was nearer at hand when they were young, and they went at 4 years' old. We use porridge and milk mostly in the morning and broth or pig's meat at dinner, and porridge or tea and bread if they like at supper. Some of them can't take their porridge in the morning now. We give our children as good an education as we can afford, and we can't do more."

[NOTE.—In this cottage there are two rooms downstairs and two up. Three are occupied, and the parents and 10 children occupy four beds.—G.C.]

45. Mr. Glendenning's opinion is that *payment in kind* encourages the men to take an interest generally in the farm and especially in harvest.

FOGO.

Population, 559. - Acreage, 4,668.

Cultivation chiefly arable in five course rotation (2 years' grass).

46. *Mr. Thos. Hood*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed throughout the year from 12 years' old."

"As many *women* as men are employed."

"All labourers live on the farms."

"All work 10 hours a day in summer. They go out at 5, breakfast in the fields and rest three hours in the middle of the day. In winter they work about eight hours."

"We have a parish school which is well attended and need no restriction on labour."

Cottages.

"We have 10 cottages (for 482 acres arable) which are sufficient. All the cottages in the parish are good, save on one farm, which are to be renewed this year. My cottages were built 25 years ago and are the oldest in the parish, save those which are to be rebuilt this year."

[NOTE.—Six farms, the greater part of the parish, belong to Mr. Trotter of Morton Hall.—G.C.]

Bondage System.

"I pay women 1*s.* a day for ordinary days, and 3*s.* in harvest, and each man who keeps a woman receives 3*l.* for doing so. They don't care about keeping a woman on those terms. The daughters sometimes object, but the parents do not."

47. *Hedge cutter:*

"I am employed by Mr. Trotter (the landowner) to keep the farm fences. I have 14*s.* a week upstanding wage and a free house and free firing and the privilege of putting a cow in a green lane. There is another man hired on the same terms.

[NOTE.—Putting the green lane aside these men have 16*s.* a week upstanding wage.—G.C.]

"I keep the farm fences and Mr. Trotter pays me and charges the tenants half my wages for the days I work on their farm. I keep an account of my time and I never heard any complaint of the days charged for."

"My wages are better than a hind's. Where a hind has to keep a bondager, I don't think he gets more than 12*s.* a week for himself if you take the cost of the woman. They've raised the women's wages lately to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, but I don't see that the hinds are any better off, for the women just ask more money. Some of them get 8*l.* 10*s.* and some 9*l.* for the summer and 4*l.* for the winter. I consider the hind is all the women's meat out of pocket, and you cannot meat a strong young woman much under a 1*s.* a day. If a man keeps his daughter at home he gets her money, but she would get more in service."

Bothies.

"I think they should have bothies for women when they need bondagers, and then the master would have to pay the women's wages and their wages would rise. The labourers would put down the bondage system if they could, but there's some so poor they would put up with anything."

Hinds changing.

"I don't see how they could do without changing. Some farmers would give their women less work and may be cut the men's wages down too."

Payment in kind.

consider money wages best. A man is sure of oney's worth."

There's a good deal been said in Parliament, I ve, about *bothies*, but I think a good deal of it een said by people who don't understand what re talking about."

GREENLAW.

Population, 1,370. - Acreage, 12,200.

. *The Rev. J. H. Walker*, says:

The cultivation is about one-half pastoral or land, the other half arable in high cultivation."

Children are not employed regularly before 15 s of age, and seldom even in summer before that

Women are employed to a great extent on the le land; every hind is obliged to keep a bondager; me cases, however, a lad does the bondage."

Women are occasionally, and I think, wrongly loyed with horses, in rolling and harrowing for nce, and accidents occur from this practice (a an was severely hurt a few days ago in this sh)."

I think that the employment of young women in culture leads to rough and undesirable habits. I not think, however, that any legislative interence is possible; women must earn their living as as men."

Parents in this district take advantage of the ools, and as far as I know, the whole native popuon is sufficiently educated. The native population ore attentive to education than immigrants, proly because the immigrants are not of a good ss."

Cottages.

"Within the last 10 years nearly all the old cotes on the Marchmount estate have been renewed, l have ample accommodation; on the other estates the cottages have been renewed within the last ht years. The condition of cottages in the parish quite satisfactory except on one farm."

"All the cottages are attached to the farms, and all ve gardens."

Education.

"All children of 15 can do a little of the three 's, and sometimes lads of 16 or 17 come back to hool in winter to improve their arithmetic."

"Children from Bedshiel come three miles to the hool at Greenlaw instead of going to a nearer hool at Westruther, because the parents think the reenlaw school better."

"It is a wonderful encouragement to the children hen their parents help them with their lessons at me, and many do."

"Many of the parents can make their children's othes and stockings."

Family Worship.

"A very considerable number of the hinds' families ave prayers on Sabbath evenings."

LADYKIRK.

Population, 564. - Acreage, 3,446.
Cultivation, mixed; a good deal of pasture.

49. *The Rev. Wm. Dobie*, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 11 and 12 years of age during the summer months, and in October lifting potatoes."

"*Girls* are employed during summer singling turnips and hay-making from the same age."

"All the *unmarried women* are employed in agriculture during the summer months and during harvest, and bondagers throughout the year."

"As a rule the labourers reside on the farms or within a mile of their work."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment;* they are in great physical vigour, which explains so far, the amount of illegitimacy."

"The language in the fields is not by any means favourable to morals, and for the correction of this evil much rests with the steward. Agricultural and domestic duties are scarcely in any points compatible."

"I do *not think any restriction should be placed* on the employment of women and children; they are very well off, and could they be induced to lay past something for old age, they would be very comfortable all their days, but the Poor Law comes in which has done much to pauperize Scotland, and is doing much harm still."

School Attendance.

"I think that if school attendance is to be made in any way compulsory, the best modification of the Factory Acts' principles would be to enforce 10 months' school attendance up to 12 years of age, and six months for a year or two years after. There are very few children above 15 at school now; it was not so 30 years ago, and I daresay such an attendance as I have indicated is more than could be obtained by any indirect pressure."

"We have a sewing and knitting school besides a good parish school, and they are well attended. All children under 9 years of age, able to go, are at school. The attendance is very regular as none have to go far."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is fair; the sexes are not sufficiently separated, but progress is being made in that direction. They are sufficient for the supply of labour, and are conveniently placed."

POLWARTH.

Population, 251. - Acreage, 3,012.
Cultivation, mixed.

50. *The Rev. Walter Home*, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 14 years of age during summer and autumn."

"*Girls* are employed during summer weeding and hoeing turnips from 12 to 14 years of age."

"*Women are not* employed to any extent, except during harvest."

"Labourers live on the farms."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours' rest, and are subject to no ill-treatment."

"*A parish school* and *a girls' school*, supported by Lady Home Campbell, are the means of education provided here."

Cottages.

"Some of the cottages are not good, and have only one room. They are conveniently situated for the farms."

"Labourers are allowed 1,800 yards of potato ground besides the keep of a cow and cottage garden."

"There are no children above 6 years old who are not either at school or at work, and I don't think any of the Factory Act modes of obtaining education would apply to this parish."

Family Worship.

"This is a difficult question. There *is* family worship in some labourers' cottages every evening, but I cannot say this is the rule. There are many difficulties in the way; one obstacle is that a labourer finds difficulty in expressing himself in delivering an

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s.

extempore prayer. I lately gave each family a copy of family prayers, issued by the General Assembly, and the present was apparently very gratefully received."

Whitsome.

Population, 640. - Acreage, 4,896.

Cultivation, almost all arable; a good deal of heavy clay in four course rotation.

51. *Mr. John Clay*, occupier, says:

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"Females are subject to no ill-treatment; their employment is conducive to their health."

"I would recommend that children attend school from October till May, leaving four months for out-door work."

"The *parish school* is the means of education provided for the children of the agricultural class. The parents are careless, and do not take the advantage they might of it."

"The *cottages* are good, sufficient in number for the supply of labour, conveniently situated with respect to the farm, and not over-crowded."

"No *bothy system* exists here; the family system is the only one I have on my farm."

"All cottages have *gardens*."

"All farm servants *keep cows*, *except* those who cannot purchase them. In lieu of a cow 7*l.* is paid.

EVIDENCE ON MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Bunkle and Preston.

52. *Mr. John Elliot*, occupier, says:

"*Ploughmen* are paid as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash - - - -	6	0	0
Oats, 60 bushels at 3*s.* 4*d.* -	10	0	0
Barley, 21 bushels at 4*s.* 3*d.* -	4	9	3
Peas or beans, 6 bushels at 5*s.* -	1	10	0
Potatoes, 1,600 yards, servant finding seed - - -	5	0	0
Cow (value to ploughman) -	10	0	0
Food during harvest - -	1	0	0
Carriage of coal (by rail or cart)	1	0	0
House and garden - -	2	12	0
	£41	11	3

[Mr. Elliot adds, by the help of his cow and potatoes each man feeds two pigs, averaging 14 stone each. The above wage would apply to five out of the seven adult labourers employed by Mr. Elliot, the two others (steward and shepherd), earn higher wages.—G.C.]

"The servant pays for his own coals at the pit price, the master paying railway carriage and cartage. The master finds grass for the cow in summer, straw in winter, with five loads of turnips (three of white turnips and two of sweeds, about three tons in all)."

"*Women* are paid 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.* a day."

53. *Mr. John Allan*, occupier, says:

"Labourers are hired either at home or at Dunse hiring market."

Estimate of a hind's "gains," year 1869 to 1870:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash - - - -	6	10	0
Oats, 10 bolls at 22*s.* [3*s.* 8*d.* per bushel, G.C.] - -	11	0	0
Barley, 3½ bolls at 26*s.* [4*s.* 4*d.* per bushel, G.C.] - -	4	11	0
Peas, 1 boll at 35*s.* [5*s.* 10*d.* per bushel, G.C.] - -	1	15	0
Potatoes, 1,800 yards - -	5	0	0
Cow's keep (worth more to servant) - - -	6	0	0
Food in harvest - - -	1	1	0
Carriage of coals - -	1	0	0
House and garden - -	3	0	0
	£39	17	0

"If a man keeps a woman worker he gets 1*l.* at the end of each half year, which would raise his wage to 41*l.* 17*s.* If he keeps two workers, as some do, to 43*l.* 17*s.*

"The bondager's (woman worker) wage is 1*s.* a day, summer and winter, and 3*s.* a day, with victuals in harvest. She will earn from 16*l.* to 18*l.* per annum."

[Mr. Allan was good enough to give me the actual sums paid to his workers in Billie Mains and Black House farms for the two preceding half years ending Martinmas 1869. From which I extract the following sums earned by bondagers who had remained in his service for the 12 months concerned.

Billie Mains.

Name of Worker.	Earnings during half year, ending Whitsunday, 1869.			Earnings during half year, ending Martinmas, 1869.			Estimated earnings during harvest not included.			Total earnings for the year.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mary Wood -	7	14	0	6	9	6	2	10	0	16	13	6
MargaretPurvis	7	2	0	6	9	6	2	10	0	16	1	6
Mary Purvis -	7	9	6	6	10	6	2	10	0	16	9	6
Jane Cowe -	7	15	6	6	10	6	2	10	0	16	16	0
Jane Logan -	7	14	6	6	7	6	2	10	0	16	12	0

Giving an average earning of 16*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

It appears from an examination of Mr. Allan's payments that one family, that of Purvis, would earn as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Father (according to Mr. Allan's estimate) - - -	39	17	0
Two daughters (as above) -	32	11	0
Allowance for keeping two workers - - -	4	0	0
Total family earnings -	£76	8	0

And that another family (Gibson) were in the same position at the time they left Mr. Allan's service in May 1869.

BLACKHOUSE.

the same manner :—

... of ...ver.	Half year, ending Whitsunday, 1869.			Half year, ending Martinmas, 1869.			Harvest earnings.			Total for year.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tunnah	7	9	0	6	8	9	2	10	0	16	7	9
Tunnah -	7	8	0	6	8	9	2	10	0	16	6	9
Reid -	7	8	9	6	5	0	2	10	0	16	3	9
...et Reid	7	5	9	6	7	3	2	10	0	16	3	0
Trowe -	7	9	9	6	9	3	2	10	0	16	9	0

...verage of 16*l.* 6*s.* per head.

...wo hinds, W. Tunnah and J. Reid, received 4*l.* ...keeping two bondagers, and earned, according to ...Allan's estimate, with the aid of their two ...hters respectively, 76*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and 76*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; ...les which it appears that two other members ...unnah's family were employed on the farm.

...t the half year ending Martinmas 1869, three ...in Billie Mains and six in Blackhouse received ...1*l.* fee for keeping a worker, and on the former ...man, and in latter two men, received a double ...for keeping two workers. In only one case the ...ker does not appear to be the son or daughter of ...man receiving the fee.

CHIRNSIDE.

4. *Mr. John Wilson*, occupier, says :

"Families are engaged for a year from Whitsunday ...Whitsunday, the hiring taking place in March."

An ordinary ploughman's gains are as follows :—

...n money 5*l.*

(*a.*) Oats, 54 bushels.

a.) Barley, 21 bushels.

(*a.*) Peas or beans, 9 bushels.

(*c.*) Potatoes, 1,800 lineal yards (equal to one-third of an imperial acre).

(*b.*) Cow's keep or 6*l.* or 7*l.* in lieu thereof. Coals carted from the pit or nearest railway station. Food in harvest whilst it last, worth a 1*s.* a day. Money allowance of 6*d.* or 9*d.* a day when delivering grain, &c. Cottage and garden rent free.

(*a.*) A hind is entitled to the best corn a farmer has after he has selected his seed.

(*b.*) A cow's keep consists of grass in summer and straw and turnips (3 tons) in winter.

(*c.*) The farmer finds manure and horse labour, the servant seed and hand labour.

"*Foremen or stewards*, as they are called here, ...ave from 10*l.* to 15*l.* more than ordinary plough-...en."

"*Shepherds* have the same grain, &c. as plough-...en, but instead of the 5*l.* money they have the keep ...f eight ewes and four hoggets, along with their ...aster's flock."

"Each married servant who keeps one or more ...rown daughters or a stout lad, receives 2*l.* 10*s.* a year ...or so doing, in addition to the 1*s.* a day paid to each ...worker."

"Men who stack corn, feed thrashing machines, &c., ...get three or four bushels of wheat in addition to the ...vage above stated."

"One ploughman also at each of the homesteads ...gets an additional pound for keeping the time of ...yoking, setting out the stetches (ridges ?), &c."

"Several young men are paid wholly in money, and ...receive from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week, according to ability."

"Women are paid 1*s.* a day throughout the year ...for every day actually at work, except in harvest, ...when they get 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* a day, with food."

COCKBURNSPATH.

55. *Mr. Thos. Hood*, occupier, says :

"When a change is made, master and servant meet at the hiring market, where they make their bargain."

The following shows the different values assigned to a *hind's gains* by Messrs. Hood and John Wilson, both occupiers in this parish, on the neighbouring farms of Cove and Chapelhill :—

Hind's Gains 1868 to 1869.	Mr. Hood.			Mr. J. Wilson.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash (called "sheep money") -	7	16	0	6	0	0
Oatmeal 10 bolls (100 stones) at 23*s.* and 22*s.* - - -	11	10	0	11	0	0
Barley, 18 bushels, at 5*s.* both -	4	10	0	4	10	0
Beans, 8 bushels, at 5*s.* 3*d.* and 5*s.*	2	2	0	2	0	0
Wheat, 3 bushels, at 5*s.* 4*d.* both	0	16	0	0	16	0
*Cow's keep - - -	7	0	0	6	0	0
†Potatoes, 1,800 yards - -	7	10	0	6	0	0
House rent free - - -	3	0	0	2	10	0
Carriage of coals - - -	0	10	0	0	10	0
Harvest food (5 weeks in Mr. Wilson's case) - - -	1	0	0	1	10	0
Total of estimates -	45	14	0	40	16	0

* *Mr. Wilson* says, "Where a cow is kept, it is worth 8*l.* or 10*l.*, but 6*l.* is given in lieu of it."

† Of the potatoes *Mr. Wilson* says, "On an average of the last 10 years they would be worth 9*l.* or 10*l.*, but the servant has the risk of the disease." *Mr. Wilson* also adds, "These wages are paid when the servant is ill, and there is no lost time."

Mr. Hood continues :

"*Stewards* receive about 10*l.* more than the above wage."

Cottars (women who have a cottage on the farm) receive :—

	£	s.	d.
Cash (1868 to 1869) - -	15	3	6
House and garden - -	2	10	0
Potatoes, 900 yards - -	3	15	0
Carriage of coals - -	0	5	0
Harvest food - - -	1	0	0
	£22	13	6

Bondager's wage [on the Cove farm the hinds are bound to keep a bondager, G.C.] :—

	£	s.	d.
Gross earnings in money (Whitsunday 1868 to 1869) -	15	3	6
Harvest food - - -	1	0	0
Total value of wage -	£16	3	6

It will be seen that *Mr. Hood's estimate* puts the value of the wages as follows :—

Men (ploughmen), 17*s.* 7*d.* per week nearly.
Woman (cottars), 8*s.* 9*d.* " "
" (bondagers), 6*s.* 1*d.* " "

[Mr. Hood has, however, put the value of grain and potato land rather higher than most farmers estimate them at.—G.C.]

56. Mr. Wilson gives the wages at which he had just hired three men for the year 1870 to 1871 :—

	£	s.	d.
52 weeks, at 12*s.* - -	31	4	0
1,800 yards of potatoes -	6	0	0
Food for 5 weeks in harvest -	1	10	0
Carriage of coals - -	0	10	0
House and garden - -	2	10	0
	£41	14	0

Which gives an average of 16*s.* a week as against his estimate of 15*s.* 8*d.* for the gains in the case of men receiving their payment more in kind. This hiring is one of the signs that money payments are creeping in. These men receive neither grain nor cow's keep, but 25*l.* 4*s.* in lieu of both.

COLDINGHAM.

57. *Mr. Jas. Herriot*, occupier, says :

"I generally hire my men privately, and I pay nearly all in money fortnightly. They (ploughmen)

Berwick.

Mr. Culley.

have 13*s.* a week, wet or dry, well or ill, from 1,600 to 1,800 yards of potatoes, or 5*l.* in lieu, a free house and garden, coals driven free, and all their food during harvest. [Putting the potato land at 5*l.*, as above, the cottage and garden at 3*l.* ; driving of coals (about 4 miles) at 1*l.*, and harvest food at 1*l.*, makes this wage worth about 16*l.* 10*d.* a week.—G.C.]

COLDSTREAM.

58. *Mr. A. Dickson*, landowner, says :

"*A ploughman's wages* consist of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money (called sheep money)	5	0	0
Do. in lieu of 800 yards of potatoes	2	10	0
Oats, 10 bolls (60 bushels, at 3*s.* 4*d.*)	10	0	0
*Barley, 3½ bolls (21 bushels, at 4*s.*)	4	4	0
Peas, 1 boll (6 bushels, at 5*s.*)	1	10	0
Potatoes, 800 lineal yards	2	10	0
†Potato seed given	0	10	0
Cow's keep, or 8*l.* in lieu	8	0	0
Carriage of coal (5 tons or 6 loads of 17 cwt.)	1	10	0
‡Harvest food (4 weeks)	1	0	0
§Cottage and garden (current rent)	3	10	0
Straw for pig	0	10	0
	£40	10	0

Women. A *hind's daughter*, or woman living with a hired servant has 1*s.* a day throughout the year, except in harvest, when she has 3*s.* a day, say for 3 weeks ; her wages are increased by a gratuity of 3*l.* for the year."

"A *cottar woman* has 1*s.* a day for three-quarters of the year, and 10*d.* for the winter quarter, a cottage and garden free, 800 yards of potatoes, and 50*s.* in lieu of another 800 yards, cartage of fuel, and harvest food. All men and women are hired by the year."

"Twenty years ago," Mr. Dickson says, "9*s.* a week was the day-work wage ; it is now 15*s.* a week."

59. The following are examples of the earnings of female workers on Mr. Dickson's farm :—

Agnes Turnbull (employed in winter a good deal feeding cattle, &c., has no broken time)—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Summer half year	6	7	9
Winter half year	7	15	0
Harvest wages	2	5	0
Harvest food	0	10	0
	£16	17	9

Agnes Paterson, ordinary bondager—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Summer half year	6	12	9
Winter do.	6	18	10½
Harvest wages	2	5	0
Harvest food	0	10	0
	£16	6	7½

[These earnings are at wages equivalent to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day (all the year round) on working days, and adding 13*s.* 6*d.* as the value of the half boll of barley given to the man who keeps the bondager, the total earnings of these women are respectively 17*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* and 17*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*—G. C.]

* Half boll given for women worker.

† This is not usual.

‡ Harvest food—breakfast, porridge and milk ; dinner, bread and beer ; supper, porridge and milk or an allowance of barley.

§ Average rent for worse cottages in village.

The following represent the whole earnings of a *cottar* on Mr. Dickson's farm :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Summer half year	6	6	6
Winter „	6	2	8
Harvest wages	2	5	0
Harvest food	0	10	0
Potatoes, 800 yards, worth	2	10	0
Money in lieu of other 800 yards of potatoes	2	10	0
Potato seed given	0	10	0
Coals (6 cart-loads) led free	1	10	0
Cottage and garden	2	10	0
	£24	14	2

We may, therefore, put bondager's earnings at 17*l.* and cottar's at 24*l.* (leaving a margin for value of allowances), and the result is that a cottar woman, if she has a cottage to herself, costs nearly one-half more than a bondager. The bondager's wage being worth 14½*d.* (including hind's half boll) for ordinary days and her earnings, exclusive of harvest, 14*l.* 5*s.*, give *including* harvest 251 working days for the year, and giving the cottar an equal number of days, the average cost of female labour for the year, including harvest, will be—

Bondagers, 1*s.* 4¼*d.*
Cottars, nearly, 1*s.* 11*d.* } for every day's work.

60. *Mr. Thos. Hood*, occupier, says :

"*A ploughman* is paid—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	6	10	0
Oatmeal (10 bolls or 100 stones)	11	10	0
Barley, 18 bushels, at 5*s.*	4	10	0
Beans, 6 „ at 5*s.* 8*d.*	1	14	0
Wheat, 3 „ at 6*s.*	0	18	0
Cow's keep	7	10	0
Carriage of coals (10 miles)	1	5	0
Harvest meat	1	0	0
House and garden	3	0	0
	£44	17	0

"The above wages are higher than is general in this parish. On most farms the money wage is 5*l.* instead of 6*l.* 10*s.*"

"Average earnings of *women residing on the farm* from Whitsunday 1868 to Whitsunday 1869 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash	20	6	3
Harvest food	1	0	0
	£21	6	3

"Average earnings of *women not residing on the farm* :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	19	16	3
Potatoes	2	1	6
Harvest food	1	0	0
	£22	17	9

"The hinds on this farm do not keep bondagers, but those men who have no workers receive 20*s.* per annum less than those who have," [which would reduce the hind's money wage to 5*l.* 10*s.*—G. C.]

"To enable me to free the men from keeping a 'bondager,' I employ a number of women from the town of Coldstream, three-quarters of a mile off. Their average earning is given above."

"The *women* are paid 1*s.* 2*d.* a day for three-quarters of the year, and 1*s.* in winter, and in harvest 2*s.* 8*d.* and food. On some farms they get 1*s.* a day throughout the year."

DUNSE.

1. *Mr. J. Wilson*, landowner and occupier, says: A hind's wages for 1869 to 1870 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money	6	0	0
Oats, 10 bolls (or 60 bushels, at 3s. 4d.)	10	0	0
Barley, 21 bushels, at 4s. 3d.	4	9	3
Peas, 6 bushels, at 5s	1	10	0
*Potatoes, 1,600 yards	5	0	0
Cow's keep (grass, turnips, and straw)	6	0	0
Harvest food (30 days, at 1s.)	1	10	0
†Carriage of coals, 5 tons	1	10	0
House and garden	2	10	0
Straw, &c., for pig	0	10	0
	£38	19	3

Labourers when employed by day work at drain-, sheep shearing, &c., get 15s. a week, and earn ier wages at piece work."

Two old women who are cottars at Cumledge, have keeping a bondager:—

	£	s.	d.
The woman's earnings, say	17	0	0
A cottage and garden, say	2	10	0
1,300 yards of potatoes, say	4	0	0
3 bushels of barley, say	0	12	9
	£24	2	9

Each bondager is paid by the woman who keeps r 11*l.* a year, leaving 13*l.* odd to keep her and her stress. At the same time the bondager costs Mr. ilson about 24*l.* a year, for, say, 260 days' work.—C.)

ECCLES.

62. *Mr. J. Dove* and *Mr. G. Rutherford*, in giving e value of a hind's gains are agreed as to the follow- g usual allowance, except in the value they put upon em, viz.:—

60 bushels of oats.
6 bushels of peas.
Cow's keep.
House and garden.
Harvest food.
Carriage of coals.

They differ in the following allowances:—

	Mr. Dove.	Mr. Rutherford.
Money	5*l.*	6*l.*
Barley	24 bushels.	21 bushels.
Potatoes	1,500 yards.	1,600 yards.

The following shows this difference in valuation:—

	Mr. Dove.	Mr. Rutherford.
Oats a bushel	3s. 4d.	3s. 10d.
Barley "	4s. 3d.	4s. 3d.
Peas "	6s. 4d.	5s. 4d.
Potatoes, per 100 yards	5s.	7s. 6d.
Cow's keep	8l.	8l.
House and garden	3l.	3l.
Harvest food	1l. 4s.	1l.
Carriage of coal	1l. 10s.	1l. 13s.

In this way the different estimates of the value of ne wage are,—Mr. Dove, 39*l.* 7*s.*, and Mr. Rutherford, 3*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

* During the potato disease 5*l.* was given in lieu of 1,600, and 3*l.* to cottars who have 1,300 yards.

† Mr. Wilson pays railway carriage as well as cartage; for- merly used to cart them 20 miles from Northumberland or East Lothian.

Women's Wages.

63. *Mr. Dove* says:

"They are paid 1s. a day in summer, and 10*d.* a day in winter, except in harvest, when they receive 3s. a day and their meat, and in addition to these wages a fixed sum or gratuity of 3*l.* in the year. The women do not work on wet or stormy days. The average number of days that women on my farm work is 270. They earn on an average 17*l.* a year."

64. *Mr. G. Rutherford* says that on his farm the women earn on an average 18*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* a year.

Single men hired, for instance, as ploughmen have 14*s.* a week and harvest food and no other allowance.

One family, which supplies a father, son, and daughter at full wages must receive at least 92*l.* a year from Mr. Rutherford.

EDROM.

65. According to returns made by Messrs. *R. W. Glendinning*, *R. Calder*, and *Jas. Thompson*, who together occupy 2,029 acres, of which 1,845 are arable (chiefly in five-course husbandry), in the parish, a hind's wages consist of:—

60 bushels of oats.
21 bushels of barley (Mr. Calder gives 18).
6 do. of beans or peas.
1,800 yards of potatoes.
Keep of a cow.
House and garden.
Carriage of coal (including railway charge).
5*l.* in money.
And harvest food.

66. *Mr. Glendinning* says:

"The hinds are entitled to the best corn after the master has selected his seed corn."

"The keep of the cow is valued at 8*l.*, though worth more to the hind."

"The potato ground is worked and manured by the farmer, and the produce carted home by him."

"The coals cost the servants only the pit price."

"The food during harvest, generally extending over five weeks, consists of porridge and milk for breakfast, a bottle of beer and 17½ ozs. of best wheaten bread for dinner, and porridge and milk for supper, or in lieu thereof 1½ bushels of barley. Nearly all prefer the barley to the supper of porridge and milk, and take their supper at home."

"Skilled workmen, such as shepherds, stewards, men who stack corn, attend the reaping machines, sow, feed the thrashing machine, and timekeepers, have increased wages. Stewards of large farms have wages in proportion to their resposibility; my man has, I think, allowances equal to 25*l.* more than an ordinary hind."

67. *Mr. Calder* says:

"Men are often hired at home privately or at Dunse hiring market in March."

"The women are always hired by the hinds, they being generally bound to supply a woman worker."

"The average wage of women is 1s. 2*d.* a day."

"The cow's keep is worth, I should think, 10*l.* to the family. I give old grass and straw and six loads of turnips (four of them swedes)."

"Sometimes I lend a cow and take nothing in return."

"The cottagers usually burn about five tons of coal in the year, which cost for carriage at least 5s. a ton. I pay railway carriage as well as cartage."

Mr. Calder's valuation of the "gains" are:—

Oats, 3s. 3d. per bushel
Barley, 5s. 6d. do.
Peas, 6s. 10d. do.
} Prices of last year

Potato ground, 5s. 6d. per 100 yards.
House and garden, 50s.

68. *Mr. Thompson* says:

"Hinds are hired in March for the year following, commencing on the 26th of May. In general engagements are made in the public market, but *good* places are privately applied for previous to that day. If a farmer wishes to keep his hinds he "*asks*" them at

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s.

home the week before the market, and engages such as are willing to stay. The question *to keep or not to keep a woman worker* is then settled, but the market for hiring such workers [bondagers, G. C.], should the servant have no daughter fit for the work, is the first week in May. Hind's workers get about 1*s.* 2*d.* a day; cottars, about 1*s.* 6*d.*, if you value their cottage, garden, and potato drill. During harvest all hands get their meat, and women 3*s.* a day while reaping or lifting behind the machines, for two or three weeks, according to the season."

Mr. Thompson gives the following valuation of hind's gains ("at prices actually obtained in the "public market during the present year 1869–70"):

Oats, 4*s.* per bushel.
Barley, 5*s.* do.
Beans, 5*s.* 6*d.* do.

Other allowances, which cannot be guided by market prices, he values as follows:

Potatoes, at 5*s.* 6*d.* per 100 yards, or rather 5*l.* for 1,800;
Cow's keep, at 7*l.*;
Carriage of coals, 30*s.*;
House and garden, 3*l.*

He says, "The harvest food is porridge and milk for breakfast, beer and bread for dinner, and 1½ bushels barley in lieu of supper."

Speaking of the values he puts on the gains, *Mr. Thompson* says, "These are the gains in *good* places. The value of the corn may average 20*s.* less, and much depends on the quality of the cow's keep and potato ground."

69. Notes.—Mr. Glendinning pays *women* 14*d.* a day all the year round, and 3*s.* and food in harvest."

It appears that the allowance of barley in lieu of supper in harvest is $\frac{1}{16}$ of a bushel, and as 1½ bushels are generally given, this would spread the harvest food over 24 days. The men seem to consider this worth 2*d.* a night, which would put their value of barley at 2*s.* 8*d.* per bushel.

70. *John Bell*, steward at Kelloe Mains, told me that their cottagers burnt five tons of *coal* in a year, which would cost his master 5*s.* for carriage. The coals cost 7*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a ton to the hind.

71. As an example of *family earnings* take the Bradford family at Kelloe Mains:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Father, a hind, say	40	0	0
Son, a hind, say	36	0	0
Son, goes with odd horse, say	17	0	0
Daughter, works bondage, say	17	0	0
Two children, summer workers, say	8	0	0
	£118	0	0

This is my estimate, probably the earnings are higher.—G. C.

LADYKIRK.

72. *The Rev. Wm. Dobie* says:

"The *hiring system* is objectionable. Apart from the scenes which occur at and returning from the fairs, the present system gives good servants no better chance than the inferior. Good and bad are alike engaged according as they exhibit bone and breadth of shoulder. If you could establish a system of registers the really good servants would soon avail themselves of it."

"A *hind's* wages are as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money, grain, and potatoes, worth	33	0	0
House and garden	2	10	0
Carriage of coals	1	0	0
Cow's keep	7	0	0
Harvest food	1	0	0
	£44	10	0

For this he works 10 hours a day in summer and as long as light permits in spring and autumn. There is no thrashing of grain before daylight in winter as there used to be."

POLWARTH.

73. *The Rev. Walter Home* gives the following example of wages:

"The Marchmont woodmen have 13*s.* a week, a free house and garden, and free firing, say 15*s.* a week."

WHITSOME.

74. *Mr. John Clay*, occupier, gives a *ploughman's gains* as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
10 bolls of oats	11	0	0
3½ do. barley	5	5	0
1 do. peas	1	15	0
1,600 yards of potatoes	5	0	0
Cow's keep	7	0	0
Money (called sheep money)	5	0	0
House and garden	5	0	0
Harvest food	1	4	0
Carriage of coals (7 loads)	1	15	0
	£42	19	11

Women's earnings Mr. Clay puts at 17*l.* 10*s.*

COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

Roxburgh.
Mr. Culley.
s.

EVIDENCES APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

75. Copy of a letter from *Mr. A. Scott*, agent to the Earl of Home. [This letter may be held to apply to the counties of Berwick and Roxburgh, in both of which Mr. Scott has the management of large estates.—G. C.]

Glen Douglas,
26 May 1870.

DEAR SIR,

As I have been from home since I had the pleasure of seeing you here, I have been unable until now to put in writing what I told you verbally.

1. The children of labourers are generally sent to school at six or seven, and remain for three or four years full time and about half time for the next two years. No enforcement is necessary. Every child gets a good plain education; reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. They are sent to light field work at the age of 10 or 11 during the summer months, and earn from 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day. I think they are much benefited by working in the open air, and I have been often struck with their improved appearance after having been so employed for a few weeks.

2. I don't think that the employment of females in agriculture has any prejudicial effect on their morals, but there can be little doubt that domestic service is better adapted to fit them for the care of a house and family.

3. The men and women work 10 hours in summer and from 7 to 10 in winter, according to the length

days, and the children 10 hours in summer are not generally employed in winter).

The cottages, not only on the estates under my gement but in the district generally, have been much improved during the last 15 years. The natched cottages or rather hovels, with only one ment and never more than a *but* and a *ben*, are ly disappearing, and are being replaced with antial slated erections of three apartments, be- other accommodations. These cottages, all of a have good gardens, cost about 130*l.*, the tenant ng the materials free of charge. There is also a change in the habits of the working classes. A or bad house used to be to them a matter of the st indifference, but now, I am told, it is about first question asked at hirings, "What sort of use?"

do not employ any agricultural labourers, but to ame class, such as woodmen, I pay 14*s.* per week, no broken time.

there be any other point on which I can supply mation it will give me much pleasure to furnish

I am, &c.
ANDREW SCOTT.

IN ANSWER TO CIRCULAR QUESTIONS.

5. *Mr. Robert Swan*, land agent, &c., says:

Boys and girls are employed from 11 to 12 years &c."

Women are employed to a large extent in farm k, working on the fallow break, assisting in the shing out of grain, storing of root crops, &c."

I see *no necessity for any restriction* as to the loyment of children in agriculture, as they are ays put to light and suitable work."

The parochial and other schools afford ample ns, at a very moderate cost, for the education of labouring class, and they almost without excep- avail themselves of it."

The cottage accommodation has been improved hin the last 30 years, and all the new ones, ing from 100*l.* to 120*l.* to build, are fully equal the means, to furnish and keep warm, of those o inhabit them. Within the last 50 years the ages for farm labourers have been all brought rer the homesteads; they are sufficient in number the cultivation of the land, and neither in the old new cottages (speaking generally) has there been r mischief resulting from overcrowding."

All the cottages or farms have gardens, and owances of potato ground as well as the keep of ow are almost universal. In the case of cottages hamlets or villages, most of the cottagers have dens attached to or near their dwellings."

To the question: How far is it true that the im- vement of labourer's dwellings has been forced the landowners by the demand of the labouring ss?

Mr. Swan answers:

"The landowners in this district have required no cing from any quarter to improve the dwellings of ir tenants, or the cottages of their labourers. As e farms have fallen out of lease (and even during e currency of leases of farms under my manage- ent) the old cottages have been enlarged or new es built. Very much has been done and is still ing done by landowners to provide comfortable mes for agricultural labourers. Their cottages are nerally fully equal to their means and much supe- or to the dwellings which mechanics earning much gher wages provide for themselves in towns."

77. *Mr. Jas. Tait*, landowner and land agent, &c., ys:

"The condition of the cottages in this part of the ountry is generally good. They are almost always onveniently situated for the use of the farms, and except at certain seasons of the year are quite sufficient for the supply of labour."

"On no estate of which I have the management has any complaint come from the labouring class as to the condition of their cottages. All improvement has been the voluntary action of the proprietors."

78. *Mr. W. E. Otto*, agent to the Marquis of Lothian, says:

"Boys of 9 or 10 years of age are occasionally employed during spring and summer in herding, &c.; they are never regularly employed until they are 12 years of age."

"*Girls* are hardly ever employed in farm work until they are 12 or 14 years of age, and then only for thinning turnips and hoeing green crops."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of one for every cottage on a farm."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, nor are they exposed to *any physical injury*. The female workers in this county are noted for their robust and healthy appearance."

"I do not think the employment of females in agriculture has a deteriorating effect on their morals, and as they require to assist in the household work of the cottage, milk the cow, &c., they are not unfitted for domestic duties."

"The demand for female workers has greatly increased, and wages are much higher, having risen about 40 per cent. in 20 years. General advantage being taken of the numerous schools, I do not think any restriction is necessary on the employment of females or children in agriculture."

Schools.

"Parish schools are liberally provided and enlarged whenever necessary by the proprietors. In most schools there is a female teacher for sewing, &c., as well as a male teacher. Where parishes are large side schools are established, and in several instances parishes have combined for the maintenance of side schools in the hill districts, where the population is thin, and where sometimes there is not an average of more than 20 to 30 scholars. General advantage of the schools is taken, snd no compulsion is necessary. Even the few Irish sometimes in the district are constrained by force of example to send their children to school."

"The *condition of the cottages* is generally excellent; they have usually three or four apartments, and nearly every farm has a sufficient number of cottages attached to the steading for the accommodation of the farm servants."

"The *bothy system does not exist here*."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"Progress is being made every year in improving and enlarging cottages."

"There are sufficient facilities from Inclosure Commission and Lands Improvement Companies for obtaining money for the improvement of farm buildings, and most proprietors who are in need avail themselves of them. The bad cottages existing in this county are generally in small villages, each belonging to a different feuar, who rarely has any means to repair or rebuild his house; but only a few of these are occupied by extra agricultural labourers, such as drainers, &c."

Cause of Improvement in Cottages.

"I do not think that in Roxburghshire any pressure whatever has been exerted by the 'educated labourers' to make proprietors build better cottages. The pressure has rather been from above, several large proprietors having begun building new cottages, making quite a hobby of it, in spite of the farmers, who at first were quite indifferent as to good cottages, and were more anxious about good cattle accommodation. On all large estates rapid improvement has taken place. On Lord Lothian's estate (rental 22,000*l.*) the cottages upon each farm during the last 20 years, have been either rebuilt or renewed at a cost of from 100*l.* to 150*l.* for each cottage, and on many other estates similar improvements may be

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8.

seen, so that the number of inferior cottages in this county is very limited. Latterly the labourers have become more discriminating, and prefer a farm where there are good cottages to one where they are inferior, but till the cottages had been generally im- improved they seemed to pay very little attention the matter, hiring as freely to go to one farm as the other."

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL MEN.

Effect of Labour.

79. *Dr. Mackenzie* (Kelso district) says:

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment.* Employment in agriculture is much more natural and more conducive to health and physical condition than most in-door occupations, particularly than that of a mill worker. As a rule they are very healthy and robust, and capable of great fatigue."

"Certainly the present mode of life of female *out-workers* does not tend to moral elevation, though not necessarily to immorality, and is quite the reverse of proper training for domestic duties. Only a very small per-centage of them have the opportunity of learning cooking, or care to learn; so many of them now live almost entirely on tea and baker's bread."

"*I do not think any restriction as* to the employment of females and children in agriculture is necessary, provided children are above 14, and have attended school up to that age, and that there has been sufficient house accommodation to admit of the separation of the sexes for dressing, personal ablutions, and sleeping. In many cottages it is not uncommon to see the wife, daughters, and out-workers dressing in the same room with the husband, father, and grown-up young men. This arises from the want of separate apartments, and necessarily leads to familiarities and indecency among the young of both sexes."

80. *Mr. H. Vost,* surgeon (Kelso district), says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 12 years of age, perhaps for the summer months only, during the first year, so as to complete their education during winter."

"*Women* are employed to a greater extent than men on a farm; they do everything but plough, and cut drains, and attend to the horses."

Effect of Labour.

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment nor physical injury.*"

"I think the effect of females being employed in agriculture is very lowering to their morals, especially when employed among males, partly from their coarse jests and conversation, and from the calls of nature within view of each other. Their low state of morals tends to illegitimacy, which unfortunately is not looked upon with sufficient horror among them. Field work does not interfere with the proper training of females for domestic duties in their own sphere."

No Restriction of Labour Necessary.

"I do not think any restriction should be placed on the employment of women and children in agriculture."

Schools and School Attendance.

"There are one or more schools connected with the Established Church of Scotland in every parish; these schools are open to any denomination at a moderate charge. A good sound education is given at these schools, which is most eagerly taken advantage of. I scarcely think there is a boy or girl kept away from school up to the time of beginning work."

Cottages.

"The condition of the cottages is good: as the ones decay new ones upon improved principles built, these are decidedly good, having various c partments, and, though well filled when the fa is large they are not overcrowded, they are q healthy. In former times the whole family lived one large apartment, which lowered their morality

To the question, "*How does the health of* "*women employed in agriculture compare with t* "*of women otherwise employed?*" *Mr. Vost* answe

"They are the most healthy class of people I kn with frames well developed, so much so as to m instrumental interference in labour (childbirth) ra required."

81. Extract from a letter addressed to the Assist Commissioner by the *Rev. Wm. Lee, D.D.,* mini of Roxburgh, in answer to questions suggested i circular letter of Mr. Tremenheere's:

"To the first of the special questions, viz., whet it is common for Scotch parents to make their child prepare at home their school lessons I should answ *yes.* They also sometimes, to my knowledge, h them, but I do not know how far this practice i common one. I do not think they often carry their children's education at home after they le school. As to young people being accustomed express a wish to be as well instructed as th parents, or to endeavour for this purpose to pre cute their own education after their removal fr school, when that takes place at an early age know there are cases of this kind, but I fear they not common.

"The books to be found in the houses of the ag cultural working class are chiefly religious boo very generally old works of that class, which h descended from a former generation, for newspap are now more generally read than books. You always find bibles in the cottages of our hinds labourers; the other books are such as Bunya Pilgrim's Progress, Borton's Four-fold State, Rich Baxter's Practical Treatises, of which there are m popular among this class of people. Some of th take more modern books, published in parts, popu Biographical Dictionaries or Cyclopædias, for instan Many of them also take in monthly periodicals, of class of the Leisure Hour, the Sunday Magazi or Chamber's Information for the People.

"I am sorry to say that the description of fam worship in Burn's Cottars' Saturday Night does find so many illustrations in actual life now as it u to do. A limited number of my own parishioners the rank of cottars or farm servants have fam prayers on Sundays, and sometimes also on we days; but this is the exception, not the rule.

"On the last question, as to whether the ea removal of children from school has the effect t the education received is not permanently retain I gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Edu tion in Scotland a few years ago, and I then, as fa I recollect, expressed my belief, on grounds whic stated to the Commissioners, that the school learni given to children who are removed from school an age so early as 11 or 12 years is often in a ve great degree lost before they reach manhood a womanhood, lost at least to this extent, that thou at the latter period they may still be able to read some fashion, they very often are not able to re

ease or to much purpose. That is a view I ormed chiefly on the evidence of the experience in conducting classes for young persons from 20 years of age, who are being prepared for ion to the Communion. Many of these Cate- ns cannot read intelligibly or intelligently, partly perhaps from their education never having been carried far enough, but also partly I believe from its not having made a permanent impression, to which result a certain degree of maturity of mind, seldom found in children under 12 years, is probably indispensable."

PARISH EVIDENCE.

n.—After quoting the foregoing evidence which s to the county generally, and considering the t of evidence given in detail for Berwickshire the manner of employing, housing, and paying ltural labourers is the same as in Roxburgh- as far at least as arable farms are concerned, I not think it necessary to quote such answers *t adult female labour is largely employed; no bothy system exists; that the cottages are ed to the farms, and therefore conveniently d; that such cottages have gardens; that a keep usually forms part of a hind's wage; that ground is given; or the opinion of employers our that females and children are subject to no atment*, unless there be some peculiarity to note ty of the above subjects, such as the proportion male to male labour, or the number of cottages d sufficient for the supply of labour, &c.—G.C.

Bedrule.

Population, 222. - Acreage, 3,952.

tivation mixed, arable and pasture, but chiefly arable in five-course rotation.

. *Mr. T. Robson Scott*, landowner and occupier,

Boys are employed from 12 years of age and up- s during summer; they are hired throughout ear from 14 years of age."

Girls are never employed in winter till they are rds of 14 years of age."

Women are employed to the extent of two in ner and one and a half in winter to each pair of s. [That would be to each 90 or 100 acres in five- e rotation. G.C.]

Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day mmer, and from light to dark in winter."

I do not think employment of females in agricul- is injurious either to their morals or training for estic duties. The girls make very good labourers' e."

I do not think any restriction is necessary as to employment of females and children in agri- ure."

If necessary children might be compelled to attend ol regularly up to 10 years of age, and for four ths during the winter of the next three or four s without interfering with the cultivation of the or the legitimate gains of the parents from thful labour."

The *bothy system* does not exist, and the kitchen em has almost disappeared from the county; 30 rs ago it was common in the pastoral districts."

All the cottages have gardens of about 10 or 12 s, and hinds always have cows and about 1,600 ds of potato ground."

oans for Cottage Building under Inclosure Commissioners.

I think the duration of the rentcharge for such ns should be extended to say 35 or 40 years."

83. *Mr. G. Pott*, landowner and occupier says:

Boys and girls are not employed before 14 years age; they work in June, July, and August in t farm work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day, 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m., in summer, and eight and a half hours in winter."

"The morals of our farm servants (male and female) are very good indeed. I have had many women on my farm who are now respectably married or are house servants."

"*Any restriction as to the employment of females and children is quite unnecessary* here and would be attended with evil consequences alike to employer and employed."

"There is *no need of enforcing education*, as it is generally and voluntarily taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are very good; sufficient in number for the supply of labour and conveniently situated."

84. *The Teacher of parochial school*, says:

"*Boys* are employed all the year if their parents can find employment for them, but principally during summer."

"*Girls* are employed from 8 years of age in herding crows, &c."

"Children are not flogged, but the physical injury must be great when they are employed so young."

"Females brought up in field work have no taste for domestic duties."

"I think boys and girls should not be employed in field work until they are 13 or 14 years of age, and that women should not work out for 10 hours a day."

"Compulsory school attendance up to 13 years of age is the only mode I can suggest that would suit the circumstances of this parish."

"There is the parish school provided as a means of education for the labouring class; the parents send their children to school when there is no work for them to do. If they can earn 6*d.* a day, the parents will lose a week's education for it."

"The *cottages* in general are good, some are very good, and a few bad."

"The *bondage system* exists here."

"I tried an *evening school* when I came to the parish, but it was not taken advantage of."

Crailing.

Population, 673. - Acreage, 6,043.

Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

85. On one farm of 800 acres arable and 100 pasture in five-course (two year's grass) rotation; there are 15 cottages thus occupied.

7 by ploughmen.
1 by steward.
1 by cattleman.
1 by shepherd.
1 by hedger (also barnman).
4 by cottars supplying seven women workers.

The ordinary staff of the farm consists of 11 men, two or three lads, eight or 10 women in spring and winter and about 15 in summer. The 15 cottages are considered by the occupier sufficient for the supply. It is evident that only one or two of hinds are required to keep women workers in winter, while nearly all must keep them in summer. All of these 15 cottages are good, and eight of them have been altered by raising the walls and putting in upper rooms at a cost of 700*l.*, producing for that sum eight cottages, which if new would have cost about 1,000*l.*

Roxburgh.
Mr. Culley.
s.

Women's wages on this farm were 10*d.* a day in summer and 8*d.* in winter about 30 years ago, and are now worth an average of 15*d.* a day.

86. *Robert Lamb*, draining in Crailing parish, says:

"I live in Jedburgh seven miles off and have been a drainer for 26 years. We sometimes work 11 hours in fine weather but seldom more than 10. Some of the Irishmen work far longer hours and stand out in bad weather, such weather as we would'nt work in but it kills a 'feck' (considerable number) of them. I've known many a likely well made young Irishman done in 10 years time, quite stiff and useless. They overwork themselves at times and expose themselves more than we do. When they begin young and take care of themselves the Irish are about as good as we are."

The man who gave me this evidence and his mate (they generally work in couples) were earning from 22*s.* to 24*s.* a week. Several Irshmen working in the same field at the same piece work wages, were earning a good deal less, some not much more than one-half, though working longer hours. The cutting was very hard.

ECKFORD.

Population, 957. - Acreage, 10,097.

Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

87. *Dr. Murray*, occupier, says:

"*Children* are never employed under 12 years of age, and then only in summer doing work suited to their ability."

"*Women* are employed throughout the year, weather permitting."

"The *hours of work* are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with two hours interval."

"There is no *ill-treatment* and no need of legislative restriction on female or youthful labour."

"As the sexes always work separately, except in harvest, I see no cause of immorality in their employment."

Education.

"In regard to the question of education, I should say that summer being the time children are usually employed and when they can best for their own health and benefit be in the open air. Children up to 12 years of age might be kept at school for the six winter months; but unless education is enforced on the parents and guardians, any attempt to obtain a satisfactory education in the case of the children of the poorer class of parents would be altogether futile."

"In this parish there are *three schools*, one the parish school, another a side school connected with the parish school, and the third a parish school in an adjoining parish; two of the schools are *two miles distant* from my farm, the parochial school three miles off. I do not attribute the non-attendance of the children to early labour, but to indifference and the want of means on the part of the parents."

"On my farm there are 25 *cottages*, but only 18 occupied; 11 of them have been lately built and have ample accommodation for the inmates and for the purpose of separation of the sexes, so that if properly used, there is no cause for any breach of morality arising from deficient accommodation. In the other seven cottages there is no such accommodation, care, however, is taken as far as possible that those houses are occupied by parents with young children, but this of course cannot always be the case."

"We know nothing of *the bothy system* I am happy to say."

NOTE.—Dr. Murray having six old cottages standing empty, finds 19 sufficient to supply an ordinary staff of 14 men and 13 women increased to 14 men four lads and 19 women in summer and autumn; four of these 19 women are cottars married or widows, the rest single women. This staff applies to 1,150 acres, of which 900 are arable in five-course husbandry.

88. *Mr. A. Logan*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are not employed under 12 years after 12 during spring and summer in light work."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of two women to one man in summer and one woman to one man in winter."

"I consider the employment of females in agriculture healthy and by no means hurtful to the morals."

"As the demand for labour increases, I think a restriction should be placed on the employment of women in agriculture."

"The *cottages* are generally good, they are not overcrowded, but are barely sufficient for the supply of labour required."

EDNAM.

Population, 599. - Acreage, 3,919.

89. *Mr. Wm. Broad*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 15 years of age upwards during summer generally."

"Women are employed throughout the year."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"I do not think any restriction as to the employment of females and children in agriculture necessary."

"The *cottages* are usually good"

HOUNAM.

Population, 289. - Acreage, 15,107.

Cultivation, chiefly pastoral.

90. *The Rev. Geo. Watson*, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age during the summer."

"*Girls* are employed from 11 years of age during summer."

"Each hind is obliged to supply one woman to work on the farm."

"All labourers live on the farms."

"All work 10 hours a day in summer (6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m.) and from light to dark in winter."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"Farm work unfits females for domestic duties and is injurious to their morals."

"I think *some restriction* as to age, mode, and hours of work of women and children ought to be imposed. I would suggest that each child from 5 to 6 years old up to 13 should attend school nine months yearly."

"To a great extent they take advantage of school but I find that many of the children who are unable as yet to take a part in farm work, are employed by their parents in gathering wool for some months during summer."

"The *cottages* lately built, though few in number are good. Those of older date and with only one room are bad, and I hear of no improvement going on."

LINTON.

Population, 608. - Acreage, 6,427.

Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

91. *Mr. R. Oliver*, landowner, says:

"There is a *parish school* very well attended, and a side school belonging to a neighbouring parish which is convenient and near a great part of Linton parish."

"The *cottages* are good and not overcrowded."

[The rest of Mr. Oliver's evidence simply repeats what he says for Morebattle parish which see.—G.]

MAKERSTON.

Population, 380. - Acreage, 2,912.

Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

92. *Mr. John Usher*, occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 12 years of age and upwards, turnip hoeing, raking in harvest and potato lifting."

Women are employed throughout the year to the
t of two per 100 acres."
Men, women, and children *work* 10 hours a day."
The employment of males and females together in
ltural operations, does not in my opinion tend
high standard of morality, but I do not think
estriction as to the employment of women and
en necessary."
The *cottages* in this parish are good, the ac-
odation ample, and situation convenient; the
al arrangement is capable of improvement,
might also have a tendency to promote
lity."
The bondage system is almost done away with;
emale workers are generally the daughters of the
labourers or cottars."
New cottages are being built from time to time
generally with modern improvements."

MAXTON.

Population, 497. - Acreage, 4,494.

. Visited nine very well placed and comfortable
cottages belonging to Mr. Ord, of Muirhouselaw.
t of these stand in a line with a break between
ks of four each. There are two rooms, a milk
e, and closet down stairs, and a loft above, divided
two rooms, one of which is ceiled. The upper
s have skylights. The situation of these cot-
s is very good, with a road in front and beyond it
gardens sloping down towards the main road.
he floors are not good (composite), and the upper
ns would be better if the walls were raised two
; but the cottages which were built a good many
s ago afford as much accommodation as could
be given at the cost, and are considered by the
pants quite good enough.

4. Mrs. Miller, wife of a hind, occupying one of
se cottages, says:
We have five children, none of them working,
eldest 10. Three are at school. Its very hard
metimes when there's a large family and none of
m bringing in anything; but we have to keep
m at the school, poor things. If they dinna get
ir education when they're young they'll no get it
ll, and be ma'n do our duty by them."

MOREBATTLE.

Population, 1,031. - Acreage, 22,518.

ltivation, mixed; a good deal of high pasture land.

95. *Mr. R. Oliver*, landowner and occupier, says:
"*Boys and girls* under 14 or 15 years of age are
rely employed during the whole year. In spring
d during summer they are employed in light work,
ch as potato planting, gathering twitch grass,
rnip thinning, &c., as young as 10 years of age;
t when so young it is only occasionally during fine
eather, and when farmers are very busy."
"*Women* are employed to a great extent through-
t the year; I should say about two women to every
ndred acres of *arable* land, but of course more or
ss according to the views of their employer."
"With the exception of where a farms adjoins a
illage the labourers all reside upon the farms where
ey are employed."
"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day
i.e. 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m.) in summer, and
uring daylight in winter, with one hour for dinner."
"Where the *houses* are at all good (and they are
eing much improved). I do not think that agri-
ultural employment has any more injurious effect
pon the morals than any other employment where
both the sexes are brought together. As the female
s always the member of a household, where she must
ssist in house work; I consider it a favourable
training for domestic duties.

I do not recommend that any restriction be placed on the employment of women and children in agriculture, first because their labour is not profitable to the farmer till they are strong enough to work, and in the next place, that where there are, as is frequently the case, from six to eight children under 10 years of age, and the parents have school fees to pay for three or four of them, it is of very much more consequence to the labourer than to the employer to get one or two of them employed in bird herding, or any other light work; that being of all other the particular time in the life of a married couple of the labouring class when they have the greatest difficulty to meet their pecuniary engagements. If you by law restrict the age you will have the children worse fed, worse clothed, and worse educated, and therefore less able for work at the time you fix upon. Again the employment at an early age is so partial, that if they from circumstances lose ground in summer, it is only a reason for the parents to keep them more regularly at school during winter. As to grown-up females they could not be done without according to the present mode of agriculture in this district, and I cannot conceive where they would find other and more suitable employment.

"The *parish school* at Morebattle, and a side school kept up by the heritors, are the means of education provided for the labouring class, and they are well attended."

"The *cottages* in this parish are generally inferior."

"No *bothy system* exists."

96. *Dr. Jas. Robson Scott*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Boys* begin to be employed at about 12 or 13 years of age, but chiefly in summer."

"*Girls* begin work a year or two later."

"The hours of work are 10 hours per day."

"There is no ill-treatment, but I think the work in harvest is occasionally too severe for young women."

"I do not think field work affects the morals of women injuriously, but they are apt to become somewhat disinclined for domestic service, preferring labour in the fields."

"I do not think any restrictions on labour are necessary either in the case of females or children. The latter attend the parish school regularly up to about 13 years of age, and some longer, at least during part of the year."

"*The cottages* are mostly good and sufficient for the supply of labour."

97. *Mr. Robert Shortreed*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 14 years of age."

"*Girls* from 12 years of age up to 14 or 15 are employed in light work during summer; at 15 years of age they are able to do full women's work."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as men."

"Men, women and children work 10 hours a day in summer, and eight hours in winter."

"*The cottages*, with few exceptions are good, and sufficient for the supply of the labour required."

ROXBURGH.

Population, 1,178. - Acreage, 7,924.
Cultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

98. *Mr. J. Munro*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age during the greater part of the year. During winter and spring carting turnips, in the preparation of the ground for turnips, and in gathering and carting couch, stones, &c."

"*Girls* are employed from 12 to 16, about six months of the year; when older they are employed throughout the year. They are employed in light farm work."

"*Women* are employed to do all the work of the farm that does not involve horse or spade labour,

Roxburgh.

Mr. Culley.

S.

though occasionally they drive a cart or lead horses when harrowing."

"Men, women and children work from 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m. in summer, and during daylight in winter, with one hour's rest."

"I do not see that the employment of females in the fields has a tendancy to hurt their morals more than working in a factory, and they cannot all live idle at home."

"There is a *parish school* at Roxburgh, four miles off, where two boys attend; also a school on the farm taught by a female, and supported principally by the Education Committee of the General Assembly; there is also a similar school supported by the heritors in the village of Heeton. The attendance at school of children under 12 years of age is general, and after that age they can attend for a year or two in winter."

"The *cottage* accommodation has been improved within the last 20 years, though some of the old style of houses still remain. Many of these houses must be overcrowded, but I cannot say whether that condition has been the cause of the illegitimacy that is but too common amongst their inhabitants.

"All the cottages have *gardens* of greater or less size. On this farm they contain 400 square yards."

"Ploughmen are *allowed the keep of a cow;* not so cottars; both ploughmen and cottars are *allowed potato ground;* ploughmen, three-tenths of an acre; cottars rather more than one-fifth of an acre."

Loans under the Inclosure Commissioners.

"I have understood that the Inclosure Commissioners require buildings to be made on too expensive a scale, and thereby proprietors are prevented taking advantage of the borrowing powers conferred on them, as they do in the case of drainage of land."

99. *Mr. Jas. Robertson,* occupier, says:

"*Boys and girls* are not employed in farm labour under 12 years of age, and about that age are employed in light work in spring and summer."

"Women are employed to the extent of about two women to one man in summer and in about equal numbers with men in winter."

"Men work 10 hours a day in summer, exclusive of the time taken to feed and clean their horses. Women and children work 10 hours a day while light permits, the children only working in summer."

"On physical grounds I do not think any restrictions on the work of females or children is necessary."

School Attendance.

"Neither boys nor girls could get regular employment on farms if they were required to attend school either on alternate half or whole days; but in winter they have no employment on farms, and I would therefore recommend that they should be required to attend school during the winter months from November till March, that is to say, if any compulsory attendance is necessary."

"We have ample provision for education, which is generally taken advantage of."

Cottages.

"With a few exceptions the cottages are in good condition and not overcrowded."

100. *Mrs. Purves,* wife of byreman (Fairnington), says:

I have eight children,
1 daughter, grown up, married.
1 „ - „ in service.
working out: 1 „ - „ 18; 1 „ - „ 15; 1 son - „ 14
at school: 1 „ - „ 13; 1 „ - „ 12; 1 „ - „ 10

"They have all been at school up to about 14. It's a general way to send them to school to about that age, but there is many a one very careless about putting them to school."

"Girls in service get less than they do working out, but it takes less to keep them. Some of them inclines to service in the house, but I dare say most of them likes field work better. They that have them within themselves like best to keep them at home, though I think the bondagers are just as well looked after as house servants; may be they're not subject to such strict rules, and that's why they like it better."

"Young married people lose by the bondage; but I don't see that it is any injury to families, and it keeps them together to help one another."

"Nobody could object to the children's being regularly kept at school till they're 10, and for four months after, till they were about 13. They must have their education, and they could not get it with less than that."

"There is only two women hired into houses in this "toon" (farm village), though there's more than 20 bondagers, the rest are the daughters and sisters of cottars and ploughmen."

[NOTE.—There are a considerable number of poor cottages in Roxburgh parish, especially at the village of Roxburgh, but the cottages attached to farms are generally good.—G. C.]

101. *Mrs. Aikman* (wife of hind at Ladyrig), says:

"I have six children,
at work at 10*d.* a day: 1 girl - 17; 1 „ - 15
at school: 1 „ - 13; 1 „ - 9
2 younger at home.

"My girls give me all they "win," and I buy their clothes for them. Most everybody does the same in this quarter.

"We have a "canny hoose" (one room divided by box beds; no pot or oven (seem to be none in the district); room in loft got at by ladder; lumber closet and dairy in lean-to at back).

"My husband is a hind but he's no bund to keep worker [he has two girls.—G. C.]; the lasses like to stay at home and work, and it helps to school the others; I daresay they're all edicate here-aboot. The women doesn't work after they marry, they have enough a' do at home, minding their bairns and their hooses and coos."

"We have porridge twice a day, and broth and bacon, with barley and peas-meal cakes at dinner. The girls like tea and bannocks better than their porridge."

[NOTE.—The two girl workers were sitting mending their clothes while their mother was giving this evidence. They were in for their "dinner time" rest, and were well dressed for their work.—G. C.]

SMAILHOLM.

Population, 554. - Acreage, 4,202.
Chiefly arable, in five-course husbandry.

102. *Mr. Wm. Broad,* occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 14 years of age during summer."

"*Women* are very extensively employed, say two to every hundred acres of arable land."

"All work 10 hours per day, light permitting."

"The cottages are roomy and comfortable."

"No restriction of labour is needed for enforcing school attendance, all the children attend, as far as I know."

St. Boswells.

Population, 865. - Acreage, 3,198.
ltivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

3. *Mr. Jas. Boyd*, occupier, says :
Boys after 13 years of age are employed in spring summer."
Girls are also employed in picking weeds and light work."
About *as many women as men* are employed ghout the year."
All work 10 hours a day, *i.e.*, 6 to 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., light permitting."
There is a parish school, which all the children advantage of."
The *cottages* are good and sufficient for the sup- of labour."

Southdean.

Population, 687. - Acreage, 27,983.
ne arable land in five-course rotation, and a good deal of hill pasture.

4. *Mr. D. Pringle*, occupier, says :
Boys and girls are employed from 10 years of and upwards during summer in the lighter kinds eld work."
Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."
I think any restriction on the employment of les or children in agriculture would interfere ously with the cultivation of the land"
The *cottages* are generally very good and not crowded."

5. *David Murdie*, a drainer (pipelayer to a band drainers at Letham), says :
We have 12 Irishmen and three Scotchmen at k ; they live in Jedburgh (about 10 miles off) ; some of the Irishmen have taken possession of old cottage here. The Scotchmen are stronger and better drainers, and take more care of them- es than the Irish. Some of our Irishmen were king till 7 o'clock last night (May 20th) or later ; y generally stand out wet or dry, and hurt them- es ; but they can't earn so much as the natives. of the Irishmen has been 24 years in Scotland."

6. *Richard Vaugh*, formerly a farm labourer, v living in Jedburgh parish, told me that in a ce where he had 22*l.* a year, his keep, and a suit clothes, he saved 40*l.* in two years. This man, dently of a very saving mind, asked me whether I l ever heard the saying, "An eild (yeld or barren) e and a good coo (cow), make a weel (well) off n." This had been the case of the witness, appa- ntly.—G. C.

Sprouston.

Population, 1,305. - Acreage, 8,731.
ultivation, chiefly arable, in five-course rotation.

7. *Mr. John Clay*, occupier, says :
"The *hours of work* are 10 hours per day for all sses of labourers."
"*Children and women* are subject to no ill-treat- nt, rather the reverse, and their employment is ry healthy."
"We have a parish and Free Church school, which e not taken advantage of as they might be, owing the carelessness of parents."
"School attendance from October to May (eight nths), leaving four months for holidays and field rk, would be the best modification of the Factory ct principles to apply to agricultural labour."
"The cottages are good and sufficient for the sup- y of labour. The 'family system' is the only one have on my farm."
"There is no evening school."

8. *Mr. C. Robson*, occupier, says :
"No labourers have more than a mile to go to their work in this parish."
"Men work 10 hours from the stable door. Women and children work 10 hours from the time of going to the field."
"There are *two schools* in this parish, which are fully attended in winter, when the children are not much employed out of doors. In the parish school children of paupers are taught free."
"The *cottages* are good and quite sufficient for the accommodation of families, with some exceptions. They are not as a rule overcrowded ; but still a good deal of immorality exists."

9. *Mr. Wm. Dunn*, occupier, says :
"*Boys and girls* are employed at about 14 years of age in gathering weeds, thinning turnips, &c., during summer ; they attend school in winter."
"On a turnip farm, cultivated in the five-course shift, *two women* are required for every 20 acres of turnips, and a boy or girl in addition in summer. About half the number of women are required in winter."
"Men, women, and children work *ten hours a day* in summer and *eight in winter*, with the exception of ploughmen, who attend to their horses over the 10 and eight hours work."
"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment ;* their employment is conducive to their health and growth."
"The employment of females in the fields is not in favour of their morals nor their domestic duties ; but I do not think it is worse than any other employment where a large number work together."

Education.

"It has long been my conviction that education ought to be made compulsory from the age of seven till 11, and that from the age of 11 till 13 children ought to attend school six months of the year, and that no religious instruction ought to be enforced."
"There are three schools in this parish, all conveniently situated in different parts of the parish. Parents do not take advantage of the schools, not on account of the children being taken away for field work, but chiefly on account of the school fees."

Cottages.

"There is a great effort being made in the district to improve the deficient cottage accommodation, and many new cottages are being built. I have 25 cottages on my farm." [This is for the supply of a farm of 1,151 acres, of which 1,088 are arable in five-course rotation, with an ordinary staff of—

17 men.
8 lads over 13.
2 boys under 13.
17 women.
4 girls over 13.
3 do. under 13.
} Spring to autumn.

And a winter staff of—
17 men.
4 lads over 13.
14 women.—G. C.]

10. *Mrs. Douglas* (wife of hind at Kerchesters) :
"I have a girl and two lads at work and a girl of 12 at school."
"My children have all been at school, at least in the winter, till they've been 15. I worked the bondage myself to send the eldest to school, when they might have got work."
"We don't heed much about parishes here ; but we like to sit under our own minister, and we bide where we're well treated and can get work for the family."

Roxburgh.

Mr. Culley.

s.

111. *Mrs. Mabon*, wife of steward at Kerchesters, who was 10 years on a farm in Northumberland, says :

"I don't think there's much difference between the labourers here and in Northumberland, and their wages are much about the same. They get wheat in Northumberland and less oatmeal. We have an oven the master put in for us ; but as a rule they hav'nt ovens and pots here as they have in England, and I think it's a loss to them."

"I think the children were just as well sent to school where we were in Northumberland as they are here."

112. [Notes :—Mr. Clay thinks the women work harder in Roxburghshire than in Northumberland, and that the slip worn by the Northumbrian women is better than the shawl and jacket of Roxburghshire.]

"There are some very poor thatched cottages in Sprouston village and on Haddon farm. The latter have recently changed hands."

Yetholm.

Population, 1,207. - Acreage, 6,036.
Cultivation mixed, some hill pasture.

113. *The Rev. A. Davidson* says :

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age during summer in hoeing turnips, and in autumn at harvest work."

"*Girls* are employed from about 15 years old in farm work and also in a small manufactory in the parish."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as men."

"Labourers have to go two or three miles to their work."

Effect of Labour.

"Children and females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, nor are they exposed to any physical injury from their work. I consider the employment of females in agriculture very debasing to their morals *when the sexes are mixed at work ;* but I do not think any legislative restrictions of labour are called for."

School attendance.

"Parents seem all to value education. The sm[all] population of Irish and gipsies have the school f[ees] paid for them ; the native population are gener[ally] able to pay their own fees. There are three scho[ols] at which all branches necessary for the class of b[oys] or girls are taught."

"The *cottages* are generally good."

"There is no evening school."

114. *Mr. J. B. Boyd*, landowner and occupi[er] says :

"*Boys* begin to work at about 14 years of ag[e] they generally work in summer and go to school winter."

"*Girls* are employed during summer, in pickin[g] weeds and hoeing turnips ; they are also employ[ed] from 14 years of age."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as m[en] during summer, and in winter about half the numb[er] are employed."

"Labourers live on the farm, with the excepti[on] of one or two who come during summer from a villa[ge] about one mile distant."

"Men, women, and children *work* 10 *hours* a d[ay] during summer and shorter time in winter."

"Females employed in field work are usually ve[ry] well behaved and suffer no ill-treatment."

"I am not prepared to recommend that any restri[c]tion be placed on the employment of women a[nd] children in agriculture."

"The general custom here is for the children (aft[er] they are old enough to work) to go to school for s[ix] months or longer in winter and to work on the far[m] for about four months in summer ; this plan seems t[o] answer very well."

"We have *three schools* in the parish ; two for bo[ys] and girls and one for girls alone ; they are very w[ell] attended, and, as far as I know, every child of su[f]cient age can read and write."

"The *cottages* on the farms in this parish are ve[ry] good ; they are conveniently situated and are n[ot] over crowded."

"There are a considerable number of Irish famili[es] in the village of Yetholm who are content with wor[se] cottages and more uncertain wages than the nati[ve] labourers."

115. The Table below will show the variations in hinds' wages and gains, and the wages of women-workers, and help to explain the connexion [illegible] that in addition to the gains stated in the table, a hind has a free house and garden, food in harvest, carriage of coal, and permission to keep a pig, and that the woman-worker also has her food in harvest.

Parish.	Witness.	Hind's Wages and Gains.								Bondager's Wages.	
		Oatmeal or Oats.	Barley.	Peas.	Potatoes.	Money.	Allowance for keeping Worker, if any.	Coals.	Whether bound to keep a Worker or not.	Harvest wage.	Rest of Year.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Bedrule -	Mr. T. R. Scott -	100 stones	21 bushels	6 bushels	1,600 yards	5 0 0	3 0 0	6 tons of coals at pit price.	Yes - -	17*s.* a week	12*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 10*d.* for winter quarter.
Do. -	Mr. G. Pott -	Do. -	72 stones -	28 stones	1,500 yards	5 0 0	3 0 0	96 cwt. at half price.	Yes - -	Do. -	Do.
Eckford -	Dr. Murray -	120 stones	24 bushels	6 bushels	Not stated -	6 0 0	- -	95 cwt. to 105 cwt. at half price.	Yes - -	Not stated -	15*d.* to 16*d.* on an average.
Do. -	Mr. A. Logan -	100 stones	18 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5 0 0	- -	Quantity not stated	Not stated -	Do. -	Not stated.
Ednam -	Mr. W. Broad -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yards	5 0 0	* *see note*	7 cart-loads at half price.	No - -	Do. -	14*d.* a day for ¾ of year and 12*d.* for winter quarter.
Makerston -	Mr. J. Usher -	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	6 0 0	- -	Quantity not stated	Not stated -	Do. -	Not stated.
Morebattle	Mr. R. Oliver -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5 0 0	- -	Carriage free (long lead).	Yes - -	2*s.* 6*d.* a day	15*d.* a day for ½ year, and 12*d.* for remainder.
Roxburgh -	Mr. J. Munro -	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	1,800 yards	4 0 0	2 10 0	6 tons at half price	Yes - -	2*s.* a day -	12*d.* for every 10 hours' work.
Do. -	Mr. J. Robertson	Do. -	18 do. -	Do. -	1,600 yards	6 0 0	- -	Do. - -	Not stated -	2*s.* 1*d.* a day	12*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 10*d.* for winter quarter.
St. Boswell's	Mr. J. Boyd -	60 bushels	18 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yards	5 0 0	- -	Quantity not stated	Do. -	Not stated -	14*d.* a day in summer and 12*d.* in winter.
Smailholm -	Mr. W. Broad -	100 stones	21 do. -	Do. -	Do. -	5 0 0	- -	6 tons at half price	Do. -	Not stated -	14*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 12*d.* in winter quarter.
Southdean -	Mr. D. Pringle -	Do. -	60 stones -	Do. -	1,800 yards	4 0 0	- -	3 tons free -	Do. -	Do. -	15*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 12*d.* in winter quarter.
Sprouston -	Mr. J. Clay -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,600 yards	5 0 0	- -	Quantity not stated	Do. -	Do. -	Not stated.
Do. -	Mr. C. Robson -	Do. -	19 do. -	Do. -	1,800 yards	5 0 0	3 0 0	Carriage from station.	Yes - -	Do. -	14*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 12*d.* in winter quarter.
Do. -	Mr. W. Dunn -	Do. -	21 do. -	Do. -	1,500 yards	5 0 0	- -	6 tons at half price	Not all -	2*s.* 10*d.* a day	Do.
Yetholm -	Mr. J. B. Boyd -	60 bushels	18 do. -	Do. -	1,200 yards	4 0 0	3 0 0	Carriage of 6 loads	Yes - -	3*s.* a day -	12*d.* a day for ¾ of year, and 10*d.* in winter quarter.

* If hinds keep a worker, 1,000 yards of potatoes and three bushels of barley are given in addition.

116. Table showing the Valuations of *hind's gains* given by different Witnesses in Roxburghshire.

Parish.	Name of Witness.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Peas.	Potatoes per 100 yards.	Cow's keep.	Cottage and Garden.	Harvest food.	Allowance of coals, or carriage of.	Total value exclusive of fee for *bondager*.
		s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Bedrule *a*	Mr. T. R. Scott	1 9 per stone.	4 0 per bushel.	5 4 per bushel.	6 2¼	9 0 0	3 0 0	1 4 0	2 17 0	40 12 0
Do. *b*	Mr. G. Pott	2 0 do.	1 0½ per stone.	1 3 per stone.	6 8	9 0 0	3 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	41 0 0
Eckford	Dr. Murray	2 0 do.	—	—	—	7 0 0	—	—	—	36 0 0
Do.	Mr. A. Logan	2 0 do.	4 0 per bushel.	6 0 per bushel.	4 0	8 0 0	3 3 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	38 5 0
Makerston	Mr. Usher	1 7¼ do.	4 0 do.	5 4 do.	6 8	8 0 0	2 10 0	1 0 0	—	35 14 0
Morebattle *c*	Mr. Oliver	2 0 do.	4 0 do.	6 0 do.	5 4	8 0 0	2 10 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	38 4 0
Roxburgh *d*	Mr. Munro	1 9½ do.	4 0 do.	5 4 do.	6 8	7 0 0	2 12 0	1 4 8	1 17 6	40 0 2
Do. *e*	Mr. Robertson	2 0 do.	4 0 do.	6 6 do.	6 3	8 0 0	3 0 0	1 4 0	1 19 0	40 14 0
Sprouston	Mr. Clay	2 0 do.	4 9 do.	5 10 do.	6 3	7 0 0	5 0 0	1 4 0	1 15 0	41 11 0
Do. *f*	Mr. Dunn	1 10 do.	4 4 do.	5 6 do.	6 8	7 0 0	5 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	40 9 0
Yetholm *g*	Mr. J. B. Boyd	1 9 do.	4 0 do.	5 0 do.	6 8	7 10 0	2 12 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	35 4 0

a. Coals. Railway carriage and cartage of 6 tons, at 9*s.* 6*d.*
b. Do. 96 cwt., less 6*s.* per cart load (say 6 cart loads).
c. Do. 5*s.* a load for carriage, a long lead.
d. Do. 3 loads free and the carriage free of 3 others.
e. Coals. 6 loads at half price.
f. Do. do.
g. Do. Carriage of 6 loads.
Do. Potatoes. This price was allowed during failure.

117. Cottar's Wages and Allowances.

It will be understood that in all cases harvest food is given.

Parish.	Witness.	House and garden.	Coals.	Potatoes.	Barley.	Harvest wage.	Day wages.
Eckford	Dr. Murray	Value of wage 18*d.* to 19*d.* a day, including all perquisites.					
Do.	Mr. Logan	Yes.	24*s.*	3*l.*	None.	3*s.* for 15 days.	1*s.* a day.
Ednam	Mr. Broad	Yes.	Carriage of 5 loads.	1,000 yards.	3 bushels.	Not stated.	Do.
Roxburgh	Mr. Munro	Yes.	4 tons at half price.	1,200 do.	None.	2*s.* a day.	1*s.* for 10 hours' work.
Do.	Mr. Robertson	Yes.	3½ tons at half price.	1,000 do.	None.	2*s.* 1*d.* a day.	1*s.* a day for three-quarters of a year and 10*d.* remainder.
Smailholm	Mr. Broad	Yes.	Not stated.	1,000 do.	3 bushels.	Not stated.	Do. do.
Sprouston	Mr. Robson	Yes.	Not stated.	20 stones oatmeal.	6 bushels.	Not stated.	1*s.* 2*d.* a day for three-quarters of a year, and 1*s.* remainder.
Do.	Mr. Dunn	Yes.	4 tons at half price.	800 yards.	None.	2*s.* 10*d.* for 4 weeks.	Do. do.

BEDRULE.

8. *Mr. T. Robson Scott*, landowner and occupier, giving a hind's wages (see Schedule), says:

Each *woman* kept by a hind receives 1*s.* a day three-quarters of the year, 10*d.* for the winter er, and full wages in harvest, averaging 17*s.* a . besides food for 12 or 14 days. The man who her receives 3*l.* for doing so, and some of my keep two daughters at home, although I think *l.* fee is not sufficient to compensate the hind for ng at home a daughter, who, if hired out as a ager, would receive 12*l.* a year besides her keep. d myself to find these women work whenever eather is such as to allow them to stand out, by doing barn work in bad weather they have little lost time."

On my farm in Southdean parish, I give 4*l.* to nan who keeps a woman, because the climate is e and there is more broken time."

Where a hind has two *children*, say of 13 and 14, e them as one full woman worker in summer."

A *lad of* 16 *or* 17, before he is able to get a ing, receives less wages than a woman of the age, because he is less use about the hind's house, farmers dislike many lads of that age hanging t a farm. Such a lad would receive perhaps and his keep in a year instead of 12*l.* that a le bondager would command."

A good many *young men* are employed as *casual urers*, such as drainers, foresters, and roadmen."

In the case of a *double hinding*, I pay the second (a single man generally, the son of the hind,) to 34*l.* a year and his food in harvest."

The 3*l. fee* to the hind who keeps a worker has added within the last three years without diminng the woman's pay. Some of my hinds are only id to keep a worker in summer, as I have more loyment for them in the summer months."

The carriage of *coal* is very expensive in this hbourhood, my hinds burn about 6 tons each, and carriage costs me 9*s.* 6*d.* a ton."

I reckon a *cow's keep* as under—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Summer's grass - - -	4	10	0
5 cwt. of oilcake - -	3	2	6
Straw and byre - - -	1	7	6
	£9	0	0

The *harvest food* consists of porridge and milk at and morning, and bread and beer for dinner, th, say, 1*s.* a day, for 24 days."

ECKFORD.

19. *Dr. Murray*, occupier, says:

The *female workers* are hired for the most part the householding hinds, who by an agreement as ween master and servant are bound to keep a man worker, for whose work they receive 15*d.* to *l.* a day. Women workers, who are widows, or haps two sisters, and have a house from me, reve including perquisities, 18*d.* to 19*d* a day."

My hinds, shepherds, and cattlemen, &c. are aged for 12 months from the 26th of May, and give in money or kind about 36*l.* a year. (For wances see schedule.)

Dr. Murray gives 7*l.* in lieu of a cow's keep where servant has no cow.

120. *Mr. A. Logan*, occupier, after giving hind's ins (see schedule), says:

"It must not be forgotten that these wages are id, work or no work. *Ordinary day labourers* ve 15*s.* a week, but only paid when work is done."

Mr. Logan reckons a *cottar's gains* as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
House and garden - - -	3	3	0
Coals - - - - -	1	4	0
Potatoes - - - - -	3	0	0
Harvest food, 15 days - -	0	15	0
Harvest wages, 15 days - -	2	5	0
298 days at 1*s.* - -	14	18	0
	£25	5	0

[It will be observed that Mr. Logan reckons the cottar to work every day in the year.—G.C.]

JEDBURGH.

121. Extract from a letter from *Mr. Thos. Simson*, Secretary of the Border Farm Servants Protection Society:—

"As you requested, I have obtained the information you require from some of the office bearers of the society."

"A *farm servant's* wage in this county is generally made up of the following items, viz.:

1. A free house and garden.
2. A cow's keep or 6*l.* in lieu.
3. 5 loads (or 100 stones) of oatmeal.
4. 3½ bolls [21 bushels.—G.C.] of barley.
5. 1 boll [6 bushels.—G.C.] of peas.
6. 1,800 yards of potatoes.
7. 5 tons of coal at half-price.
8. 6*l.* in money.
9. A month's meat in harvest and 1½ bushels of barley, called supper barley.
10. The privilege of keeping a pig.

"If the servant engages himself to sow and stack, he is entitled to three bushels of wheat."

"If he is required to keep an out-worker or 'bondager' he has generally to pay her a wage of 9*l.* a year."

"The out-worker's wage is 1*s.* 2*d.* per day during three-quarters of the year, and 10*d.* during the winter quarter. If 1*s* 2*d.* is not given, 3*l.* with 1*s.* is allowed, which is thought an equivalent."

MOREBATTLE.

122. *Mr. R. Oliver*, landowner and occupier, after giving a hind's gains in detail, says:

"*The hind* is generally bound to supply a daughter or hired *woman worker*, whose wages are 15*d.* a day for the summer half-year, 1*s.* a day for the winter half-year; full wages about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and food in harvest. The hind has often other extras for stacking, sewing, &c., often six bushels of wheat, and they make a good deal by being allowed to keep a pig. Indeed I have heard of their having in lieu of the ordinary wage in kind, a free house and garden, and 15*s.* a week all the year, and asking to go back to the "kind wage." Mr. Oliver estimates the wage in kind at 38*l.* 4*s.* He also states that it is a common custom for a farmer to lend a cow to a labourer who has not got one.

123. *Dr. Robson Scott*, landowner and occupier, says:

"Men are hired by the year and women by the half-year. Hind's wages are worth about 35*l.* a year, partly paid in money and partly in kind."

"*Shepherds* are paid somewhat higher wages than hinds, the wages being made up of the grazing of so many sheep and cows, and other allowances similar to those of hinds."

124. *Mr. Robt. Shortreed*, occupier, says:

"An *ordinary able-bodied* farm labourer's wage is worth from 36*l.* to 38*l.*, paid chiefly in kind. Women are paid in money."

"The wages of *shepherds* vary considerably with the markets, as almost all shepherds own sheep of

Roxburgh.
Mr. Culley.
s.

their own. Married men have with their house generally two cows and from 50 to 60 sheep grazed by their master. Unmarried men from 40 to 45 sheep, with bed and board. Shepherds who have cottages are almost always hired privately, young men privately or at markets."

ROXBURGH.

125. *Mr. John Munro*, occupier, after giving in detail the wages and allowance of *hinds and cottars* (see schedule), says:

"Farm servants are principally hired at home, but if they cannot be got otherwise at hiring markets."

"*Unmarried men* who live in their parents' houses, get 36*l.* a year and their food in harvest." [Such men as have a double hinding with their father, or whose parents have a house for serving in some other capacity.—G.C.]

Of the *coal allowance*, Mr. Munro explains that hinds have three cart loads delivered free, and the carriage free of as many more. Cottars have two tons free and the carriage of two others.

The wages of cottar women and bondagers are the same, 1*s.* for every 10 hours' work at ordinary work, and 2*s.* per every 10 hours work' in harvest, with their food, in addition to the bondagers' wages the hind receives 50*s.* a year for keeping her as he is bound to do

Mr. Munro gives 14*l.* 13*s.* as the average earnings of his women workers.

126. *Mr. J. Robertson*, occupier, says:

"Men are either engaged privately or in the open markets, which are held in the month of March."

After giving in detail hind's wages Mr. Robertson gives the following valuation of *cottar's* earnings:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Potatoes, 1,000 yards - -	3	0	0
House and garden - -	3	0	0
3½ tons of coals - -	1	0	0
Harvest wages - - -	2	10	0
Harvest food - - -	1	0	0
Average of 190 days at 1*s.* -	9	10	0
Average of 70 days at 10*d.* -	2	18	0
	£22	18	0

"About 8*s.* 10*d.* a week."

"Single men as horsemen [ploughmen.—G.C.] get 36*l.* a year and harvest food."

"These (men's) wages are paid whether the men are able to work or not."

"Ordinary labourers [daymen.—G.C.] get generally 15*s.* a week, but only when employed, and deducting lost time, by sickness or bad weather, they cannot average more than 13*s.* a week."

SMAILHOLM.

127. *Mr. Wm. Broad*, occupier, gives wages of *hinds and cottars* in detail (see schedule).

There is a difference as to the money wage of bondagers and cottars on Mr. Broad's farms in this and Ednam parishes. He pays *bondagers* 14*d.* a day for three-fourths of the year, and 12*d.* during the winter quarter, whereas cottars have 12*d.* for three-fourths of the year, and 10*d.* in winter. This is equivalent to giving an extra 2*d.* a day to the hind for keeping the bondager, but applies only to the days she works, and is less than the 50*s.* or 5*l.* fee given on some farms where the bondager's wage is the same as the cottars on this farm.

SOUTHDEAN.

128. *Mr. D. Pringle*, occupier:

Gives the wages of *hinds* in detail (see Schedule), valuing them at about 35*l.* He says, "Labourers are hired at markets held in the neighbouring towns for that purpose."

129. *Mr. Robson Scott*, occupier, states a *shepherd's* wage as—

"52 sheep, say 26 ewes, the rest young sheep, which are grazed and 6 or 7 put on to turnips; 2 cows, or 1 cow and 65 stones of oatmeal; a house and garden. From a third to half an acre of potato ground, for which they work the land themselves and use the manure made the cows. They are allowed hay for their cows in winter, and when they have the choice always prefer the second cow to the oatmeal; but when hay is scarce they hav'nt always the choice.

"Where there is a double shepherding, the second man who boards with the other has a 'pack' of 40 sheep, 1 cow, 65 stones of oatmeal, and about a quarter of an acre of potato land. His wage is the 'pack' of sheep, the rest is paid to the man who keeps him for his board."

"A *head man* on a hill farm gets about 70 sheep and the same allowances."

"The pack should be worth 11*s.* a head. As these farms are let at about 10*s.* a head on the sheep they keep to pay rent and interest on capital; but the value of course varies from year to year."

SPROUSTON.

130. *Mr. John Clay*, occupier, gives 17*l.* 10*s.* as the yearly earnings of *women workers*, including harvest wages; he also gives a hind's gains in detail. (See Schedule.)

131. *Mr. C. Robson* says:

"Ploughmen, spademen, and byremen are engaged by the year, from the 25th of May. [He then gives 'gains, in detail, see Schedule.] In addition to the gains mentioned in the Schedule, Mr. Robson says "Each family feeds a couple of pigs during the year."

"The female workers are partly single women and partly widows."

"A *cottar woman* has—

A house and garden free.
20 stones of oatmeal.
6 bushels of barley.
14*d.* a day for three-quarters of the year and 1. for the remainder."

"*Daughters of ploughmen or hired bondagers* have the same money wage as cottars, without the allowances, instead of which they have 3*l.* given for the year."

"*Men working by the day* or week in this parish have from 13*s.* to 15*s.* a week."

"*Shepherds* have the same gains as ploughmen, & and a certain number of sheep kept with their master's flock, according to bargain."

132. *Mr. Wm. Dunn*, occupier.

After giving a *hind's gains* in detail, Mr. Dunn says:

"These wages are paid to a married man whether he keeps a woman worker or not. They also have liberty to keep a pig (killing two in the year), a privilege worth 50*s.* yearly."

"The *daughter of a hind* has 1*s.* 2*d.* a day for three-quarters of the year, and 1*s.* a day for the winter quarter."

"A *cottar woman* for a first worker has a free house and garden, 4 tons of coal, with leadage at hand price, 800 yards of potato ground, 1*s.* a day in summer and 10*d.* in winter. The second worker in a cottar's house gets the same wages as a ploughman's daughter, with sometimes the addition of 200 yards of potatoes. Cottar houses are seldom let only to supply one worker."

"Each female worker has 2*s.* 10*d.* a day and victuals in *harvest*, and the same is paid to lads from 16 to 18. They earn about 3*l.* in money during 4 weeks harvest, and 20*s.* worth of food."

"Servants are *hired* at the open markets; but a great part of the servants remain on the farms for many years."

YETHOLM.

33. *Mr. J. B. Boyd*, landowner and occupier,

:

Men are hired by the year and paid partly in cy and partly in kind. Women are hired by the year, and paid in money."

Ir. Boyd then gives the *wages of hinds* in detail Schedule), and adds: "I have valued the 1,200 ls of potatoes at 4*l.*, as that sum was claimed in during the time of potato failure."

Harvest food extends over 4 weeks."

Hinds are entitled to the *best corn* after the er's seed corn is selected."

Each of my hinds has to find a woman worker. se women are generally the daughters of the ds. The hind's money wage was raised from 4*l.* *l.*, to meet the rise in women's wages about 3 years "

Single men, say from 20 to 25 years of age, who on the farm in family with their parents are erally paid in money, and receive from 32*l.* to 33*l.*, h harvest food.

Women are paid 1*s.* a day, except during 3 winter nths, when they have 9*d.*, and during harvest, en they have 3*s.* a day. They have very little lost ic."

134. *Wife of a hind*: "We have to hire a *woman*, I pay her 8*l.* in summer and 4*l.* in winter. She earns out 15*l.*, *i.e.*, about 9*l.* in summer and 6*l.* in winter, l we get 3*l.* for keeping her [*i.e.*, her earnings are ogether equal to 18*l.*—G.C.] Wi' yae thing an other, it takes all the 6*l.* to keep her in the winter. A woman from Yetholm works my winter bondage, and I give her all she wins (gains) and the 30*s.* we have for her." [During the winter, therefore, this woman neither lost nor gained by the "bondage."]

"Last summer and the summer before I hired one from Yetholm, and I had to give her 14*d.* a day and her dinner when she worked and her harvest wages, and 1½ bushels of barley," [*i.e.*, putting the barley at 4*s.* the bushel, Mr. Boyd's valuation, and the number of day's work for summer, minus harvest, at 130, which is about the average, this hind's wife received 2*s.* 4*d.* out of her 30*s.* fee for giving the bondager a dinner on 130 days, and her husband's "gains" must be debited to the bondage account to the extent of that difference, owing to the fact that she paid the bondager 14*d.* a day, while for her work she received only 12*d.*—G.C.]

"My neighbour got one for what she won (1*s.* a day), 1½ bushels of barley and the 30*s.*" [*i.e.* she lost 6*s.* worth of barley only by the bargain.—G.C.]

"*Harvest wages* average 3*s.* a day for 14 or 15 days. On some farms they have 18 or 20 days."

"Strong '*day-tale*' *men* get 14*s.* a week and 20*s.* a week for, may be, 3 or 4 weeks in harvest."

"The *cow* makes a great difference; but there's a difference in cows and the way they're managed. Some can sell 9 or 10 lbs. of butter in a week, and some can't sell more than two. There's *no cow club* here-away; if anything falls to the cow it just comes on ourselves."

"Farmers give 6*l.* in lieu of a cow; but a cow 's much better than that, and they can all keep cows if they like."

APPENDIX D.—EVIDENCE FROM THE COUNTIES OF SELKIRK AND PEEBLES.

COUNTY OF SELKIRK.

EVIDENCE APPLICABLE TO AREAS LARGER THAN PARISHES.

IN ANSWER TO CIRCULAR QUESTIONS.

1. *Sir John Murray, Bart.*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 16 years of age. The elder boys are generally employed throughout he year; the younger ones usually attend school during winter. These are the children of parents iving on and employed on the farms."

"*Girls* are generally employed in the same way as boys, but not so young, say from 14 to 16 years of age. Their employment is hoeing turnips, harvesting, &c. During winter they are seldom employed at that age, but devote a good deal of their time to sewing and reading, and improving their education."

"There are as many *women* as men employed on a farm throughout the year, and more during part of summer."

"Labourers generally *reside on the farms*."

"Men, women, and children *work* 10 *hours a day in summer, and* 7 *or* 8 *hours a day in winter*."

"Children and females are generally *well treated*; the growing difficulty of obtaining good labourers is a sufficient protection for them. I never heard *of any physical injury arising from the nature of their employment*. They are far more robust than women employed in towns."

"On a well-conducted farm I do not see that females are injured morally by the nature of their work. There are instances where they are employed in assisting the shepherds, for example, in 'cutting' the lambs, where the work decidedly tends to injury of morals; and in cases of small farms where young men and women live in the farmhouse, and are thus thrown very much together, the result is shown to lead to immorality and illegitimacy; this is increased by the loose style of talking and want of delicacy of feeling among the labouring class, and also by the style of night courtship which is the custom of the country."

"I do not think that any legislative interference ought to be placed on the employment of females in agriculture, but if any plan could be enforced to avoid the evils pointed out in reply to question 7, it would be a great blessing."

"I would recommend nine months of school attendance during the year for children under 10 years of age, and at least four months for children between 10 and 13. Children at that age generally attend school during winter."

"Compulsory education would not in this district be disapproved of by the Scotch workpeople. Every advantage is taken by the parents of both parochial

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S.

and private schools, with very few exceptions. There are many Irish families (Roman Catholics) settled in the district who will not educate their children, and to make their education compulsory would be a blessing to the neighbourhood."

"The condition of the *cottages* is mostly good. They are not sufficient generally for the supply of labour, but are conveniently situated. They are not overcrowded, having generally three sleeping apartments besides the kitchen."

"The '*bothy system*' does not exist in the county."

"There is no other mode of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously on their morals except the objectionable mode of having young men and women living in the same house on small farms."

"Farm servants are generally allowed *the keep of a cow and pig*, and about 1,200 *yards of potato ground*."

"A great increase in cottage accommodation has been made within the last ten years, and landlords seem desirous of building all that are required for a farm."

"The expense of building by means of *loans sanctioned by the Enclosure Commissioners*, is much too great; facility should be given for obtaining money at a much less cost. The cost of inspection and production of plans, &c. adds fully 15*l.* to the cost of each cottage, a very serious addition. As to the actual cost of the buildings, little money I think can be saved."

"The building of good cottages has not been forced on the landlords in any single instance that I am aware of. On the contrary, landowners have had great difficulty in getting labourers to quit old cottages for new."

"There are half-yearly fairs where some servants are engaged, and which produce an immense amount of immorality; but a good many servants are now hired privately, and register offices are being established in most of the towns of the Border counties."

2. *Mr. H. S. Anderson*, M.D., says:

"*Boys* are employed from 11 and 12 years of age during summer."

"*Girls* are not employed so young as boys."

"*Women* (called 'bondagers') are employed to the extent of *one woman* to every ploughman."

"Labourers usually reside on the farms."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"I think the language of females employed in agriculture is generally very bad, and the employment injures their morals, and rather spoils them for domestic service."

"I think the female bondage system should, if possible, be abolished."

"The custom here is for boys to go young to service. They herd crows or keep the master's horse during the summer, and go to school during winter."

"I would make it illegal for young people to go to service till they are a certain age, say 13, excepting in summer, or till they can read, write, and do a little arithmetic."

"There are plenty of *schools* which are well attended."

"The *cottages* were at one time bad, they are now much improved; still on some farms they are too small. The Duke of Buccleuch's cottages are particularly good."

"The *bothy system* does not exist here. Some farmers keep a woman and lad in the house."

"The *bondage system* acts most injuriously on the morals of farm servants, grown up young women dressing and sleeping in the same room as young men."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"Farm servants are allowed the *keep of a cow* and *potato ground*."

"The *hill shepherds* are usually a superior class both as to education and morals, &c., they are particularly well up in theological subjects; they are much thrown on their own resources."

3. *Mr. W. Reekie*, factor to the Duke of Buccleuch, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years of age, but more during summer than winter."

"*Girls* are also employed at the same age, but not to so great an extent."

"*Women* are extensively employed."

"The hours of work are from 6 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 6 p.m. in summer, and from light to dark with one hour interval in winter."

"There is *no ill-treatment*."

"I cannot say that the employment of females in agriculture is calculated to improve their morals, but I think breaches of morals are not more numerous than in other occupations, where women are employed. Field labour is not a good training for domestic duties."

"Instead of any restriction, I should recommend that some inducement should be given to encourage females to work out, as more women would be employed with advantage. They are very difficult to get."

"The schools are well taken advantage of, especially during winter."

"The cottages are generally good, and nearly, if not altogether, sufficient for the supply of labour required. They are attached to the farms."

"We have *no bothy system*. Unmarried men and generally one woman are lodged in the farmhouse. This mode of lodging is, I think, the least injurious to their morals, but many farmers complain, and not without cause, of having field labourers in their kitchen."

"All cottages have gardens."

"Farm servants are allowed the keep of a cow, or 6*l.* in lieu, and from 500 to 1,000 yards of potatoes, for which the labourer finds the seed and labour, and the farmer the ground and manure."

In answer to the question, How do you manage without bondagers (women hired by the labourer), Mr. Reekie says:

"I engage one or two of the hinds with grown-up daughters, who agree to work out; and I have another advantage over farmers, in that I can have at any time labourers from the woods or policies on the Duke's estate." The question was suggested by the fact that the Assistant Commissioner was informed that the Duke of Buccleuch, who has 980 acres (420 arable) in his own hand under Mr. Reekie's management, objects to the *bondage system*, and the answer is suggestive of the difficulty ordinary farmers have in getting rid of the custom.

4. *Mr. R. Leitch*, bailiff to Sir John Murray, Bart., says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 16 years of age. The elder boys are generally employed throughout the year, and the younger go to school during winter."

"*Girls* are employed from 14 to 16 years of age during summer in light farm work, hoeing turnips, &c."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as men throughout the year; in summer their number exceeds that of the men."

"Labourers usually reside on the farms."

"Men, women, and children *work* 10 *hours a day in summer* and 7 *or* 8 *hours a day in winter*."

"Females and children are generally *well treated*. The scarcity of labourers is a sufficient protection for them. They immediately leave at the first term, if not well treated. There is *no physical injury* arising from their work. They are far more robust than the town population."

"I see no moral injury females can sustain from the nature of their work more than in factories, and I consider them far more suitable than factory girls or domestic servants as wives for ploughmen, but I could never recommend a married woman to work in the fields; the young women only ought to be employed, and they will be nothing the worse as ploughmen's wives."

No restriction as to the employment of females ildren in agriculture is necessary in this district."
think eight or nine months' school attendance) years of age, and three or four months up to would be a sufficient amount of education for ren of the working class."
Compulsory education in this district would not nsidered burdensome, as it is done generally voluntarily; but to meet exceptional cases it t be an advantage, and I would propose to secure an attendance as that suggested above."
The condition of the *cottages* is generally good, hey are not sufficient in number for supplying arms with a proper staff of labourers. They are rally conveniently situated, and not overcrowded, I cannot attribute any immorality to the want of ge accommodation."
The *bothy system* does not exist in this district."

"Cottages generally have *gardens*. No allotment system is carried out unless in very exceptional cases."

"A great increase in the amount of cottage accommodation has taken place during the last few years, I mean especially in the quality of cottages, but I have never known a case where the building of good cottages has been forced on the landlords by the labourers."

"One great objection to applying to the *Inclosure Commissioners* for money to build cottages is the expense of getting the money; if that could be modified I have no doubt more money would be borrowed for this purpose. If the rentcharge was extended over 40 years I have no doubt farmers with the permission of their landlords would build cottages for themselves with borrowed money."

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Ettrick.

Population, 454. - Acreage, 42,682.

The parish is chiefly hill pasture, with some arable l in the Vale of Ettrick.

. *The Rev. J. Falconer* says:
Boys are employed from 13 or 14 years of age. ey are so few in number as to be scarcely worthy notice, and they only work during summer."
Girls are rarely seen in the fields. When they so engaged it is in lifting potatoes."
Women are employed to a very limited extent, haps half a dozen work in the fields in summer."
Shepherd's wives and daughters and servants ist in haymaking and peat drying."
In suitable weather men, women, and children rk 10 hours a day. In bad weather as the weather mits."
"Children and females are subject *to no ill-treatment*."
"I am not aware of any injury done to the morals females in this parish by working in the fields or the hills at haymaking. They are engaged at use work when the weather is bad, and generally gage in the evening in some trifling domestic ity."
"I do not think any restriction as to the employment of females and children in agriculture is necessary physical grounds."
"I have some difficulty in answering the questions garding education. The schoolmaster of this parish as been removed and left the school in a very nsatisfactory state; it is at present vacant. The arents are most anxious to give their children a ood education and are very attentive in this matter. The teacher elect is bound to provide a mistress to each sewing and knitting, and these branches will e well taken advantage of also."
The cottages and cottage accommodation are generally ample and excellent; there are a few exceptions, but time is removing them."
"The *bothy system* does not exist here."
"On some farms the male servants sleep in a room r loft in the office houses. They are fed in the farmhouse and spend their time in it. I do not approve of this system."
"With one exception all married farm servants are *allowed the keep of a cow*; money as more convenient is given in the exceptional case."
"Some few cottages are deficient; these are old, and some are to be rebuilt this season or as soon as convenient for the proprietors."

"The *hill shepherds* are the most respectable and best behaved class of men to be met with; their employers place great confidence in them, and generally retain their sons to succeed to the father's employment. They read to a considerable extent *and* are very intelligent."

"A pretty fair number of families have *family worship*, especially on Sunday. The expression they use is "takin the books." The Cameronians have family worship, but they are a small section."

"We have *no evening school*, and none is necessary when the day school is well taught. To give a return of our school at present would give no idea of the state of education amongst the inhabitants; both shepherds and farmers board their children out of the parish for the sake of education."

6. The statistical account of this parish published by Her Majesty's Commissioners, says:
"There are four points in the parish where the inhabitants are too distant from the parish school, but they are within convenient distance from other schools in adjacent parishes."

7. *Mr. Henry Scott*, landowner and occupier, says:
"*Boys* are engaged from 12 to 17 years of age from May till November."
"*Girls* are not much employed, but when they are it is from 14 to 18 years of age in hoeing turnips, making hay, and harvest work, &c."
"*Women* are employed to the extent of one to three men."
"Labourers all live on the farms either in their own cottages or boarded in the farmhouse."
"From females being employed promiscuously with males in the fields, their morals are to a certain degree more exposed than those of house servants, and from want of experience in the culinary art they do not make such good wives."
"I do not see *that any restriction as to the employment of women and children is necessary* in this pastoral district. The parents of the working class generally show great anxiety to have their children well educated. Some of the children walk from 3 to 8 miles a day to school."
"The *cottages* have been much improved within the last 20 years. Formerly they were much overcrowded, and the evil result to morality was great."
"Shepherds and hinds are allowed the keep of a cow, and if they have no gardens they are allowed potato ground."
"There are a few deficient cottages, but these are being yearly taken down and more commodious ones built."

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s.

KIRKHOPE.

Population, 555. - Acreage, 22,972.

Chiefly pastoral.

8. *The Rev. J. S. Gibson* says:

"*Boys* and *girls* over 13 years of age are employed for about six weeks in summer hoeing turnips and harvesting."

"*A few women* are employed for six weeks in summer, and also a few are employed from June to November inclusive."

"Children and women never go more than a mile to their work, and generally much within that distance."

"*No restriction* as to the employment of females and children in agriculture is needed, no child under 13 being employed."

"There is a *parish school, two side schools, and a Sunday school* provided for the working class. Universally and uniformly they avail themselves of these means of education. Only two families of the labouring class have, during the last 20 years, partially neglected the education of their children."

"Many of the *cottages* are most excellent, a few are indifferent, but these are yearly disappearing. They are conveniently situated and are not overcrowded."

9. *William Beattie, shepherd* (after giving evidence on wages, see No. 21), says:

"I don't think there is any grown up person in the parish who can't read and write."

"The *houses* in this parish are mostly good. They were very bad not many years ago."

"I think *family worship* every night is not an uncommon thing amongst the shepherds' families, but I can't well say."

Note.—Beattie's cottage, like many of those on the Duke of Buccleuch's estate, is like a little shooting box, with plenty of accommodation for a large family.—G. C.

ROBERTON.

Population, 640. - Acreage, 29,666.

This parish, part of which is in Roxburghshire, is chiefly pastoral.

10. *The Rev. C. K. Greenhill* says:

"*Boys* from 12 years old and upwards are employed as cowherds during summer only. Sometimes at 14 they get a lesson in 'singling' turnips. This is a kindness to them rather than a profit to the farmer."

"*Girls* from 15 years of age are in a few cases put in charge of cows in the stall to see that they are properly littered and kept clean."

"*Women* are employed in the usual farm work, but it is light in this parish."

"All labourers as a rule reside on the farms. Sometimes, however, the young ones who come from other places, to herd cows, &c., get their food in the farmer's kitchen, and sleep in comfortable quarters, generally above the stable."

"Some of the farmers demand 9, *some* 10 *hours daily work* from their labourers. There are no fixed hours during summer on some farms. If the weather is fine they will work on until late in the evening, and in winter they are not sent out in bad weather."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment* in this parish. I have known girls hiring themselves (at an age when they would have been better with their mothers) out of the parish, return with broken health."

"I believe that in many cases where no proper care is taken to oversee the young people engaged in field work, very demoralizing conversation prevails."

"I do not think any legislative interference is necessary in this parish. Allow me to call to your attention this fact which ought to be well considered in any legislation on the subject—that the wages of farm servants are not what they ought to be as a general rule. A man with a large family is sorely tempted in some cases, compelled by the burden of maintaining a numerous offspring, to make a profit by his children's labour as soon as he can get them employed, and to forego the advantages of education to get them bread. I do not blame the farmers for this, for every advantage gained by them, in the way of increased profits from better modes of farming or higher prices, leads to a rise of rent, and the screw which pinches the labourer is thus turned by both tenant and landlord. I cannot pretend to say where the evil has its root, but these things should be kept in view, and in the proposal to compel school attendance, the pinched circumstances of the farm servant should not be forgotten."

"I do not think any of the modes adopted under the Factory Acts for compelling education would be of use here. If any compulsory means were to be adopted applicable to our rural district, it might be advisable to consider, if it could not be made imperative, that all boys and girls who leave school at 12 years of age shall return to school for a whole year at the age of 15 or 16. This would be a great matter for them."

"The means of education are excellent, and are much prized. I should like to see more boys and girls further advanced in age at school, but from reasons already stated one cannot be surprised that they are taken early from school, and in most cases they can hardly be blamed."

"The *cottages* have been much improved with respect to accommodation. There are one or two old cottages which should be renewed, but the present occupants, from their circumstances, have room enough."

"There are *no bothies*, nor any mode of lodging farm servants that acts injuriously on the morals, so far as I am aware."

"Farm servants have a cow allowed as part of their wages. When the cottage is near the farmhouse the servant's cow stands with his master's, and goes to pasture with them. When the cottage is detached as in the case of shepherds and men employed on stock farms to keep the drains right, a cowhouse is built near the cottage. Potatoes are planted for servants, but since the 'blight' money is sometimes given and preferred."

"There is *no evening school*, and could not well be from the nature of the occupation of farm servants combined with the distances they would have to come."

Character of hill shepherds.

"I would characterize the hill shepherds as being among the most shrewd and intelligent men in the country. I can testify to their sobriety and the responsibility laid upon many of them, and the honourable way in which, for the most part, they fulfil their trust is highly praiseworthy. Some of them write business letters which, for style and penmanship could not be surpassed. There are of course exceptions, but as a whole I should say the shepherds in the south of Scotland are a very superior class of men."

SELKIRK.

Population, 4,739. - Acreage, 22,873.

A good deal of hill pasture, and some tolerably large arable farms.

11. *Mr. Wm. Fletcher*, occupier, says:

"*Girls* are employed from 16 years of age and upwards in haymaking, hoeing turnips, and harvesting. In winter they assist in thrashing corn, &c."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as men."

"Men and women work 10 hours a day in summer and 8 hours in winter."

"I think females employed in agriculture generally make more frugal and peaceable wives than those brought up in factories for instance."

I have never seen any bad effects arise from ls being early trained to agriculture. I would mend that young females should be encouraged gage in agriculture in preference to factory yment."

think agricultural labourers might be more d to send their children to school, say from 13 years of age, if the school expenses were paid e following proportion, one-third by the pro- ors, one-third by the tenants, and the remaining by the parents."

he *cottages* are generally in good condition; new ones are built they are of a very com- ous form."

think there *is a deficiency of cottage accommo- n*, which may prevent the increase of agricul- labour. *No increase of cottages is being made.*"

Farm servants are allowed the keep of a cow and o land in addition to their gardens."

2. *Mr. John Lee*, occupier, says:

Boys are employed from 14 to 16 years of age ly during summer."

Girls are seldom or never employed before 12 s of age, and are then employed in light work in summer."

Women are employed to the extent of one to two ."

I believe field work to be *conducive to the health emales*, as their appearance testifies. If the ter, and more especially his steward (as coming e in contact with them), were to discountenance prohibit, as far as lies in his power, all indelicate ds and actions among his workers, there is nothing he work itself which tends in any way to in- ously affect the morals of any females employed eld work."

I do not consider any restriction as to the em- ment of women and children in agriculture essary. Very few children are sent to work ler 12 years of age, and full-grown females are scarcely to be had either to work in the fields or domestic service. If there *is an evil*, it is fast ing itself in this district, at any rate."

The *cottages* are in general good, but they are sufficient for the supply of labour required. In t cases they are conveniently situated. They are overcrowded."

There are only two modes of lodging farm ser- its in this district, namely, in the farm kitchen and he houses of married ploughmen; and if one of se systems is worse than another it is the farm chen, but when the party lodged in the plough- n's house is not his own son or daughter the ference is not great, neither being good."

Married ploughmen in general are *allowed the p of a cow*, or the milk of one of their employer's vs, and quarter acre of *potato ground*."

13. *Mrs. Linton*, wife of hind, says:

"We a' hae coos here, and the maister's rale gude the kye. When a maister's gude to the kye he's de to his servants. Some coos is no worth much, a good ane's worth a' ten pounds more some them when they're well keepit. We came here m Midlothian, where the coos is no so well keept. ey only gave us caff (chaff), and straw in winter, d here we get turnips and cake (oilcake), or both, d a better pasture in summer. Some people mers) gives 7*l.*, and some as high as 10*l.*, instead the coo, but it's no a gude job for a family to want coo, they're just the mainstay o' us poor folk, and s easy to see the difference; where the children t their milk they look kind o' robust like beside m that does'nt."

14. *Hugh Borthwick*, shepherd (after giving evi- nce on wages, &c., see No. 26), says:

"Very few of the shepherds' children have now ore than three miles to go to school. Up in Yarrow d Ettrick the shepherds have a custom of keeping young lad or old man who is good for nothing else s a tutor for the children. The tutor boards week about with may be five or six shepherds' families, and teaches the children. They choose as much as they can a centrical house, and as the shepherd's children can stay longer at school than other labourers, they get on pretty well. I have had 10 of a family, and with such a family I found it necessary to let some of the elder ones work out in summer when they were 11 years old. I left school myself when I was 11, and I have since written several essays on agricultural subjects. I never neighboured a Scotch family where the children could'nt read and write. I think that if the children could be kept at school regularly till they were 10 or 11, and get four months schooling after till they were 13 or 14, it would be first-rate. They would get schooling enough, and be able to help their parents in summer."

YARROW.

Population, 643. - Acreage, 41,859.

Chiefly hill pasture, hill farms having from 70 to 150 acres of arable land attached to them.

15. *The Rev. Thos. McCrindle*, Free Church minister, says:

"*Boys* are employed generally to take charge of a harness horse, or to do some necessary work about the farmhouses."

"*Girls* are mostly employed in helping with the cows about farmhouses or in some like work, or in helping the shepherds' wives in their cottages.

"*One woman, or in some farmhouses two*, as they are needed, are employed with cattle, or in the fields in the summer, in weeding potatoes or thinning turnips."

"Labourers usually reside on the farms where they are employed, or a very short distance from them.

"All work from nine to ten hours a day."

"*I do not think it desirable* to place any restriction on the employment of children or females in agriculture."

"There is a *parish school and other schools* at tolerably convenient distances; these are all taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are almost without exception good, even superior; they are sufficient for the supply of labour, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

16. *Mr. Andrew Potts*, occupier of 3,000 acres, of which 500 are arable, says:

"*Boys and girls* are employed from 10 years old and upwards; all below 14 years of age are only employed in turnip culture, during July and August."

"*Women* are now very difficult to obtain for agricultural employment; their work consists in turnip culture, haymaking, harvest work, and occasionally reaping with a hook, but more generally lifting sheaves after scythemen and reaping machines; they also take care of cattle in winter."

"Labourers go from half a mile to one mile, and sometimes two miles to their work, according to the distance the fields are from their cottages."

"I do not think that agricultural labour has any degrading effect on females, but the whole labouring class are very lax in their morals, and this is very much caused by want of proper moral training when young; their training for domestic duties is also very much neglected.

"I do not think any restriction as to the employment of females and children in agriculture necessary."

"The *cottages* in this neighbourhood are good and commodious; they are generally sufficient for the labour, except during turnip working and harvest. The accommodation is not generally deficient, but where it is so little progress is being made towards remedying it.

"The cost of building cottages is now so great that farmers having to pay the interest will rather submit to considerable inconvenience than incur that expense.

Selkirk.

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S.

As a note to his *labour return* Mr. Potts says:—
"In addition to the labourers returned as employed
"in summer and autumn, there are usually some
"boys and girls employed in turnip culture, and
"some Irishmen during turnip thinning and harvest,
"the numbers varying with the exigencies of the
"season."

17. *Mr. R. Laidlaw*, occupier, says:

"Few *boys* are employed under 14 years of age; a few are employed about the beginning of April for attending to lambing sheep; during summer they hoe turnips, make hay, and do harvest work, and they store turnips up to the end of the year."

"Few *girls* are employed, except during harvest."

"One *woman* is generally kept for each pair of horses to work on the arable land."

"Out-workers are generally in the farmhouse after 6 p.m., when they assist the house servants with any work which may be going on. They are also frequently brought into the house to assist on any busy day, and if they please and stay in their place for a year or so they often get into work in the farmhouse, or are drafted off to supply Selkirk and neighbouring towns."

"I do not think any restriction as to the employment of females and children in agriculture is necessary."

"Hinds' children in general receive a good education; the parish and Free Church ministers have been left legacies amounting to nearly 500*l.*, the interest of which has to be applied to the education of the poor. The children educated by these means are drafted off as labourers, or enter trades in the neighbouring towns."

"We have a first-class parish *schoolmaster* and *school*, also *two side schools* in connexion with the parish school, both taught by good masters. These schools are well attended, most of the children getting a fair and some of them a capital education. At the examination by the Government inspector last year only two children failed out of a school of 60."

"The *cottages* are good; they have a kitchen and room and milk-house downstairs, and garret upstairs, which is generally divided into two rooms. They are usually within 200 yards of the farm steading, and are large enough for most families."

"All farm servants are *allowed the keep of a cow*, and in some cases also a *pig and a few beans*. They have 1,000 *yards of potato ground*.

"The Duke of Buccleuch has built *first-class* houses on his estate. He is the principal proprietor in the parish."

18. Evidence of *James Coultherd*, shepherd, 47 years on the same farm:—

"Shepherds are paid mostly in sheep, but some masters have lately taken to pay in money, thinking no doubt, that the shepherds were getting too much since sheep have gone up in value. I think it's a bad policy, for if the herds are doing weel the master man be doing better, and if sheep turned waur (worse or lower in price) may be these same masters would want to go back to the sheep wage. A shepherd is to look after a hirsel of 25 to 40 score, according to the lie of the land. If more sheep are kept in the hirsel a helper is allowed. Thirty score is enough for a man to look after as they ought to be. A shepherd has a 'pack' (flock of his own) of from 45 to 50 sheep (say out of 45, 37 ewes and 8 ewe hoggs), and they may be worth from 8*s.* to 10*s.* a head. He has besides a cow and 65 stones of oatmeal, a free house and garden, about 1,000 yards of potatoes planted for him, he finding the seed, and about four tons of coals at the hill (pit mouth) price, or as many peats as he likes led free. You may say that for every 30 score of sheep a master has, the shepherd has 50 sheep, and if he has 30 score he should have a bit help for three weeks in lambing time."

"The schools are very thickly planted hereaway, they're not so bad to get at as they used to be, but I don't think there's any such thing as an uneducated child hereaway, unless it be some foreigner comes in. I dinna ken, however, if it's a' for gude the education; the mair education a hantle (a number of us is getting, I think we're getting a heap the waur (a good deal worse); it makes a hantle o' them cleverer for mischief; there wasn't half the mischief wrought about Yarrow in my young days."

"We ken nothing about cow clubs here; if death happens a poor shepherd's cow we get up a subscription to buy him a bit beast."

EVIDENCE ON THE MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Ashkirk.

19. *Mr. P. Lang*, W. S. and Sheriff's Clerk, of the County of Selkirk, gives the following memorandum of the wages paid to the hired servants on Sinton farm:—

		£	s.	d.
1. *Grieve.*—Cash: Money wage		20		
Allowance for a sheep		2		
For feeding cattle		4		
For "bondager"		2		
		£28.		
Gains: Meal, 3 loads and 5 stones.				
Cow's keep.				
700 yards of potatoes.				
Coals, 60 cwts. at pit price.				
A day's carting of peats.				
2. 1*st Ploughman.*—Cash		19	0	0
Gains, same as Grieve.				
3. 2*nd Ploughman.*—Cash: Money wage		36	1	6
Allowance in lieu of potatoes and pig		3	0	0
		£39	1	6
4. 3*rd Ploughman.*—Cash		36	0	0
5. *Odd Hand.*—Cash		32	0	0
6. *Shepherd.*—Cash		36	0	0
Meal, 3 loads and 5 stones.				
Potatoes, 700 yards.				
Coals, 60 cwts. at pit price.				

All the above, except No. 5, have a free house and garden; Nos. 1, 2, and 6 are married; the others single.

Ettrick.

20. *Mr. Henry Scott*, landowner and occupier, says:

"When not engaged privately labourers are hired at the district fairs."

"*Lads* get 8*l.* to 16*l.*, according to ability, with their board; and *women*, 10*l.* to 12*l.* and board."

"*Shepherds* in this parish generally have a 'part' of sheep kept on the farm; 40 or 45 is a common number, besides allowances of three loads of oatmeal, one load of barley meal, and 500 or 600 yards of potatoes."

"*Hinds* get from 16*l.* to 18*l.* a year, and the same allowances of meal and potatoes as shepherds."

KIRKHOPE.

William Beattie, shepherd, says:
hill shepherd has—
'pack' of 45 or 46 sheep, say 36 ewes and the
oung sheep, worth, say, 12*s.* to 14*s.* apiece
ad."
ree loads (20 stones each) of oatmeal."
cow's keep."
00 yards of potatoes (the shepherd finding
free house and garden."
o tons (or where they have no peats four
coal free."
or 6*l.* is sometimes given in lieu of the cow,
e cow is worth a great deal more than that."
ricultural labourers get nearly one-third
han they did 20 years ago. They had about
money then, now they have 16*l.* to 18*l.*"
young man kept in his master's house gets 20*l.*
men generally sleep in the stable loft, there's
ily a bit room made off the loft for them."
omen can scarcely be got now for farm work;
the last 15 or 20 years their wages have risen
5*l.* to 8*l.* or 9*l.* for the summer half-year."

ROBERTON.

The Rev. C. K. Greenhill says:
he usual way of paying farm servants is—
o much money, average, say, 16*l.*"
cow's keep reckoned at 5*l.*"
o many bolls of oat and barley meal."
Where the wage is paid wholly in money they
from 14*s.* to 16*s.* a week."
nder this head I would call attention to the
ent of *female workers* on farms. Owing to the
ty of occasional female workers, the ploughman
nd to keep what is called a 'bondager.' This
oman hired by the ploughman, and kept in his
y. She is thus the ploughman's servant, but
be always ready to work at the call of the
r. In some, I believe in many, cases the farmer
not bind himself to give constant work, and if
a hard man, or has a grasping steward, he
cause the ploughman to suffer loss. When the
an worker is independent, *i.e.*, living by herself,
ith her aged parents, she may herself suffer
the same causes, as she cannot offer her services
nyone else without the master's permission. I
one case in my eye where the system puts it in
ower of a greedy steward to grind the female
ers. These women only get 1*s.* a day, and it
be in some cases 10*d.* The ploughman may
to give the woman 7*l.* for the summer half-year,
les keeping her, and so suffer 2*l.* or 3*l.* loss,
des having his family privacy invaded."

SELKIRK.

3. *Mr. W. Reekie*, factor to the Duke of Buccleuch,
:
Married ploughmen and shepherds are hired at
spring fairs held annually, and on this farm are
almost wholly in money. Women and boys
very frequently engaged for six months only,
are paid almost wholly in money."
Hinds have—
13*s.* 6*d.* a week, paid monthly.
20*s.* for extra work in harvest.
400 yards of potatoes.
Cottage and garden free."
Shepherds have—
13*s.* 6*d.* a week, paid monthly.
A cow's keep, for which they pay a nominal
sum of 30*s.*, or 6*l.* in lieu.
One fat sheep per annum.
A cottage and garden free."
Women have 15*d.* a day for three-quarters of the
r, and 1*s.* for the winter quarter, except during
vest, when they receive the current wage of the
on, usually 20*s.* a week without food."
Boys have from 10*d.* to 15*d.* a day."

SELKIRK.

Selkirk.

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s.

24. *Mr. Wm. Fletcher*, occupier, says:
"*Married labourers*, paid partly in money and partly in kind, are hired by the year."
"*Unmarried men* are paid in money."
"*Shepherds*, in addition to other allowances, such as cottage, cow's keep, potato ground, &c., have a certain number of sheep kept with their masters."
"The wages of a *married man*, consisting of meal, corn, cow's keep, potato ground, free cottage, and money, will amount to from 38*l.* to 40*l.* a year."
"*Single men*, without a cottage, have about 36*l.* in money."
"*Women*, when hired by the half year, have, with their board, 7*l.* 10*s.* and 4*l.* 10*s.* for the summer and winter half-years. Working by the day women get 1½*d.* per hour."

25. *Mr. John Lee*, occupier, says:
"*Shepherd's* wages in this district are worth from 40*l.* to 50*l.*, generally made up from so many sheep grazed with his master's. Cash payments are becoming more common. I pay my shepherd 48*l.*, and he has two sheep equal to 2*l.* more, in all 50*l.*"
"A *Hind* has—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash - - -	18	0	0
Cow's keep - -	6	0	0
1,200 yards of potatoes -	5	0	0
65 stones oatmeal - -	6	0	0
A month's food in harvest	1	0	0
Cottage and garden -	3	0	0
Coals at pit price (carriage) as many as they require -	1	0	0
	£40	0	0

"*Female workers* when engaged by the farmer have their board in his kitchen, and from 7*l.* to 10*l.* for the summer half-year, and from 4*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* for the winter half. When engaged by the hind, or belonging to his family, they are paid by the day, 14*d.* a day in summer, and 12*d.* in winter, with food and double wages in harvest, or say from 16*s.* to 20*s.* a week during harvest."
"Servants are hired privately, if possible, but often at the markets."

26. *Hugh Borthwick*, shepherd, says:
"Women's wages here are very high; they all flock into the mills (tweed cloth mills). Some get as high as 10*l.* and their board for the summer half-year. Up the Tweed, in Peeblesshire, you could get as many as you like for 6*l.*"
"*Lowland shepherds* have a few sheep and more money than hill shepherds. The *hill shepherds* have from 40 to 46 sheep (about nine hoggets and the rest ewes). The value of the sheep varies very much (I sold my top three-part-bred lambs one year at 30*s.* a head, and the next year at 17*s.*), but you may take the average value of a cheviot 'pack' at from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a ewe. Farmers take their farms at about 10*s.* a ewe."
"*Hinds* here have—
A free house;
Cow's keep;
1,000 to 1,400 yards of potatoes;
Two tons of coal free, and the carriage of a ton or two more if they use them;
Three loads (65 stone) of oatmeal;
18*l.* to 20*l.* in money.
"A good cow, fed along with the master's, as they generally are, is worth 10*l.* or 12*l.* to a man; even where they can't sell anything they are worth 10*l.* to a large family."

YARROW.

27. *Mr. A. Potts*, occupier, says:
"*Mode of Hiring and manner of Paying.*—Servants, both male and female, are generally hired at fairs in the district. The males are all paid in money

Selkirk.
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and kind, with the exception of young ploughmen and boys, who are generally paid in money and live in the farmhouse, and in the case of double hinds, one of whom usually has a money wage, and the other money and kind. Female servants are all paid in money."

"Average value of the earnings for 12 months :—
The ploughman from 35*l.* to 40*l.*
Labourers from 36*l.* to 39*l.*

"Ploughmen's wages in this district are generally paid as follows :—
Money, 16*l.* or 17*l.*
Cow kept, or cow's milk given, or occasionally an allowance of 6*l.* to 8*l.*
1,200 yards of potatoes planted ; the seed supplied by the man.
65 stones oatmeal.
A month's food in harvest, or an allowance of 1*l.*
Free house and garden.
Sometimes two tons of coals free ; in other cases the master supplies the coals required at price charged at the pit.

"The *Shepherd in charge of cheviot sheep* has—
47 sheep kept along with the farmer's.
A cow kept.
1,200 yards of potatoes.
65 stones of oatmeal.
Free house and garden.
Coals same as ploughmen.

"The average income of two hill shepherds on farm for the last 10 years has been 33*l.* 5*s.* exclusive of cow, meal, potatoes, house, and coals.

"The *Shepherd who looks after the lambs* sheep has a money wage of 30*l.*, instead of with the same allowances in other respects ploughmen."

28. *Mr. Robt. Laidlaw*, occupier, says :

"*Married men* are mostly hired for the year, *single men and women* by the half-year."

"*Hinds* generally get—
In money, 17*l.* to 20*l.*
Three loads of oatmeal.
1,000 yards of potatoes.
A cow's keep.
Leave to keep a pig.
Cartage from station of four tons of coal.
Free house and garden.

"*Female workers* get from 11*l.* to 14*l.* per annum with board and washing."

"*Young men* get from 15*l.* to 20*l.*, with board."

"*Children* from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a day, without board."

COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

Peebles.
Mr. Culley.

IN ANSWER TO CIRCULAR QUESTIONS.

29. *Mr. J. White*, landowner and convener of the county, says :

"Few *boys* are employed under 14 years of age ; after that age they are employed throughout the year."

"*Girls* are not extensively employed in field labour till they are 16 years of age ; under that age from 13 to 14 they are employed as indoor servants, assisting to look after children and in light work about the farm offices."

"*Women* are much employed in outdoor work, such as singling turnips, hoeing and gathering weeds, harvesting hay and corn, lifting potatoes and turnips and attending to cattle in winter."

"Judging from the practice of this county I do not think any restrictions on field labour are necessary."

"Parish, and what we call side schools, are liberally provided for the children of the labouring classes. I think the agricultural labouring class are generally attentive to the education of their children."

"The *cottages* in my neighbourhood are in good fair condition, sufficient in number for the labour required, and conveniently situated."

"Small *gardens* are generally attached to the cottages, in some instances of sufficient size, while others I think more ground would be desirable."

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Broughton.

Population, 723. - Acreage, 18,121.

The above acreage and population includes the united parishes of Broughton, Glenholm, and Kilbucho. There is a large extent of hill pasture and some arable land in five course rotation, extended to six or seven years, by leaving the clover grass three or four years instead of two."

30. *The Rev. A. T. Cosens* says :

"*Boys* are employed on every farm throughout the year, and sometimes more are employed during the summer months. These have always to do easy work. It is very seldom that their age is under 12."

"*Girls* are not employed."

"On every farm there are two or three *female outworkers*."

"The hours of work are from 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 p.m., with an interval of two hours for breakfast and dinner, for all classes of labourers.

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"The effect of the employment of females in agriculture is, it seems to me, hurtful to their moral and proper training for domestic duties."

"In regard to this parish I do not think that any benefit could result from restricting the employment of females in agriculture. They are well treated, in general reside in the farmhouse, and very many of the female population prefer field labour, as higher wages are obtained for it than for household work."

Education, &c.

"It is seldom that children here under 12 years of age are taken from school ; sometimes boys employed during summer, return to school during the winter months."

"There are three parochial schools and a private school ; these are attended chiefly by children of the agricultural class, who seem to desire for their children a good education. So far as I can recollect, I do not remember any young persons not at work who are able to go to either. During the winter months the schoolmaster of Broughton holds an evening class, which is well attended chiefly by young farm servants."

Cottages.

n general the cottages are good, suitable for the ants, and conveniently situated. Within these ight years commodious and neat cottages have erected in this parish, especially on the estate . Tweedie, Esq., of Quarter."

ery many of the cottages have *gardens*, and such are wanting it is rarely that the labourer ot a small piece of land for vegetables."

Married farm servants are allowed for their use to keep a cow, which grazes with the cow e farmer. If they have not a cow they obtain y quantity of milk from the farmhouse. At four bolls of potatoes are included in the yearly s of every farm servant."

Mr. R. Ritchie, occupier, says:

do not employ any *boys* on this farm under ars of age, which is the rule generally in the h, with the exception of one or two boys, from 14 years of age, employed in herding cattle."

No girls are employed under 14 or 15 years of except one or two in the parish who herd cattle."

There are about 15 women in the parish em- ed in agriculture." (Broughton alone contains 0 acres, of which 2,855 are pasture.)

Women and children generally reside as hired ants on the different farms, except two or three en in the village who occasionally go to work above one mile distant."

All labourers work 10 hours a day."

I do not consider that it is hurtful to the morals males to be employed in agriculture, and they exposed to no physical injury."

The *cottages* are in good condition, and are not crowded; but there are too few houses in the sh to contain a sufficient number of labourers for work required."

There are no *bothies* in the parish, except in vest and turnip thinning, when Irishmen are en- ed. There is no other mode of lodging farm ants, except in the farmhouses, and a few in r own houses."

The shepherds and married ploughmen have ost all *cows*, and receive about *one ton of potatoes*."

EDDLESTONE.

Population, 753. - Acreage, 18,590.
Cultivation, mixed. Chiefly pastoral.

32. *The Rev. A. J. Murray* says:

"*Boys* are employed at about 14 years of age; y herd cattle, and in summer do light work, hoe nips, and work during harvest."

"*Girls* are less employed than boys. At about or 15 years of age they do light work, such as eing turnips."

"On every farm there are one or two *women* ployed constantly in outdoor work during summer, d a good many are employed during harvest."

"Labourers do not go to their work beyond the unds of the farms on which they live."

"Men and women work 10 hours a day in summer, d from dawn till dusk in winter. Children work om 8 to 10 hours a day."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"From being constantly in the company of the ther sex, the tone of the female character is lowered. his is felt to be the case by the agricultural class hemselves, hence they prefer that their daughters ould take household service."

"The females who are employed in agriculture are uch as have no ambition to enter better service, and he employment of children is not to such an undue xtent as to call for restriction."

Schools, &c.

"The children who are employed in agriculture are all at school for some time during the year, there may be 12 so employed, and of these eight will be at school for nine months, and four for six months. The only means of education provided are the parish school and the Sunday school, which are well attended. The parochial teacher occasionally has evening classes for teaching the three R's during the winter months, which are attended solely by young men. I should say there are not a dozen children neither at school nor at work who should be at either."

"The *condition of the cottages* is good, and sufficient for the supply of the labour required. With one or two exceptions they are not overcrowded, but I expect these will cease to be exceptions immediately."

"The *bothy system* does not exist in this parish. Any farm labourers who have not cottages of their own are lodged with cottagers who can accommodate them. The common sitting-room for male and female servants who are not lodged in cottages is the farm kitchen. Such association is unhealthy (morally speaking)."

"Almost all the cottages have gardens."

"Many farm servants, but only those having cottages, have the *keep of a cow allowed, potato ground*, and *so much oatmeal*. All who have not such privileges receive larger wages in money."

33. [Notes: One estate in Eddlestone parish is very badly supplied with cottages. On another estate which is much better supplied, on a farm (Milkiston) which has six cottages, the tenant has 10 persons to supply with food in his own kitchen, and is very short of female workers. Boys and Irishmen are employed in thinning turnips, and sleep in barns, getting porridge and milk from the farmer. More land is brought into cultivation on the steep hill sides to improve the grass, and at the same time both the native and Irish supply of labour is said to be failing. Reaping machines have so shortened the harvest in the neighbouring counties of Roxburgh and Berwick, that the Irish don't care to come, or perhaps the supply of Irish willing to emigrate to England as field labourers in summer and autumn is itself failing. —G. C.]

INNERLEITHEN.

Population, 1,823. - Acreage, 24,122.
Cultivation mixed.

34. *Mr. W. Chambers*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* from 12 to 16 years of age are employed in agriculture, *females* from 18 to 30 years of age."

"The hours of work are 10 in summer and eight in winter."

"There is no ill-treatment."

"It may not be a good thing for women to be employed in the fields, but what else are they to do, for the few so employed here I see no other available occupation. The employment of children, under a certain age, in field labour might very properly be checked, but I would recommend great caution in legislating as to the employment of women. At present there is a growing scarcity of both male and female labour for rural occupations. My impression is that things are tending in Scotland towards the importation of Chinese coolies as labourers for field and rough outdoor work."

"The children of farm labourers are all sent regularly to school."

"The *cottages* here are excellent, and we have no bothies."

35. *Mr. Jas. Tod*, occupier, gives evidence exactly similar to that given by Mr. Chambers, with the exception of the paragraph anticipating the necessity of importing foreign labour, like Mr. Chambers, he says, "If women are not to be employed in farm labour, "what are they to do?"

36. *Mr. John Todd*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 10 years of age, and then only as cowherds or attending sheep during the summer."

"As a rule *girls* are not employed."

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s.

"*Women* are employed during summer in weeding, haymaking, and harvesting, and in winter they attend to the byres and barns."

"The *morals* of females ought not to be and are not exposed to any bad effect when employed in agriculture, more than in any other mingling of males and females. In agriculture, as in all other employments, much depends on their having been brought up under a good example. I believe their training is such as fits them for wives of labourers."

"I do not think that children under 10 years ought to be employed either on farms or in factories."

"The principles of the Factory Act cannot under any modification be adopted in reference to children employed in agriculture. Children from 10 to 15 are seldom put to work that is too heavy for them."

"No mode of half-day or half-week education would suit the requirements of agriculture; there are few children in this parish above 10 years of age who cannot partly read and write; there may be some, perhaps, it would be well to compel children when applying for work, to bring a certificate of age from the registrar, and one from the schoolmaster of proficiency in reading, &c., this last might have a good effect upon both parents and children, and not cost anything, as both registrar and schoolmaster are paid by the public."

"The *means of education are well provided for* in this parish, of which advantage is very generally taken by the labouring class. This being a manufacturing district, the anxiety of parents to put their children to work is, perhaps, the only cause why they are not better educated. Where parents are indifferent as to the education of their children there ought to be some mode of dealing with them."

"The *cottages*, with few exceptions, are sufficient and commodious."

Linton.

Population, 1,534. - Acreage, 23,420.

Cultivation mixed, chiefly pastoral.

37. *The Rev. G. Gibson Gunn* says:

"*Boys* are employed from 10 to 14 years of age from May onwards during summer."

"*Girls* are not so much employed as boys, and are of an older age when employed; they weed, clean turnips, &c."

"*Women* are very generally employed in the turnip and potato fields, and in binding, &c. in harvest."

"Labourers work on the farms where they live, or, if they live in either of the villages near, they have not beyond a mile to go to work."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"I believe field work tends to *destroy morality* very much, and I ascribe to this, in a great measure, the prevalence of illegitimacy in many of the rural districts of the county. It also operates very injuriously on their fitness for *domestic duties*, as they become used to slovenly habits of dress, &c. in the field work, which often clings to them through life."

"I would have no boys employed till they are 14 years old; I would have *no girls employed*, and where women are employed I would make it compulsory that there be no male workers in the same field at the same time, having only one married man to superintend the women when at work."

Educational Restrictions.

"I think school attendance for a certain number of hours during the previous six months is the most preferable mode of the three named."

"We have *good schools and good teachers*. Advantage is generally taken of the opportunities of education, except by the lowest class in the villages, who in all points seem almost incorrigible."

"The older *cottages* are certainly deficient in accommodation, but new ones are being erected, gradually, of a satisfactory character."

"The *bothy system* can scarcely be said to exi at all in this parish."

"In the case where young lads have to sleep in sort of room above the stable, being out of mast reach, they slip out at nights and form bad compan ships unknown to their masters."

"Almost all the cottages have small *gardens*."

Newlands.

Population, 987. - Acreage, 12,453.

Cultivation mixed, chiefly pastoral.

38. *Mr. Jas. Murray*, landowner and occup says:

"Labourers for the most part live on the far where they work."

"Men, women, and children *work* 10 *hours* a d in summer and eight hours in winter."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-tre ment*."

"I think *no restriction* is necessary as to the e ployment of women and children in agriculture."

"There are *two parish schools* taken advantage to a considerable extent."

"The *cottages* are generally very fair in conditio and they are sufficient for the supply of labour require Very little overcrowding takes place, except in Irish household or two."

"The *bothy system* does not exist."

"The fact of young men sleeping in stable lof has not a very good tendency."

"All farm servants have *gardens* of some sort."

"The allowing farm servants the keep of a cow exceptional, not quite rare. All farm servants g potato ground (generally 1,000 yards of a drill)."

Peebles.

Population, 2,850. - Acreage, 16,685.

Cultivation mixed, arable land in 5 course rotatio

39. *Mr. A. Buchan*, land agent, &c., says:

"A few *boys* are employed for herding cows fro 9 to 10 years of age during summer, but only in ra circumstances as the land is generally fenced. A boys who work out from 12 to 14 years of age a employed in singling turnips, hoeing potatoes, cutting thistles."

"*Girls* are not employed to my knowledge."

"*Women* are not employed to one-half the exte they once were, they mostly work in manufactori where they are employed all the year. Their place supplied in agriculture by young Irishmen who co over and work during summer and go home autumn."

"The hours of work of labourers are from 6 to a.m. and from 1 to 6 p.m."

"I do *not think any restriction as to the emplo ment of females and children in agriculture necessary*."

Schools, &c.

"There are plenty of means of education provid for the children of agricultural labourers, those wi wish to do so take advantage of them, and I must s they are generally taken advantage of except children of parents in the town who live by fishing a poaching and who are trained up neither to fear G nor regard man. If there was some law made to e force education it would be beneficial to this class; cannot say I am prepared to give any suggestion to the best means of enforcing education, only I this length, rather give no education than not religious one."

"Great improvements have taken place as to t *condition of cottages* on many estates."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"Some farmers *allow the keep of a cow*, others not."

. *Mr. Geo. Forest*, occupier, says:
Boys and girls are seldom or never employed
r 13 years of age, unless for a week or two during
est in making bands."
Unmarried women are employed to a considerable
nt, they are hired half-yearly for outdoor work,
are kept and sleep in the farmhouse."
If we could possibly do without females for out-
work it would add greatly to their morals.
e is a great demand for females to do field work,
many prefer it to any other kind of employment.
s are high for females, and I could *not recommend
ny restriction* should be placed on their employ-
in agriculture unless some new field of labour
provided."

Schools.

I do not think it is necessary to enforce school
dance in the parish or neighbourhood, as far as
agricultural labouring class is concerned, as they
advantage of the schools."

Cottages and gardens.

The cottages in many cases have only one room,
equently they are often overcrowded. They are
veniently situated enough. On many farms they
not sufficient in number for the supply of labour
ired. Considerable improvement has been made
ncreasing cottage accommodation during the last
ears."
The *bothy system* does not exist in the parish or
ghbourhood; it is a hurtful system to the morals
arm servants. There is no other mode of lodging
a servants which acts injuriously on their educa-
or morals, except asking a married man to keep
ndager in a house with only one room. This is
often done."
Cows are kept for farm servants on some farms,
the practice is gradually being done away with,
ch I think is a pity for the comfort of the married
ds."
41. *Mr. R. Murray*, occupier, says:
"*Boys* are employed from 14 years of age and
vards all the year."
"No *girls* are employed."
"Very good schools are provided, and in most
es they are well attended. Boys might be em-
yed in summer, and attend school in winter."
"The *cottages* are generally good; a few more
uld be an advantage. They are conveniently
ated. Cottage accommodation is rather on the
crease."
"A good many farm servants are allowed the keep
a cow as part of wages."
[Notes: 42. Visited a row of six rather modern
m cottages in Peebles parish, built of stone and
ted, but as to position and construction having
etty nearly all the faults cottages could well have.
At Mailinsland, in Peebles parish, saw two cot-
ges built under *Inclosure Commissioners' sanc-
on* for 300*l.*, upon which the farmer, Mr. Murray,
ys 5 per cent. These cottages have each three
oms besides the kitchen, and are inhabited at
esent, one by an old couple, the other by a young
an and his wife, with two young children. Mr.
urray complained very much of the trouble and
xpense caused by the Commissioners' rules.]

TRAQUAIR.

Population, 687. - Acreage, 15,400.

Cultivation mixed, arable and hill land.

43. *Mr. Wm. Riddell*, occupier, says:
"*Boys* above 12 are employed in the summer
onths."
"No *girls* under 12 are employed in agriculture."
"*Women* are employed in weeding green and white
rops, hoeing turnips, barn work, &c."
"All live on the farms."
"Men, women, and children (when employed) work 10 *hours* in summer, and from daylight to dark, with a mid-day rest, in winter."
"Neither women nor children are subject to the slightest ill-treatment."
"Field work is not, of course, so suitable a training for *domestic duties* as household work. The long evenings of winter, however, are spent in sewing and assisting their parents or friends in their fireside duties, and field workers often make quite as good wives as domestic servants do. There is nothing in their work hurtful to morals."
"*No restriction* on the employment of females or children is needed; all we want is *more cottages* to house them in."
"As to the application of modifications of the *Factory Acts* principles to agricultural labour, the *half-day system* is simply nonsense, the *alternate day system* would not suit here. Such a modification as you suggest of the Printworks Act principle, viz., eight or nine months' school attendance for children under 10 years of age, and three or four months' attendance between that age and 13 or 14, is just the system carried out here, and works right well with young Traquair."
"What *cottages* we have are good enough, but there are far too few of them, which obliges us to employ Irish lads in summer at about the same wages as our women workers, with board besides."
"We have *no bothy system*."
"From said want of cottages, two or three lads and lasses are generally kept in the *farm kitchen* and get their food there. The girls sleep in the farmhouse, and the lads in a small room off the stable loft; their being thus out of control of either parents or masters during the night is not good."
"All our cottages have nice little *gardens*. Married servants are allowed a cow's keep, valued at 8*l.*, and 1,000 yards of potatoes valued at 4*l.*"
"There is not much progress towards increasing the cottage accommodation. Pat costs us 4*s.* per week for board; that for 20 weeks goes far to pay the interest on a cottage, if landlords were willing to build them."
"Our *shepherds* are a fine race. Far more interested in their stock than even their masters. Seldom change their situation. Famous for early rising. One of these, who had been most of his lifetime with my father, said to a lady who asked him what time he rose in the morning, 'Well, ma'am, I never like 'to be disturbed before 12 (midnight), but I can rise 'any time after it.' The late Lord Rutherford, who had gone out to the moor to shoot on a misty day and complained to a shepherd whom he chanced to meet that he could not see the good of mists, received the following rebuke:—'It weets (wets) the blade, it 'slochens the yowes (quenches the thirst of the ewes), 'and it's God's wull (will.)'"

44. *Mr. R. Tod*, occupier, says:
"No *boys* under 12 are employed, save a cowherd during summer."
"*No girls* are employed."
"*Women* are employed for all light labour, such as turnip hoeing, barn work, and lifting grain cut by reapers in harvests."
"Men and women work 10 hours a day in summer, and seven or eight in winter."
"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment*, and there is *nothing in their work which is injurious to their morals*."
"Education for eight or nine months in the year for children under 10 years of age, and three or four months each year for the following three years, is the amount of school attendance here, and it is most suitable."
"From the want of cottages young men and women are kept in the farm kitchen, the females sleeping in the farmhouse, the males in a small bedroom in the stable; this is certainly faulty, there being no control over the young men."

Peebles.

Mr. Culley.

s.

"Farm servants are *allowed the keep of a cow*, which is generally valued at 7*l.*; 1,000 *yards of potatoes are also allowed.*"

"There is not much progress being made in increasing the deficient cottage accommodation."

45. [Notes: Female labourers are very difficult to get in Traquair parish. On one farm I saw three men hoeing potatoes, a man and woman spreading manure together for turnips, and an Irish lad in rags sowing artificial manure after them. Irishmen, lads chiefly, come to Peeblesshire for turnip sowing, and after going to the corn districts to the south and east for harvest, come back for the later harvest in Peeblesshire.—G. C.]

STOBO.

Population, 478. - Acreage, 10,372.

Cultivation mixed; a good deal of hill pasture.

46. *Mr. John Pretsell*, occupier, says:

"Men and women work from 6 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 6 p.m."

"Females are subject to *no ill-treatment.*"

"*No restriction* as to the employment of females c children in agriculture is necessary in this county."

"Children of labourers attend school 10 months the year up to about 11 years of age, and six mont for two or three years following. This seems a bet mode of education than any of the Factory A arrangements."

"There are well-taught parochial schools in ev parish, and every labourer, I may say, without exce tion, sends his children to school."

"The *cottages* are commodious, and have been built within the last 20 years. They are general sufficient for the supply of labour required."

"Male unmarried servants live in the farmhou and sleep in a room over the stable; female servan sleep in an apartment adjoining the kitchen."

"On one-half of the farms *cows are allowed.* A farm servants are allowed about one-sixth of an a of potato ground, or 16 cwt. of potatoes."

EVIDENCE ON WAGES AND MODE OF HIRING.

47. WAGES and ALLOWANCES of *married Ploughmen*, exclusive of free Cottage and Garden, Food for on Month in Harvest, and Cartage of Coals.

Parish.	Name of Witness.	Money.		Oatmeal or Oats.	Potatoes or Potato Ground.	Barley.	——
		Without a Cow.	With a Cow.				
		£	£				
Broughton - -	R. Ritchie - -	24	18	65 stones.	1 ton.	None.	
Innerleithen - -	J. Todd - -	25	19	Do.	1,000 yards.	Do.	
Newlands - -	J. Murray - -	25	20	7 bolls.	Do.	Do.	
Peebles - - -	A. Buchan - -	26	20	65 stones.	16 cwt.	Do.	Says 4 tons of coal le
Do. - - -	G. Forest - -	25	18	Do.	1,000 yards.	Do.	Says 4 loads of coal
Traguair - -	R. Tod - -	23	—	Do.	Do.	Do.	Gives 2*l.* worth of mi
Do. - -	W. Riddell - -	25	17	Do.	Do.	Do.	
Stobo - - -	J. Pretsell - -	All cows.	18	Do.	$\frac{1}{8}$th of acre.	4 bushels.	

BROUGHTON.

48. *Mr. R. Ritchie*, occupier, after giving a *hind's* wage (*see* Schedule), says:

"*Single men* boarded in the farmhouse have from 20*l.* to 22*l.* a year."

"*Women* for *house-work* about 12*l.*, and as outworkers about 10*l.* 10*s.* a year."

"Single men and women are hired half-yearly at fairs."

INNERLEITHEN.

49. *Mr. Jas. Tod*, occupier, says:

"*Men* for the 12 months earn about 40*l.*
Women „ „ 16*l.*
Boys „ „ 15*l.*
"They are hired at fairs."

50. *Mr. John Todd*, occupier, after giving a hind's wage (*see* Schedule), which he values at from 38*l.* to 40*l.*, says:

"*Unmarried men* have from 20*l.* to 23*l.*, with board and lodging."

"*Women servants* are paid from 5*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* for the summer half-year, and 4*l.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* for the winter. *In harvest, men* are paid from 16*s.* to 18*s.* a week, with bed and board; *women* from 13*s.* to 16*s.*, and victuals."

"The usual pay of labourers hired by the day is 2*s.* 6*d.*, and of women 1*s.*, harvest excepted."

NEWLANDS.

51. *Mr. Jas. Murray*, landowner and occupi says:

"The *hiring* general takes place at fairs."

"*Women* have 1*s.* a day of 10 hours all the ye except in harvest, when they have 2*s.* a day and f for four weeks."

"*Unmarried men* have about 20*l.*, with bed a board."

(For *hind's* wages, *see* Schedule.)

PEEBLES.

52. *Mr. A. Buchan*, agent, &c., after giving married ploughman's wages (*see* Schedule), says:

"*Young men* boarded in the farmhouse have fr 16*l.* to 24*l* a year, according to ability."

"*Female servants* boarded in farmhouse v average 10*l.* a year."

"Very few females are employed about here outdoor work, they go to the factories. Most of turnip singling and hay and harvest work is done *young Irishmen*, who come over in large numb here to spend the summer, and go home in autu The farmer supplies these lads or men with food blankets, and they generally sleep in the barn or s outhouse. They are paid 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day, with f and bed as above."

"Any native women who work now have 1*s.* for a day of 10 hours."

When I came to this county as the manager of a in 1836 *married ploughmen's* wages were 9*l.* to in money, with the same allowances, and a house (of one apartment) than they now have 20*l.*"

Females at that period did most of the outdoor , those boarded in the farmhouses getting 4*l.* to year; and women going out from the towns or ges, which many did, got from 8*d.* to 10*d.* for of 10 hours, without victuals; these now get *d.* a day for the same hours."

The following will give an idea of the rise in es:—

1836.	1870.
lesmen, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* for hours.	4*s.* to 5*s.* for 9 hours.
ons, 4*l.* 10*s.* per rood.	About 13*l.* a rood.
ourers, 1*s.* 6*d.* for 10 hours.	3*s.* for 10 hours.

ddition to this there was more work done in the e time for the smaller wage in 1836."

The first cottages I erected on an estate of which d the management had two apartments, with a et for milk. Now cottages are usually built with apartments downstairs, besides a scullery with water sink, and a long room over, all lathed and tered. The kitchen is usually flagged and par- boarded."

3. *Mr. G. Forest*, occupier, says:

Two *hiring fairs* are held in Peebles, one in ober and the other March."

After giving a *married ploughman's* wages (*see* edule), Mr. Forest says:

Women who are kept and sleep in the farmhouse l do outdoor work get 9*l.* to 10*l.* a year in money."

Unmarried ploughmen, who get their food in the mhouse, and sleep in a room in connexion with stables, get from 20*l.* to 23*l.* a year in money."

'During turnip time and harvest I employ a great ny Irish."

TRAQUAIR.

54. *Mr. R. Tod*, occupier, gives the following luation of wages:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hill shepherds:			
The produce of 42 sheep -	30	0	0
65 stones of meal - -	6	0	0
Cow's keep - - -	7	0	0
1,000 yards of potatoes - -	4	0	0
House and garden - -	4	0	0
Coals driven - - -	0	10	0
	£51	10	0

"A highly intelligent, honourable, and thoroughly trustworthy class of men." Peebles. Mr. Culley. s.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Foremen:			
Cash - - - - -	20	0	0
Other allowances and shepherd	21	10	0
Month's food in harvest -	1	0	0
	£42	10	0

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Married ploughman:			
Money - - - -	23	0	0
Milk worth - - -	2	0	0
65 stones meal - - -	6	0	0
1,000 yards of potatoes - -	4	0	0
House and garden - -	4	0	0
Coals driven - - -	0	10	0
Harvest food - - -	1	0	0
	£40	10	0

Unmarried ploughmen have 18*l.* to 20*l.*, with board.

"All of these servants are almost universally of sober and steady habits."

"*Women* who are boarded have from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year, *day workers* (women) about 1½*d.* per hour."

55. *Mr. Wm. Riddell*, occupier, values a *married ploughman's* wage as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash - - - -	17	0	0
Cow's keep or money - -	8	0	0
65 stones oatmeal - -	6	10	0
1,000 yards of potatoes - -	4	0	0
Cottage and garden - -	4	0	0
Harvest victuals - -	1	0	0
	£40	10	0

Foremen, he says, have 3*l.* to 5*l.* more.

Shepherd of "bred sheep" on arable farm.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Produce of 15 to 20 "bred sheep" say - - -	30	0	0
Other allowances same as ploughman, except harvest good -	22	10	0
	£52	10	0

Unmarried ploughmen have board and 18*l.* to 20*l.*

Labourers by the day 3*s.*

Women-workers 1½*d.* per hour.

Cottars 1½*d.* per hour and free house.

APPENDIX E.—EVIDENCE FROM THE COUNTIES OF STIRLING AND FIFE.

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

PARISH EVIDENCE.

AIRTH.

Population, 1,194. - Acreage, 6,388.
Carse land, chiefly arable.

1. *The Rev. Wm. Park* says:

"*Boys* are employed during summer from 11 to 12 years of age. In winter from 12 to 13."

"*Girls* from 11 to 12 years of age are occasionally employed in herding."

"*Women* are employed in considerable numbers in hoeing beans, potatoes, and turnips, &c. during hay and grain harvests, and in lifting potatoes." Stirling. Mr. Culley.

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment* that I am aware of."

"*No restriction* as to the employment of females and children is necessary."

"Ample *school accommodation* is provided for all children requiring education. Parents avail them-

Stirling.

Mr. Culley.

S.

selves of the means of education for their families to a great extent. The only desideratum in this respect seems to be evening classes for any young men and women who may have been neglected. There are 12 pauper children at the parish school, but only four of them belong to the agricultural labouring class."

"The *cottages* are newly built; they are sufficient for the supply of labour, as numbers of the married men live in the villages, while the unmarried, in many cases, in the families of their employers."

"The *bothy system* prevails to such a limited extent that I could not appreciate its influence."

2. *Mr. A. Campbell*, factor to the Earl of Dunmore, says:

"Boys and girls generally begin light farm work at about 14 years of age."

"Women are as much employed as men."

"Young persons and women have sometimes two or three miles to go to their work."

"There is no ill-treatment."

"I am not prepared to say that any mode of enforcing school attendance is required, but I would not object to such a modification of the Printworks Act as you suggest, viz., eight or nine months' attendance for children under 10 years of age, and three or four months for those between 10 and 13 or 14."

"The Dunmore estate is well supplied with comfortable cottages. The parish generally is not quite so well supplied; there is still ample room for improvement, though considerable progress is being made."

"The Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. has worked well upon the whole, but the heavy rentcharge has prevented thousands of cottages for ploughmen being erected, and if by extending the *duration of the charge* the interest on loans could be reduced, it would give a wonderful impulse to improved farming. Single ploughmen never settle long on the same farm, and take little interest in their work. Married men settle and become as it were partners with their masters. Without more cottages we cannot have married men."

3. *Mr. Andrew Bruce*, occupier, says:

"*Women* are employed during summer in turnip hoeing and hay making."

"Men and women work from 7 to 12 a.m. and from half-past 1 till 6 o'clock p.m. Children are not employed."

"I have *first-rate cottages*, and I have never tried the bothy system."

"It is *not the custom for farm servants to be allowed the keep of a cow*. They have 400 *yards of a drill of potatoes* in addition to their gardens."

4. *Elizabeth Murray*, servant to Rev. Wm. Park, says:

"Boys go out first as 'stumps' or 'cow-baillies,' *i.e.*, hired boys; some begin at 10 to herd cows for the summer six months. The 'stumps' are generally 13 or 14. They live in the farmhouse, about here, *i.e.*, feed in the farmhouse and sleep in the stable loft. In Culross parish (borders of Perth and Fife) where I came from its all bothies, and the 'cow baillies' lived in the bothies. They get about here 6*l.* a year and their keep."

"A good many women, both married and single, work out in summer, and on some farms in winter. As to morals, I think women who work out are pretty much like their neighbours. The young women working out run no greater risk than indoor servants in farmhouses. They don't do any work that hurts them, now instead of cutting they have only to lift after the machines in harvest."

"In this parish a good many farms have only one cottage attached to them for a married servant, the rest live in the farmhouse unless they come from the village of Airth, where a good many married labourers live, paying 20*s.* to 30*s.* a year for an old cottage and small garden."

CAMPSIE.

Population, 6,483. - Acreage, 17,976.
Cultivation, mixed.

5. *The Rev. T. Monro, D.D.*, says:

"There are not many *boys* employed in agriculture in this parish, as they prefer employment in the calico print-works. The boys employed in agriculture usually begin work at 10 or 12 years of age."

"A few *girls* are employed at 10 or 12 years of age in herding cattle."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent."

"Labourers do not go more than two miles to their work."

"Men, women, and children work 10 hours a day."

"I am doubtful as to the expediency of applying any legislative restrictions on the employment of children and women in agriculture."

"The *means of a good education* are sufficiently provided, but they are not sufficiently taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are indifferent. They are sufficient in number for the supply of labour required. They are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. They are overcrowded, and evil results to morality have come under my notice in consequence."

6. "*Mr. James Ross*, land agent, &c., says:

"*Boys* are not employed before 12 years of age; they work out during the summer months, but not many boys are employed on the land, as they find more profitable employment at the public works in the parish."

"*Girls* are not employed in agriculture, they find a lighter kind of work at the print works and bleach fields."

"*Women* are employed to a large extent in spring and summer."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"There is *nothing demoralizing in the nature of field work, neither does it prevent any industrious habits for household duties*."

"*No restriction* should be placed on the employment of women and children in agriculture."

Education, &c.

"*The Factory Acts are unnecessary* for children employed on the land, as they only work in the summer months, and have the winter for school, and most of them can read pretty well before they are put to work."

"This parish is so highly favoured with *good schools*, parochial and subscription, that no child need be without education. The parents who cannot afford to pay the school fees have them paid for them by an educational society in the parish. The schools are well attended so that none are left without the means, and non-attendance is almost unknown in the parish."

"Some of the *cottages* are good, and many not good. Where the *bothy system* is in practice an increase of cottages is not so necessary, but alter the system and a number of cottages would be required."

"In this parish and neighbourhood the *bothy system* is very different to that in other counties where the farms are much larger, and almost wholly arable. Almost all the bothies here are used only as sleeping rooms, as the farm servants get their food in the farmhouse. This system is not so much to be condemned, I know no influence either for good or evil the system can have on education, but I fear its influence on morals is not good."

To the question "How do farmers get a supply of labourers, male and female, in times of pressure such as turnip hoeing, harvest, &c.?" the following answer is given.

"This neighbourhood is not put to any inconvenience in the busy time as a few extra pence per day will always raise the extra hands required."

DENNY.

Population, 4,988. - Acreage, 8,356.

7. *Mr. Jas. Gow*, occuper, says:

"The cultivation is in six course rotation, 1st, ...ns; 2nd, green crop (potatoes and turnips); 3rd, ...arley; 4th, hay; 5th and 6th (pasture)."

"I employ *one boy* throughout the year, and six ... eight for a fortnight or so at potato lifting. The ...ame is generally done throughout the parish" (this ...pplies to 226 acres arable).

"I employ from *six to eight girls* for a fortnight ...r so at potato lifting."

"I employ from four to ten *women* now and then, ...preading dung, planting potatoes, hoeing and ...weeding turnips, in hay making, and lifting behind ...he reaping machine in harvest, and in lifting ...otatoes and turnips."

"Labourers have a distance of half a mile to one ...ile (a few have two miles) to go to their work."

"The hours of work for men are from 7 a.m. to ... p.m. and 1½ hour for dinner, men with horses go to ...he stable at 5 o'clock a.m., breakfast between 6 and ..., and leave stable at 7 a.m."

"Women (and children when employed) begin to ...ork at 7 a.m., dine from 12 to 1, and work till ... p. m."

"There are plenty *of schools* throughout the ...arish, the children of the agricultural labouring ...lass are generally kept at school till they can read, ...rite, and count a little; early labour is not the cause ...f their not receiving education when they do not ...lo so."

Cottages, Bothies, &c.

"The farms are for the most part small, one to ...wo pairs of horses being kept, and the men servants ...re mostly single, living in the farmhouse; there are ...xceptions where the farms are larger and the bothy ...ystem is adopted. The men live in comfortable ...othies, preparing their own and making their beds, ...nd the bothy is cleaned for them. I find that the ...nen I have had in the bothy are as well behaved as ...he general part of the farm servants in the ...eighbourhood, although they have more freedom to ...ove if they wish to do so. Cottages on the two or ...hree large farms would be a very great advantage, ...married men would be employed in place of the ...young men in the bothy. No progress is made ...owards increasing the cottages. I have to rent a ...cottage and garden for my foreman off the farm for which I pay 4*l.* per annum."

To the question "How do you get extra labour in ... turnip time, harvest, &c." the answer is,—

"From the villages in the neighbourhood, principally miners' wives and their families."

"The foregoing answers to circular questions refer to Dunipace parish as well as Denny."

GARGUNNOCK.

Population, 728. - Acreage, 9,913.

8. *The Rev. John Stark* says:

"*Boys* from 9 to 12 years of age are employed as ...cow-herds in summer.

Girls from 10 to 14 are employed taking care of younger children when the mothers are out at field work.

Most of our *women* are employed in agriculture in summer.

The *hours of work* are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with ...an hour's rest at dinner.

The young and females are subject to no ill-treatment.

I do not recommend any restriction on the employment of adult females, or for children except for educational purposes.

I think that children *under* 10 *years of age should be obliged to attend school for nine months in the year, and children between* 10 *and* 14 *years for three or four months.*

There is a parochial school, a Free Church school and a female school. *Some take advantage of the schools and others are indifferent.*

There are few *cottages* in the parish connected with farms, but sufficient accommodation can be got in the village. In Gargunnock the villagers were formerly hand loom weavers, and the population greater than at present. There is no weaving now, and several cottages are in ruins. Some of those remaining are very poor, but have good gardens and are let at a low rent (2*l*). 16 or 17 of the villagers keep cows. They rent a park amongst them and get the summer grass for about 70*s*. to 75*s*. For winter keep they get oats, straw, buying standing oats, dressing the meal for themselves, and the straw for their cows.

We have no bothy system as the labourers are boarded in the farmhouses, many carse farms are about 100 acres, and the farmer's family do a great deal of the work. Some farmers hold two or three farms and use the farmhouses which they do not themselves occupy as cottages. A good many of our ploughmen come from a distance.

Under the new Poor Law we suffer from having to provide for a number of illegitimate children. When the relief was administered by the Kirk session these cases were kept under control. At one time the people would have done anything rather than ask for relief, now they spend everything as it comes and regard relief as their right.

9. *Mr. W. Jamieson*, teacher of Parochial School, says:

"*Boys* from eight years old and *girls* from nine are employed as cow herds in summer, as well as in helping to take charge of younger children."

"Unmarried *women* are employed throughout the year; married women when potatoes are planted and hoed, when turnips are thinned, and when the grain is reaped."

"They work 11 hours a day in summer, and 8 in winter."

"Children should not be allowed to work on the land under 10 years of age, and up to that age school attendance should be compulsory. Between 10 and 13 they find work in summer which is useful to the parents, and provided they can afford to pay the fees the children are sent to school in winter, and probably would continue to be so without compulsion."

"We have three schools, nevertheless I have known many children who ought to have been at school kept at home. The parents may have sent three or four children to school regularly for six months, and then having got in debt to the schoolmaster and being ashamed to send them any longer they keep them all at home."

Cottages.

"Most of the agricultural labourers who are married live in the village where there are now more cottages than are required. These are however not good. They consist of two apartments; roofs, generally thatch; walls in bad repair; floors, damp; ceilings, low; the interiors cold and smoky, and ill-lighted."

"All these cottages have excellent gardens."

Morality.

"The rate of illegitimacy is generally high. During the quarter ended June last 33⅓ per cent. of the births were illegitimate. There are two or three causes of this. 1st, the fact of men and women working together on the land, when indecent exposure takes place, and loose language is indulged in. 2nd, the sleeping arrangement for the unmarried workers in farmhouses; the women generally sleep in the kitchen close to the foot of the trap or stair which leads to the sleeping crib of the men, and there is at least a strong temptation to the men not to go to their own crib. 3rd, the carelessness of masters and mistresses as to the morality of their servants; if they

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would look as carefully after the conduct of their female servants as they do after that of their daughters there would be an end of illegitimacy."

KILSYTH.

Population, 6,112. - Acreage 13,248.
Cultivation, mixed.

10. *Sir A. Edmonstone, Bart.*, landowner, says:

"*Children* are employed on farms from 10 years old upwards."

"*Women* are employed in the fields to a large extent."

"I think the labour of children should be restricted to those above 10 years of age."

"There are upwards of *nine schools* in the parish, with an aggregate attendance of more than 600 scholars. These schools are generally taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are generally good, sufficient in number, and conveniently situated."

"Nearly all the cottages have *gardens* attached to them."

"The *allotment system* in Kilsyth parish is not at all satisfactory. The allotments are 'pendicles' to feus in the town of Kilsyth, and had their origin in the subdivision of a common by Act of Parliament about 60 years ago. The greater number of the holders of these allotments are very poor; their ownership extends only to the surface, the title being only for grass, moss, meadow, and arable land."

11. *Mr. Thos. Frew*, land agent, says:

"*Children* from 10 years upwards are engaged for terms of six months from Whitsunday and Martinmas. The girls are engaged both for indoor and outdoor work."

"About 500 *women* in the parish are employed in agriculture."

"Labourers go from 1 to 3 miles to their work."

"Men work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, with an hour off for dinner. Women from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the same interval."

"There is no ill-treatment."

"Outdoor labour is very beneficial to health and I do not think injurious to morals."

"I am not prepared to recommend any restriction on labour. No harm and some good might, however, be done by making school attendance compulsory, say, for eight or nine months of the year up to 10 years of age, and for three or four months in the year for children between 10 and 13 or 14."

"There are abundant means of education which are generally taken advantage of."

"The *cottage accommodation* is partly good and partly bad. Where bad, improvements are going on. There are *no bothies*."

"I am of opinion that an extension of the duration of the rentcharge is necessary to make *the Act* 27 *and* 28 *Vict. c.* 114 of any practicable use for increasing cottage accommodation."

KIPPEN.

Population, 1,722. - Acreage, 11,331.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

12. *Mr. Campbell*, occupier, says:

"My farm contains about 140 imperial acres. There is no cottage attached to it. As I live in Stirling I give up the farmhouse to the servants, one woman and three young men, two of whom are ploughmen. When I go out for a short time in summer the young men sleep in the stable loft. There is great need of a cottage to put a married ploughman in. Unmarried men are continually changing."

"I get my turnips singled by a band of Irish women or lads who go out chiefly from Stirling or Raploch (about 13 miles) under a ganger who takes the job by the piece and keeps his gang together perhaps 10 days till the job is done. They then generally move to some other farm near. While with me they sleep in a barn. The ganger is always an Irishman. They bring their bedding if they want any with them and I find straw. Hay and corn harvesting, a potato lifting, and dressing are done in the same way."

"The carse land in Stirlingshire is generally farmed in six-course rotation. Sometimes the oat crop is followed by a crop of 'mashlum,' mixed beans and oats making a seven course. A pair of horses cannot work more than 40 imperial acres. You can't touch the heavy land if wet and in summer it gets as hard as iron. Steam cultivation is much wanted. Many of the farms are small and the families of the farmers often do a good deal of the work, requiring only young men who board with them, and getting their extra work done by gangs of Irish."

13. Note.—*Mr. Young*, factor to Sir William Stirling Maxwell, told me that he could not get the small farmers to pay 5 per cent. for cottages. They themselves act as grieves or stewards and only need young men to help them, and as long as they can get gangs to do catch work the present system seems cheaper for them.—G. C.

14. The following will give an idea of the manner of living on a small farm:—

Breakfast	Master, an egg, tea, and bread; men, porridge and milk, with "fank" of bread and butter.
Dinner -	Both alike; broth of "kale" and meat.
Supper -	Master, tea and bread and butter; men, porridge or smashed potatoes and milk.

LARBERT AND DUNIPACE.

Population, 6,730. - Acreage, 9,682.

15. *The Rev. John McLaren* says:

"*Boys* begin to be employed in agriculture about 12 years of age, chiefly in autumn gathering potatoes. By far the greater number of my parishioners are employed not in agriculture but at the Carron Iron Works and in collieries."

"*Girls* begin to be employed about 12 years of age in gathering potatoes."

"*Women* are employed in planting, hoeing, and gathering potatoes and turnips, and in gathering and binding the crops which are cut generally with scythes and reaping machines."

"Labourers generally work at farms adjacent to their places of abode."

"Men, women, and children work about eight hours a day in winter and 10 in summer."

"So far as I have had the opportunity of observing parents do not send their boys to work till they are 12 years of age, and I do *not think that any restriction is needed* in this parish."

"I do not think that any restriction as to the employment of females in agriculture is necessary."

"In this parish there is scarcely a district where the children have to go more than a mile to school. There are 14 *schools* in Larbert and Dunipace, and the labouring classes take advantage of them."

"The *condition of the cottages* for agricultural labourers in this parish is very fair. They seem to be sufficient in number. They are conveniently situated. I fear that sometimes they are overcrowded, but I cannot say that any evil results to morality traceable thereto have come under my notice."

"The cottages have generally good *gardens*.

LECROFT (Stirling).

Population, 538. - Acreage, 3,031.

DUNBLANE (Perth).

Population, 3,096. - Acreage, 40,916.
Cultivation, mixed.

16. *Mr. A. Young*, factor for Sir W. Stirling Maxwell, Bart., says:

"*Boys*, all above 12, are employed upon Sir W. Stirling Maxwell's farm from May till August."

"A few *girls*, above 12 years, are employed gathering weeds and thinning roots."

"About 12 *women* are occasionally employed."

"Women and children do not go more than 1½ miles to their work."

"Men and women work 10 hours per day."

"Neither women nor children are exposed to any ill-treatment."

"I am of opinion that it is for the benefit of persons to be employed in agriculture and even at less pay than for work in the mills."

"There are sufficient means of education, and I believe the schools are well attended by all classes and by the children of workmen till they are at least 10 years of age. My belief is that *children should be kept regularly at school for a portion of a year, say, six months, and the remaining months at work.*"

"Where *cottages* exist they are good, but the numerous villages in the district afford labourers, and therefore ploughmen only require to be housed; there are some married ploughmen housed on farms whose wives and families live in the villages, the husbands going home to see their families on Saturday night."

"Very few *bothies* exist in this district. Ploughmen, if married, generally have cottages, and young men board in the farmhouses."

"All cottages have gardens."

"No labourers have cows, but all are allowed ground to grow potatoes for their families, or get potatoes; an allowance of milk is given in the district, but not on this farm." [NOTE. Mr. Young objects to the cow and pig plan of the southern Scotch counties as tending towards pilfering.—G. C.]

Inclosure Commissioners loans for cottages.

"I think that encouragement should be given for the erection of cottages, especially, in agricultural districts where farms are distant from towns or villages." [Mr. Young thinks that to obtain some extension of the duration of the rentcharge or other system under which the yearly expense of such loans could be reduced, say to 5 per cent., is the most important benefit the Commission could confer on the agricultural community. "If loans could be obtained at 5 per cent. not only would many landowners build cottages who cannot now afford, but the knowledge that loans for cottage building could be obtained on such terms would prevent some landowners who really can afford to build sheltering themselves under the well-known inability of the landowning class generally."—G. C.]

LOGIE.

Population, 3,483. - Acreage, 12,077.
Cultivation, mixed; chiefly arable.

17. *Mr. Jas. McLaren*, occupier, says:

"Men work 10 hours a day; women and children, 9."

"I have never known of females being in any way exposed to ill-treatment, and in this parish they are not put to heavy work; in harvest they now only bind sheaves instead of having to reap as formerly."

"I have not the most distant idea of females being injured in morals or otherwise by being employed as they are here *occasionally* in field work; constant outdoor work tends to make them bad housekeepers."

"The demand for labour in this parish is always good, and the workers are quite independent and only work when they think fit. Boys under 12 years of age are of little use for the sort of work we have to do and are seldem employed under that age."

Schools, &c.

"The children in this parish belonging to the working class get a plain education between the age of 6 and 10, and are seldom sent to any employment before that age, therefore I think *compulsory education is uncalled for* in this parish. Besides the *parish school there are at least three other schools*, charging fees from 1*d.* per week upwards, and quite a number of *Sunday schools*, all of them well attended. There are several evenings schools in winter which find a fair attendance of agricultural lads."

"I have *comfortable cottages for* my labourers, but on some farms there is a want of room. The cottages contain one family only, and I am not aware of any evil results from overcrowding. When new leases are granted it is common to get new and better cottages."

"There is little of the *bothy system* here, I believe it to be a bad one and would be glad to see it superseded by a better one. The ploughmen are either married or live in the farmhouse."

"Most of the cottages have *gardens*."

"A *few foremen* are allowed *the keep of a cow*, and frequently the ploughmen have 1 cwt. of seed potatoes planted with their master's."

ST. NINIANS.

Population, 8,946. - Acreage, 38,541.
Cultivation, mixed.

18. *Mr. J. R. L. Douie*, factor to Col. Murray, says:

"*Boys* generally begin to be employed in this parish at 13 or 14 years of age."

"*Girls* are very little employed in agricultural pursuits, except as servants in farmhouses."

"*Women* are employed during summer hoeing and cleaning root crops, and during haymaking and harvest."

"The *hours of work* of men and women are 10 hours."

"Children and women are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

There are parish, endowed, and self-supporting *schools*, which are generally well taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are pretty good, but there are scarcely enough of them."

"There are *bothies* on most of the farms for unmarried ploughmen who generally get their food in the farmhouse."

"All cottages as far as I know have small *gardens*."

Cottage accommodation has somewhat increased during late years, and is increasing.

Loans under the Inclosure Commissioners.

"The expense of obtaining these loans is far too great; this, as well as the strictness with which the Commissioners adhere to their rules for the construction of cottages, I know keeps back many landowners from taking advantage of such loans."

19. *Mr. Buchanan*, occupier, says:

"*The cultivation* in the carse or flat district is six-course rotation of cropping, viz., in about equal divisions of wheat, beans, barley, hay, oats, and turnips, or bare fallow. In the slopes or light land a five-course shift of barley, hay, and pasture (two years), oats, and green crops. A great portion of the county is pastoral."

"*Boys* are employed from 12 to 16 years of age in the months of July and August, in cleaning turnips, and occasionally during August and September in light harvest work."

"*Girls* are employed from 13 to 17 years of age in the same manner as boys."

"*Women* are employed to a great extent during summer and at the same work as boys and girls, particularly in cleaning and hoeing turnips, lifting after the reaping machine and scythe, also in lifting potatoes and turnips, and in haymaking."

"Labourers come a distance of from one to two miles to their work."

"Men and women begin to work at 7 a.m., and leave off 6 p.m., resting an hour at noon; but the regular men on the farm begin work at 5 a.m. in summer and 6 in winter, breakfasting before 7 a.m. and going out with their horses at that hour. All outworkers begin at 7 a.m. except towards 'the fall' after harvest when they begin at 8."

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"Females and children are by *no means subject to any ill-treatment*, their work is light, and they are both able and willing to do it. The *young females* are as useful in thinning and cleaning green crops as the grown-up women; they are not employed in harvest work to any extent."

"I rather think that the employment of females in agriculture is a benefit and necessary to their proper training for domestic duties, often young females have to go through this preliminary training before being admitted into the regular service of farmers as house servants, without this they would be of little use."

"I never saw anything to hurt their morals in field work, rather the reverse."

"The employment of females and children in agriculture enables their parents to send the children to school, their earnings being from 1*s.* to 2*s.* per day, defraying the expense of school during the eight or nine months of the year when they are not employed out of doors."

Cottages, &c.

"The cottages which exist are generally good, but they are far from being sufficient in number for the supply of labour required; they are conveniently situated; those recently built are large enough, the older ones are too small, causing in some cases overcrowding. Some progress is being made towards increasing the deficient cottage accommodation, still it is very slow, and a long time will elapse at the present rate before it is sufficient."

"The want of sufficient cottage accommodation is a great drawback in agriculture, not only in its effects on profitable culture, but as regards its bearing on the morals and education of those engaged in it, and their prosperity. In the districts where cottage accommodation does not exist the ploughmen are unmarried and live in "bothies." In the event of their marrying they know they must either leave their employment and go to towns or take a house in a neighbouring village which is not convenient. This prevents them marrying and has a tendency to increase illegitimacy and improper intercourse, and breeds immorality; whereas if cottages were sufficient the above influences would be prevented, and the wives and grown up youths of the ploughmen would be of great service on the farms in hay time and harvest, earning 1*s.* 3*d.* a day during hay time and 2*s.* 6*d.* during harvest, which would enable the children to be educated and we should not have to depend on the migratory class now in existence."

"The *bothy system does not exist to a large extent*, where it does exist it has a bad influence on education and morals in particular. The other mode of lodging farm servants is that they get their food in the farmer's kitchen and either sleep in the house or a bothy or room for the purpose, and are in this way more under their master's surveillance."

"The cottages have generally small *gardens* and in some cases the servants are *allowed potatoes* which are planted in the same field as the farmer's."

To the question, *How do you get extra hands in turnip time and harvest*, &c., the answer is, "in turnip cleaning and harvest our extra hands come from neighbouring villages, some Irish people come during harvest from Raploch and Stirling, this is a good distance off, and they sleep in barns."

"The singling of turnips is generally done by Irish females and lads, being the wives and families of Irish labourers and drainers. The turnips are thinned by the workers going on their knees and pulling the turnips up by hand; they prefer hand thinning and will not use a hoe. They are very expert, generally taking the turnips by the 100 yards at 1*d.* or 1½*d.*, and I have paid young girls and boys (say about 14 to 16 years of age) 2*s.* 6*d.* each for 10 hours work at the above rate."

20. *Mr. John T. S. Paterson*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed during all the year until they are 13 years of age."

"*Girls* are not employed under 14 years of age. They hoe green crops, and make bands during harvest."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of three per 100 acres of dry field arable land under a five shift rotation of cropping."

"Men, women and children *work from 7 a.m. till 12, and from* 1.30 *p.m till* 6 *p.m.* Ploughmen require to groom their horses before 7 a.m. and after 6 p.m. In winter the hours are shorter, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and an hour for dinner."

"Females and children are *not subjected to any degree of ill-treatment*, and in general the *females are much healthier than those employed in towns.*"

"Agricultural labour has *no bad effect on the morals of females*; there is rarely a case of illegitimacy among them. I think it is *very fitting training for the domestic duties of ploughmen's wives*, which they generally become."

"There is at least one *good school* in every village, and the agricultural labourers invariably send their children to school till they are 13 years of age, and in many instances older."

"The *cottages* are in general comfortable, but too small: they are insufficient for the supply of labour required: except on the property of Lord Dunmore there is no increase of cottage accommodation."

"The *bothy system exists* to a small extent owing to the want of cottages; its influence is bad both as regards education and morals, especially the latter."

STIRLING.

Population, 11,714. - Acreage, 1512.

21. *The Rev. Paul McLachlan*, Roman Catholic priest, says:

"*Boys* are employed in agriculture as soon as they reach their 10th year, some few a little earlier, and this more particularly from spring to autumn."

"*Girls* are employed as early as boys and nearly in the same way, that is, tending cattle, doing light work in the fields, weeding, hoeing, &c."

"Many *women* are employed as domestic servants in farmhouses, and occasionally work in the fields and among the cattle; more are hired by the day on regular wages, and are free to go away when they choose."

"Children, young persons, and women go distances varying from 5 to 20 miles all round the country. When *within* five miles of the town they generally come home to it every evening, but if far off they remain in lodgings near their work."

"The hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an interval of one hour for dinner. In very busy seasons the work is sometimes prolonged a few hours more."

"It would *be difficult to restrict boys or girls from going to work* as soon they feel inclined to go, or can make anything by working."

"I do *not think it desirable to restrict females* who are willing to work in the country. They do not generally work very hard; they are well-fed, strong, and healthy."

"The *means of education* are quite sufficient in town and country, and the children of those parents who know the value of education take advantage of those means during the winter months. All who choose have facilities for learning to read, write and count."

"I fear there is not much to commend as to *cottages*, nor can I account for a certain want of morality by which some parts of the country are characterised. I do not see that the religion of the country has much influence on its morality."

22. *Mr. Peter Deuar*, occupier, says:

"One or two *boys* are engaged by the year, aged about 14 or 15; no others are employed" (applies to 400 acres arable).

"No *girls* are employed on my farms."

"Women are employed in cleaning green crops, and in hay time and harvest."

"Labourers have to come within a mile distance their work on my farms."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatent*."

"There is a want of *cottage accommodation* in the rish. I have a sufficient number of cottages on my rms, they are suitable and convenient."

The *bothy system does not exist* in this parish."

"We get extra hands in turnip time and harvest om the adjacent villages."

23. *Peter Quigley*, labourer and ganger, says:

"I am an Irishman and live in Stirling. I am in e habit of engaging women to single turnips, which ey do with the hand chiefly. Sometimes I take the b by the piece, and in that case I divide the money nongst us when the job is done. Oftener the rmer pays each worker, sometimes by the piece from to 1½ per 100 yards, sometimes by the day. When ey do day work they work for nine or 10 hours. y the piece they work much longer when there's lenty of work in hand. I have known women earn s. a day."

"Most of them are still (June 24th) out barkeeling. When they go 'peeling' the families all go ogether and live in a wooden shed put up by the mployer. A boy 10 or 12 years old can earn 2*s.* a ay sometimes peeling bark. They go out about the eginning of May and should be coming home now. Ve never take children turnip hoeing, they are no se, and the farmers won't have them."

24. *Mr. Ferguson*, schoolmaster, Raploch:

"In summer I have about five or six Irish children, n winter about 20. They go out bark peeling with heir parents in summer. The Irish are much more rregular in their school attendance than the Scotch. Some of the Irish children attend the Roman Catholic school in Stirling, others remain with me till they are 13 or 14, attending the scripture class and learning the 'shorter catechism,' like the rest of my pupils, although they are Roman Catholics. A good many of the Irish children are not sent to school at all, or so irregularly as to be of no use. The parents keep them at home without even the excuse of work, and nothing but directly compulsory education will reach them."

25. *Mr. Nicol Reid*, tailor, Raploch, says:

"There is a colony of Irish here and has been for about 20 years. They live in very poor houses, and have very little furniture, but they pay small rents and some of them pay no rent. When they first came here they used to make great rows amongst themselves and were very troublesome. A good many were taken up by the police and fined, and that quieted them; they don't like losing their money, so if they make a row now I just threaten them with the police and they're quiet directly. About the beginning of May they go with their families to the bark peeling, and lock up their houses, nailing a board across the door. They stay out about two months and sleep in wooden sheds, lying together as thick as bees, but there's no immorality among them; indeed they just behave to each other like a wheen children, you would think they hadn't the same notions as other folk. I have only known two or at most three Irish girls go wrong, and it was always with Scotchmen. They are a saving race, and can live where a Scotchman would starve. When they go to the bark peeling they frequently leave their savings bank books with me, and a good many have them. I have one book with forty pounds to the good on it now in my house."

EVIDENCE ON MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

26. WAGES of *Married Ploughmen*, in addition to a free cottage and garden and food for one month in harvest.

Parish.	Witness.	Money.	Oatmeal or Oats.	Potatoes.	Milk.	Coals.
Airth	A. Bruce	28*l.* to 32*l.*	3½ loads	10 bags	None stated	Not stated.
Campsie	J. Ross	Mr. Ross estimates the value of the wage at from 17*s.* to 19*s.* a week.				
Denny	J. Gow	25*l.* to 27*l.*	6½ bolls	2 bags	None stated	Carriage.
Kilsyth	T. Frew	Mr. Frew says the wage is worth 15*s.* a week.				
Lecropt	A. Young	30*l.*	7 bolls	Not stated	Not given	—
Logie	J. McClaren	18*l.* to 24*l.*	7 cwt.	2 bushels, planted.	½ gallon, sweet	Not stated.
St. Ninians	A. Buchanan	21*l.* to 23*l.*	6½ bolls	6 bushels wheat	None stated	Carriage.
Stirling	J. Deuar	22*l.* to 26*l.*	"	None stated	1 Scotch pint, skim.	Not stated.

27. WAGES of *Hired Single Men.*

Parish.	Witness.	—
Airth	A. Bruce	22*l.* to 24*l.* per annum, with board and lodging.
Campsie	J. Ross	30*l.* " "
Denny	J. Gow	18*l.* to 24*l.* " "

28. WAGES of *Women hired by half-year.*

Parish.	Witness.	—
Airth	A. Bruce	8*l.* to 10*l.* per annum, with board and lodging.
Campsie	J. Ross	12*l.* to 14*l.* " "
Kilsyth	Thos. Frew	10*l.* to 14*l.* " "

29. WAGES of *Female Day-workers.*

Parish.	Witness.	Turnip Hoeing.	Potato Lifting.	Harvest.
Campsie	J. Ross	1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day	Not stated	2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.
Logie	J. McClaren	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day	Not stated	Not stated.
St. Ninians	J. T. S. Paterson	1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day	1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a day	2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* a day.
Stirling	P. Deuar	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day	Not stated	2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* a day.

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s.

Airth.

30. *Mr. A. Campbell* says:
"*Ploughmen* have 15*s.* per week and free house and garden."
"*Day labourers*, 2*s.* 6*d.* a day."
"*Women*, 1*s.* a day, except in harvest, when they have 2*s.* 9*d.*
"Men employed specially for harvest have 3*s.* 4*d.* a day."

31. *E. Murray*, servant to Rev. Wm. Park, says:
"*Women workers* get 1*s.* a day, except in harvest; last harvest they got 2*s.* 9d. a day, everything included."
"*Ordinary ploughmen* get about 20*l.* a year and their meat in the house."
Foremen get 26*l.* to 30*l.*, a free house, 6½ bolls of meal, about as many potatoes as they like, and a pint of skim milk (there's no sweet milk given here).

Campsie.

32. *Mr. J. Ross*, land agent, says:
"Female servants who attend to the cows are hired by the six months, and paid in money and board. Men servants who get their food in the farmhouse and sleep in a bothy, or who feed and sleep in a bothy, are hired by the half year."
For remainder of evidence on wages, see schedules.

Denny and Dunipace.

33. *Mr. J. Gow*, occupier, says:
"I employ my men for 12 months and pay them in money, meal, and potatoes. A greater number of men are hired for six months and are paid in money, with board and lodging. Women are engaged for six months. Other labourers, male and female, are employed when required, and paid in money every Saturday night."
"*My foreman gets* 29*l.*, a free house, coals driven, 6½ bolls of meal, 4 bags of potatoes, and 1½ cwt. of potatoes planted. 2nd man, 27*l.*, 6½ bolls oatmeal, and 2 bags of potatoes. 3rd man, 25*l.*, 6½ bolls oatmeal, and 2 bags of potatoes. Boy, 15*l.* and 5 bolls do.
"Men living in the farmhouse ordinarily get 9*l.* to 12*l.* for the half year, and boys from 3*l.* to 6*l.*

Lecropt.

34. *Mr. A. Young*, land agent, after giving a married ploughman's wage (see Schedule), says:
"*Labouring men* average 15*s.* a week for the year."
Women, 9*s.* a week when employed.
Young women, 7*s.* 6*d.* do.

Logie.

35. *Mr. McClaren*, occupier, after giving a ploughman's wage (see schedule), says:
"*Females and boys* are paid by the week, about 7*s.* 6*d.* on an average; they are only employed when wanted."
"The greater part of our turnips are singled by Irish women, who come into the neighbourhood for that sort of work; they are paid by the piece, 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* an acre.

St. Ninians.

36. *Mr. J. R. L. Douie*, land agent, says:
"Ploughmen are generally hired by the year from Martinmas to Martinmas. Those who live in bothies (single men) generally get their food in the farmhouse."

37. *Mr. Buchanan*, occupier, says:
"The hiring in my district is all or nearly all by the year (that is, our regular farm servants). The lads and females get their food in the farm kitchen, and from 6*l.* to 10*l.* a year according to their ability. They have several holidays, about eight in the year, and get their money as they want it."—For married ploughman's wage, see Schedule.—G. C.

38. *Mr. J. T. S. Paterson*, occupier, says:
"*Men* are hired by the year from Martinmas to Martinmas, and paid partly in money and partly in kind; females by the half year, month, or week, as required."
"With cottage and garden a married ploughman's wage is worth 40*l.*"—[For rest of evidence, see Schedule.—G. C.]

Stirling.

39. *The Rev. Paul McLachlan*, R.C., speaking of the Irish labourers who go out from Stirling and Raploch, says:
"In general gang-masters and small contractors give better wages than farmers, but their money is not so sure, and on the whole day-labourers would rather deal with the farmers, as they always pay what they promise. The labourers also get little perquisites about the farmhouse, such as milk, whey, butter, cheese, eggs, &c. Men's wages run from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day. Females about one-third less, varying with the different seasons of the year."

COUNTY OF FIFE.

PARISH EVIDENCE.

Fife.
Mr. Culley.
s.

IN ANSWER TO CIRCULAR QUESTIONS.

Abbotshall.

Population, 5,193. - Acreage, 4,220.

The population of the landward district was 808 in 1861. The remainder belong to the outskirts of the town of Kirkcaldy.
The cultivation is chiefly arable.

40. *Mr. D. Aitken*, occupier, says:
"Very few *children* under 13 years of age are employed in farm work."
"On arable farms *as many women as men* are employed in winter, and more at other seasons. About half of those employed regularly are married."
"Men work 10 hours, women nine."
"The employment of females in agriculture need have *no bad tendency on their morals*, seeing they are generally the wives and daughters of the men employed with them; but no doubt the constant employment of females in the field *is adverse to their proper training for domestic duties.*"
"There are *schools*, but some do not avail themselves of them; still the great mass of our labouring class send their children to school to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic."
"The *cottages* are numerous, but many are not large enough for a family."

41. *Mr. John Williamson*, occupier, says:
"*Boys* are employed from 12 years upwards all the year round."

"*Girls* from 12 years of age are employed at hoeing, weeding, and light field work."

"*Women* are largely employed in farm work."

"*Men, women, and children have the same hours of work*, viz., nine hours in summer and about seven in winter, *i.e.* from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m., with two hours for dinner."

"They are subject to no ill-treatment."

Cottages.

"Cottage improvement is *very much needed.* Many are overcrowded. Generally well placed for the farm."

Bothies.

"With regard to bothies, I think anything wrong with them may be ascribed more to youth and inexperience of life than to the system itself; but *if proprietors would give more cottage accommodation, the bothy with all its evils would soon disappear.*"

"All cottages have *gardens*, with from 10 to 20 falls of garden ground."

"None of our labourers have cows, but all have the privilege of keeping a pig, and have about 24 falls of land planted with potatoes, in addition to their garden."

"The progress in cottage improvement is slow indeed."

State of Labourers.

"Judging from what has come under my own observation during the last 25 years, my conviction is that farm labourers have not improved. Their remuneration has increased by one third, yet, with a few exceptions, they are no better off. Several reasons for this suggest themselves. Tobacco is one, costing a labourer who smokes at least 2*l.* per annum. Greatly increased demand for labour tends to make them careless whether they please their master or not, knowing that they can easily get work elsewhere."

"The *food* of the agricultural labouring class chiefly consists of oatmeal, milk, tea, coffee, fish, and bacon, the last of their own rearing and curing."

42. *Mr. R. Elder*, occupier, says:

"Boys are employed from 13 upwards, and a few girls are employed in summer."

"A few women are employed all the year round."

"Men work from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours interval, and women from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the same interval."

"The *cottages* are in general deficient in accommodation and insufficient in number for the supply of labour, and no progress is being made towards increasing the accommodation."

"We have bothies to supply a portion of our labour."

43. [Note.—Mr. Williamson told me that 20 or 30 years ago the common custom in Fife was for the unmarried men to sleep in the stable lofts and feed in the farmhouse; that the bothy, which he considers quite as good an arrangement for the men, has taken the place of the older custom. Mr. Williamson also says that labouring men's wages have risen during the last 20 years from 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week.—G. C.]

ABERDOUR.

Population, 1,874.* - Acreage, 6,059.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

44. *Mr. John Philipps*, land agent, &c., says:

"Children are employed from 10 years of age and upwards during June, July, and October."

"Women are employed to a considerable extent from June to November. Almost all farm servants' wives work at that time."

"Men, women, and children work *from nine to* 10 *hours a day.*"

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment.*"

"I do not look upon out-door work as a very good school for the morals of young girls, mixed up, as they are all day, with the other sex, their conversation is not always of the choicest sort; but it is difficult to see a remedy, as field work could not be got on without females."

Education, Schools, &c.

"From the beginning of November to the beginning of June there is comparatively little out-door work for children; so they might attend school for that period. They would only lose in this way the months of June, July, and October, as the school vacation generally embraces August and the greater part of September. There are *three elementary schools* in the parish, well attended, and *two evening classes* in winter. Non-attendance generally arises from carelessness of the parents, and sometimes from poverty and want of clothes. Pauper children are all sent to school."

"The cottages are upon the whole good, sufficient for the supply of labour required, with the aid of the villages, convenient for the farms, and not overcrowded."

"The *bothy system* is not practised to a large extent. The only objection as regards morals is that the young men have great freedom to go in and out at night; but it is difficult to see how this freedom can be interfered with."

"All the cottages have *gardens.*"

"*Cows are not allowed, nor potato ground*, besides garden; but in most cases the farm servants receive, over and above their money wages, so much meal, potatoes, and milk, say 20*l.* in money, 6½ bolls of meal, 2 bolls of potatoes, and 1 pint of milk."

BALMERINO.

Population, 815. - Acreage, 4,131.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

45. *Mr. G. Johnstone, M.D.*, occupier, says:

"Boys under 12 or 13 years of age are rarely employed in agriculture in this locality. A few are employed in October in lifting potatoes."

"No *girls* under 13 are employed, excepting a few in October lifting potatoes."

"*Women* are employed to the extent of three per 100 imperial acres."

Hours of Work.

"Men: summer, 5 to 6½, and 7 to 12 a.m.; 2 to 6 p.m.
" winter, 6 to 7½, and 8 to 12 a.m.; 1 till dark p.m.
Women: summer, 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m.
" winter, 8 to 12 a.m. and 1 to dark p.m."

"Females and children are subject to no ill-treatment. They are a healthy class."

"As there are no bothies for females in this parish, the female outworkers spend their evenings at home with their families. I do not think their morals are deteriorated. They have opportunities for household and general domestic work in the mornings and evenings."

Education.

"Up to the age of 12 or 13 the attendance at school is from 8 to 10 months per annum."

"The schools are taken advantage of by the agricultural class for children of a suitable age almost universally."

"The cottages are good and supply accommodation for about two-thirds of the farm servants. About one-third of the men are in bothies, and I think an increased number of cottages would be of advantage to the morals and manners of the men. A very small number of additional cottages have been built during the last 20 years."

* Mr. John Philipps gives the population as 1,866, *i.e.*, males 927, females 993.

Fife.

Mr. Culley.

s.

Cameron.

Population, 1,362 - Acreage, 9,324.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

46. *The Rev. John Webster* says:

"*Children* are employed from 13 years old upwards during summer, in turnip cleaning and other light work."

"*Women*, married and unmarried, are largely employed on farms in various kinds of agricultural work."

"Females and children are subject *to no ill-treatment* that I am aware of."

"I should say that the employment of females in agriculture must have an injurious effect on their morals, if I am rightly informed as to the nature of the conversation often indulged in in the fields between males and females. There can be no doubt that the proper training for domestic duties is to a considerable extent neglected."

"There is no excess of male and female labour beyond the demand in the parish, and the female labour makes a very material addition to the income of the family, and therefore any change that would have the effect of diminishing the supply of labour, and consequently the family income, would be surrounded with difficulties. At the same time I am of opinion that no females or children should be employed at field work, except perhaps during turnip cleaning and in harvest, when all available hands are required."

"The preferable mode of enforcing some amount of school attendance would be eight or nine months school attendance for children under 10 years of age and three or four months for those between 10 and 13 or 14 (suggested as a modification of the Printworks Act by Assistant Commissioner). In fact, none other would suit a country parish."

"There are *three schools* in the parish, the parochial school and two side schools. The proportion of children attending school is very creditable. Occasionally girls who ought to be at school are kept at home to let the mothers and elder sisters, if there are any, go out to work. There is no evening school."

"Some of the *cottages* are good and some very indifferent. Most are conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Some of the labour required is, however, drawn from neighbouring villages. In some of the cottages the accommodation is too limited if the family is large."

"The *bothy system* exists, but only for the accommodation of an unmarried lad or two at most of the farms. One defect of the system is that generally speaking there is no supervision of the young men after work hours; but I cannot say that any special evil results arising out of the system have come under my notice."

47. *Mr. John Purves*, landowner, says:

"*Few or no boys* are employed in agriculture."

"*No girls* are employed."

"*Women* are employed in all the light work."

"Most of the women reside on the farms or adjacent thereto."

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*. The women are extremely *vigorous and healthy, and like their occupations*."

"While doubtless the morality of the females could admit of amendment, the lack of it is incidental to the nature of things, and not to their special calling."

'I should be very sorry indeed to see any restriction whatever placed on the employment of females in agriculture. Much evil might result from so doing, but no good."

Schools, &c.

"All the children of the agricultural labouring class are fairly educated. The advantages of education are highly valued. Every child from 6 to 14 attends school regularly as a rule. Of course there may be exceptional cases of careless parents."

Cottages, &c.

"The condition of *the cottages* is good, and is being improved where necessary. The Inclosure Commission are a set of well-meaning humbugs. Apparently quite incapable of estimating the requirements of an agricultural labourer, who has not the means to furnish such houses as the Commissioners insist on, or a retinue of servants to keep them in order or money to buy fuel to heat them. A house above a man's means or wants is anything but a blessing to him."

Carnbee.

Population, 1,157 - Acreage, 8,395.
Cultivation, chiefly arable; in six and seven course rotation.

48. *Mr. David Farmer*, occupier, says:—

"*Children* are employed from 14 years of age in the ordinary light work of a farm during summer."

"Women are employed in all the light work of a farm."

"Men work 11 hours a day, women 9 hours."

"*Opportunities of education are provided* for the children of the labouring class, and nearly all the children have a fair education."

"The *cottages* are good, but more of them would be desirable.

"The *bothy system* exists, but with no evil results to morality."

Ceres.

Population, 2,723. - Acreage, 10,075.
Cultivation, almost entirely arable.

49. *George Campbell, Esq.*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* are employed at all times of the year from the age of 14 or 15; below that age their employment is quite exceptional."

"*Girls* from 14 or 15 years of age are employed in weeding, hoeing, gathering potatoes, &c.; very young girls are not ordinarily employed in agriculture."

"*Women* are universally employed at all kinds of farm work except driving horses, and sometimes even at that. They weed and hoe turnips, load and spread manure, gather and load crops, &c. Almost all women work, even married women, and farmers will not generally allow their cottages to be occupied except on the condition that the women of the family shall work on their farms, and not go off to mill or factory work."

"There are *generally sufficient cottages*, and they have not to go far to their work."

"*The hours of work* are about nine hours. All classes work less time now than they formerly did. Wages being higher their necessities are less, and they will not work to excess as formerly."

"There seems *no necessity for restricting the age at which boys or girls should be permitted to work on the land*. Boys are physically better, larger, and stronger, when they begin to work (and earning wages) are well fed. The age at which they commence work is such that they need not want a sufficient education unless it be from the neglect of their parents."

"The somewhat masculine work occasionally done by women is not such nor so much as to render legislative interference necessary. The principal evil is the employment of married women to the neglect of their families. It is greatly to be desired that this practice should be diminished, but that can hardly be done by Act of Parliament. We must look to public opinion and the enlightened self interest of the heads of families as they become more independent."

Schools, &c.

"The means of education are considerable. There is a school in every large village in this neighbourhood. The people generally take advantage of them and if the parents send the children to school early enough they are tolerably educated. There are no

ses for want of education but neglect of parents, health, or accident. What is most required is e assistance from a central authority towards sup- ing books, object maps, &c., and efficient teachers, inspecting the character of the education. Grants id are much wanted in some schools."

Cottages.

The cottages are generally sufficiently good. ne of the old-fashioned inferior cottages remain, most of them have given way to an improved ... They are generally sufficient in number and veniently situated. They generally contain two rooms and a smaller one, and are not more wded than is inevitable where families are large means are small. Ventilation is not much lied. There is generally water available."

All the cottages in this part of the country have dens, and generally good ones."

CUPAR.

Population, 6,750. - Acreage, 5,737.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

50. *Mr. James Wemyss*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* are employed in agriculture at about 14 or years of age."

"*Girls* are seldom if ever employed."

"*Young women, middle-aged, and old*, are em- yed in harvesting, weeding, and thinning and ing turnips and potatoes, attending the thrashing l, and in hay-making."

"The age at which children should be permitted work on the land should be restricted to 15 years age, except for keeping rooks, &c. off the crops."

"Ample *means of education* are provided, which, nerally speaking, are well taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are generally good and sufficient the supply of ordinary farm labour, but labourers ne also from towns and villages for hoeing, &c. nen a large number of hands are required."

"Most cottages have *gardens*."

DAIRSIE.

Population, 638. - Acreage, 2,560.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

The following evidence applies also to Leuchars rish, in which Mr. Meldrum is also an owner and cupier of land.

51. *Mr. Meldrum*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Children* are employed from 13 years of age and wards generally during the whole year, but more the autumn. They are employed in gathering tatoes, hoeing turnips, and other light work."

"*Women* are employed 10 or 11 months of the ar."

Men are employed in summer from 5 to 6½ and 7 12 am., 2 to 6 p.m.; in winter, from 6 to 7 and 7½ 12 a.m., 1½ to 5 p.m.

Women are employed in winter from 7 to 12 a.m., d 2 to 6 p.m.

"Females and children are subject to *no ill-treat- nt* nor any physical injury arising from the nature their work."

"There is *no need of restricting* the employment females and children in agriculture."

"There are *three schools* in each of the parishes Dairsie and Leuchars, all taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are generally very good, scarcely fficient on some farms for the supply of labour, and far distant from the farms; a few may be over- rowded. The improvement of cottages generally kes place at the entry upon new leases."

"The *bothy system* exists, but not to a great ex- nt. Where they are well regulated and conducted see no other plan more preferable for lodging young oughmen. I think it is well to have the bothies djacent to the foreman's house."

52. There is a very good *bothy* at Todhall farm, con- sting of a large and well arranged kitchen and four bedrooms, with two beds in each. Water is laid on in the kitchen and conveniently for the bedrooms, and I saw here the first bench or guard-bed I have seen for the men to lie down on during their mid-day rest. When I visited the bothy there were only three men in it, as is usually the case, except about harvest. On the farms there were nine married and three single men, *i.e.*:

1 grieve.
1 cattle-man.
1 orra-man.
6 married ploughmen.
3 unmarried do.

53. *William Speed*, one of the bothy men, says:

"This is the best bothy here-away; there's none the like o't."

"We have 6½ bolls of meal, 18 gills of milk a day in summer, and 12 gills in winter, some potatoes too in winter, and some of us 20*l.* and some 22*l.* They don't give potatoes in the carse in Perthshire, but where the master does not give potatoes there's always some way of getting them."

"We have brose at breakfast—there's no time to make porridge—and brose at dinner; and when we hav'nt porridge at supper we have boiled potatoes and milk."

"Nobody but the grieve has a cow here."

54. *George Johnstone, farm grieve*, says:

"*Women* get 1*s.* a day ordinarily in potato lifting; for about a fortnight they get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and for may be three weeks in harvest 3*s.* a day. *Cottar* women get a house and garden for a small rent, 30*s.*, and the same wage and coals driven, nothing else. Their gains run to 15*l.* a year counting everything. That was the average of the cottar women last year. A married woman working out averages 8*l.* or 9*l.* in the year. When I remember first some of the common labourers had cows, and I think they lost them as much by their own fault as anything; they were always taking more than they were allowed for their cows and hurting the beast often, as well as doing what was not right. Now only grieves, and not all of them, have cows."

DENINO.

Population, 370. - Acreage, 2,737.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

55. *The Rev. John Birrell*, says:

"Of *boys* under 13 years of age I do not know of any employed in agriculture except as herds during the herding season. Over 13 there are some in bothies whose duty is to look after cattle."

"*Girls* under 13 are only employed as herds, from 15 upwards they are largely employed as out-workers."

"*Women* are employed to a very large extent. Every available woman of that class in the parish being in request for outworking, and at some seasons such as harvest and potato lifting time, &c. actually so employed.

"Neither *women nor children* are subject to any ill-treatment. A few accidents have happened in the fields, but these were entirely owing to the carelessness or recklessness of the workers themselves.

"Granted that female labour is indispensable in this quarter I do not believe, except perhaps in the matter of wages, there is any complaint they have to make against their employers."

"There is no doubt that the state of the *moral tone* of agricultural labourers is far from being what it ought to be. In my own district there is less to complain of in that respect than in others; still there is great room for improvement."

"How far this moral tone is connected with their outworking I am not quite able to say. There is no doubt that working in gangs tends to keep the tone low where it is low and to perpetuate and deepen the evil, but I do not see why women in the fields should not be trained to talk and behave as well there as elsewhere."

Fife.
Mr. Culley.
s.

"*In the case of children no interference is needed here.*"

"Theoretically I should be inclined to say that it would be better that women should not work in the fields; practically such a scheme could not be carried out. In my parish every able-bodied man and woman is needed at certain seasons, the population being so small. At other seasons some are out of employment altogether."

"As far as the families of working men are concerned, the man's earnings are barely sufficient for the wants of the family if it be a large one, and when a daughter or two can work out the circumstances of the family are greatly improved. Then again, when parents are old and unable to work, the employment of their daughters as outworkers furnishes their only means of livelihood. *The one restriction* I would suggest, is that *mothers of families* should not be required nor permitted to desert their households for field work. My strong conviction is that any change in existing customs can only be effected gradually. At present the farmers in hiring married men as servants try to secure *families with grown-up daughters resident with their parents.* The men knowing such to be the desire of the farmers endeavour to *keep their daughters at home*, and are therefore anxious that their *sons should leave for 'bothy life'* by the time they are 15 years of age. I believe if this custom were reversed, the young men kept at home till, say, 18 years old, and the young women allowed to go out as domestic servants, the change would be for the better. It would secure that both sons and daughters would enjoy the benefit of family supervision either at home or in the families of others during the most critical period of life. The present system besides necessitating the employment of females in the fields for hoeing and other work (some of which such as spreading and even filling manure is certainly unfeminine) acts injuriously on the young men in two ways: 1st., it sends them out to *man's work* at too early an age. The management of a pair of horses is too much for any youth under 17 or 18. They begin now often at 15, and have their physique destroyed during the years of growth. 2nd., they are removed from all family life and parental care at the very age when the benefits of both are most felt, to be thrown together in bothies, uncared for."

"Let the young men be employed from 14 to 18 as outworkers, doing the work now done by women, and let these go to service. *The legislation required is to restrict the management of horses or full ploughman's work to young men above* 17 *years of age.* This is needed for the sake of the physique alone, and would bring several other good results in its train."

Education.

"There is no necessity whatever, as far as my parish is concerned, for any legislative interference with the attendance of children at school. The only drawbacks are, 1st., that the Martinmas Term happens shortly after the reopening of the school, and in the case of those who are removing, the children are not sent to school till after the removal; 2nd., the thriftlessness and carelessness of a few individuals and families. *The general system is healthy.*"

"The parochial school quite overtakes the educational requirements of the parish and the attendance, compared with the population (about 500) of the district, shows that the means of education are taken advantage of, *with the exception of four families, who are improving in this respect, every child under* 13 *that can reasonably be spared is at school.*"

State of Cottages.

"Some are old and poorly finished, but the great majority are very good, roomy and comfortable."

"On some farms there are not a sufficient number of cottages, and the consequence is that large bothies, which are a social nuisance, are required. The old cottages have in general only one apartment, and where that is the case decency and morals alik suffer. Every cottage should have two moderate sized apartments. The scene in a one-roomed hou on the occasion of a death is simply disgusting."

Bothies.

"With the exception of one farm all farms in th parish have bothies for young men. On one far where the cottage accommodation is limited there a very large bothy, whose inmates number seven eight; generally the number is two or three in ca I believe the system to be bad in itself. The go youths are generally in the minority, and are liable become corrupted. I have tried hard to bring both lads under religious influences, and have only partial succeeded. Two out of eight farms in this pari have bothies for female workers in harvest, usually a that season occupied by four or five women from distance."

"During my incumbency some progress has be made in adding to the cottage accommodation. Ex cept on one farm there appears to be a sufficien number of cottages, that farm would require thre additional cottages."

Gardens, &c.

"All farm servants have potato ground in additio to their cottage garden. Very few, and these fore men, are allowed the keep of a cow."

56. *Mr. James Wallace*, occupier, says:

"*Children* are employed from 14 years of age during summer, at light work."

"*Women* are employed on all light work of th farm."

"In general labourers live on the farm or in th neighbourhood, a few come from two to three miles t their work."

"*Men work* 11 *hours* a day, *women work* 9."

"I believe that all the children in the parish ca read and write, and no restriction on their labour i needed."

"The cottages in the neighbourhood are good an in general sufficient for the supply of labour. The are conveniently situated, and as to morality I believ the morals of the parish are very good."

"The bothy system in this parish is on a limite scale, being occupied by only one, two, or three of th young men belonging to the farm, and they kee themselves very respectable."

DUNBOG.

Population, 414. - Acreage, 2,396.
Cultivation, chiefly arable, with some hill pasture.

57. *Mr. John Ballingall*, occupier, says:

"A few *boys* about 13 years of age are engaged a cattle herds and to frighten crows."

No *girls* are employed.

I employ 28 *women* all residing on the farm with the exception of four, these four are from Skye an live in a comfortable bothy. [This on 1,226 acre arable.—G. C.]

"Men work 11 hours a day in summer, and 9½ i winter; women work 9 hours a day in summer, an 8 in winter; children work 11 hours a day whe herding."

"The employment of females has *no injurious effec on their morals.* The general morality of the clas is low, but not so low as that of females engaged in factories. Young women usually go into service a the age of 18 or 19, where their training is more suitable for fitting them for domestic duties."

"*Parochial and other schools* where the ordinary branches of education are taught besides sewing o industrial classes in connexion with the schools, ar the means of education provided for the children o labourers. Full advantage is taken of them. The children are almost universally well educated. There is an *evening school for girls* keeping house in summer it is taken advantage of."

"The *cottages* are sufficient in number and are conveniently situated. No injury to morality arises on account of deficient accommodation. Although there are at least two separate sleeping rooms in each cottage the inmates seldom use more than one. Generally there are two beds in the kitchen and all the family sleep in them. Cottages are continuously being improved; the oldest and worst are being replaced by new ones which are invariably commodious."

"The *bothy system* exists to a limited extent, but seldom more than one-third or one-fourth of the men are unmarried. In my own case 19 men are married and live in cottages, five are unmarried and live in three bothies (I occupy three separate farms) such arrangement has no injurious effects, on the contrary it is the most suitable system for accommodating unmarried men. The evil of the system is in large numbers living in *one* bothy and when the greater part of the labour of a farm or district depends on it."

All cottagers have *a quarter of an acre of potato ground besides their gardens.* Foremen always have *cows*; shepherd and cattle feeders *frequently have them.*

58. *Mr. David Berwick*, occupier, says:

"A very few *boys* from 10 to 13 years of age are employed during summer herding cows and scaring crows and wood pigeons."

"*Girls* of about the same age are employed, but rarely."

"Women are employed to the same extent as men in work suited to them."

"In most instances the females and children are of the families of men employed on the farm, they occasionally come from neighbouring villages, not above two miles off."

"The employment of women in agriculture has no evil effects on their morals more than any other associated labour. It is not a training for domestic duties except as giving habits of industry to the young; but as girls rarely do farm work till they are 13 and generally leave for domestic service at 18, they get a good mixed training for their after life as wives of labourers."

"Parents of the labouring class who do not educate their children are looked down on by their fellows and they are fortunately very rare."

"The condition of the *cottages* is good; they are sufficient for the labour required; they are conveniently situated being all on their respective farms."

"The *bothy system* does exist in this parish and county to a moderate extent, not more than is requisite for the accommodation of the young unmarried men and is attended with no worse effects than any other system of lodging young men, it is much better than lodging them with married men who have daughters growing up. Its bad effects are most felt where landlords refuse to give cottages for the married men and where the family have to live in a town or village while the husband is lodged in a bothy on the farm."

Ferry-port-on-Craig.

Population, 2,013. - Acreage, 4,952.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

59. *Mr. P. Christie*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are not generally employed under 14 years of age, they herd cows during spring and summer."

"*Girls* are not employed under 15 or 16, after that during summer singling turnips and in harvest work with their parents, on piece work shearing by the acre."

"As *many women* as can be had are employed. In spring and summer they do field work; in autumn they do harvest work and gather potatoes; in winter they store turnips and do barn work. The mills in the neighbourhood employ the large proportion of the stout young women."

"Labourers have generally only a short distance to come to their work, a very few have two miles at the utmost to come."

"With the exception of harvest time when longer time is applied ploughmen work from 5 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2 p.m. to 6.15 p.m., and from 8 p.m. to 8.30 suppering and dressing their horses; women work nine hours a day."

"I do not find the employment of females in agriculture more injurious to their morals than any other employment; they have more leisure for acquiring a training for domestic duties than girls employed in mills."

"Abundant *means of education* are provided in the parish, and the agricultural classes take full advantage of them."

"The general condition of the *cottages* in the rural part of the parish is of a secondary description and not sufficient for the supply of labour, they are tolerably well situated with respect to the farms, additional labourers being supplied from the adjoining village."

"There are only two farms in the parish which require *bothies*, namely, on my farm there is a small bothy in which there are six men or lads lodged, and on another larger farm there are five of the same description. I consider after 40 years experience that the bothy system is the best that can be adopted, but many landlords do not give proper accommodation, and neither the master nor the clergyman do what might be done by a little attention to the bothy occupiers."

Forgan.

Population, 1,326 - Acreage, 5,082.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

60. *Mr. James Buist*, occupier, says:

"Ploughmen work in summer about 11 hours, in winter 9 hours."

"Women work 9 hours in summer, in winter about 8."

"Children above 13 years of age work 9 hours in summer, and scarcely at all in winter, or if so not more than 8 or 7½ hours."

"We have a number of females employed on the farm from 14 years of age or so, they are generally employed with their mothers and other grown up females, and on the whole are well behaved. If they remain unmarried they generally go to service, but if they remain at home with their parents they receive a proper training for domestic duties."

"In this parish ploughmen and labourer's children are invariably sent to school as soon as they are fit. They are taught to read, write, and do arithmetic, and I do not suppose that any compulsion is necessary to enforce school attendance. All my own ploughmen can read and write."

"The parents of agricultural labouring class think it their bounden duty to educate their children according to their station. As a proof of the state of education prevalent among this class, letter writing to friends is now universal and daily on the increase."

"In this parish *the cottages* are almost all good, some very good and generally convenient for the farms. No overcrowding takes place, they are large enough for the owners."

"About one half of the farms in this parish have *bothies*, and the other half of the farms have cottages for the married ploughmen. The bothy system is necessary for the accommodation of unmarried ploughmen. Proper attention on the part of the parents and their master in looking in upon them through the week and on the sabbath would help to make the young men behave themselves well, and if this was a universal custom it would tend much towards making them useful in after life."

Kemback.

Population, 896 - Acreage, 2,602.

61. *Mr. A. Bethune*, landowner, says:

"A few *boys* are employed between 10 and 14 years of age."

Fife.
Mr. Culley.
S.

"*Girls* begin to be employed in turnip culture after 14 years of age."

"As many women as can be got are employed."

"There is no ill-treatment of either women or children."

"The *schools* (three of them) in this parish are none of them attended as they should be. A compulsory and purely secular education must be enforced before the schools will be properly attended. I would let the parents pay a certain portion of the fees themselves and compel attendance for eight or nine months of the year for children under 10, and for four months between 10 and 14."

"The *cottages* need further improvement and should be increased in number. It is extremely desirable that the duration of rentcharges *on loans under the Inclosure Commissioners* should be extended, in fact, imperative, if advantage is to be taken of such means for cottage building.

"Bothies seem a necessity with us and are usually well conducted."

62. Visited a large *female bothy* for factory workers (flax mill) in Dura Den. A housekeeper looks after this bothy in which there are now 16 young women and have been 24. Two women occupy each bed. The woman in charge is instructed to lock the door at 10 p.m., except on Saturday night when they are allowed till 11½ o'clock. She, however, told me she had often to let them in after 10. When they come home the "worse for drink" and make a row she locks them out. She told me also that their language and behaviour was much worse than any "country bred" girls (they usually come from Dundee). Two Irish girls now in the bothy she described as quiet and well behaved, but added some of the Irish are just as bad or worse than the others. I saw several old "but and ben" cottages, and two new ones well built consisting of a "but and ben" with closet between and coal house in a "lean-to" at the back. One room (the kitchen) flagged, the other boarded, the closet opposite the door. Such a cottage built of stone and pan-tiled, is a type of the Fifeshire labourer's home. —G. C.

63. Evidence of an old man (68 and past work), formerly foreman on a farm.

"Men are not near so sore wrought now as they used to be. They only do the horse work now which is the easiest, and they get more money for less work."

Kilmany.

Population, 656. - Acreage, 5,543.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

64. *Mr. D. Gillespie*, landowner, says:

"*Boys* are seldom employed under 15 years of age. When under that age, only during summer and autumn, but very few under 14 are employed, even in summer."

Very few *girls* are employed under 14 years of age. In summer they hoe, weed, &c., in winter they lift turnips and work at the thrashing machine."

"Married *women* almost all work in the fields, there are not so many young women employed."

Labourers seldom come more than a mile to their work. The young women mostly go to service, but those in the service of farmers are often employed on their fields.

"There is *no necessity for any restriction* of the employment of *children* in agriculture. Great evil arises from *married women* working out all day and leaving a girl of from 8 to 12 years old at home to take charge of the younger children."

"There are ample means of education provided, a *parish and a female school*. About 90 children on an average go to school. The fact of married women working out often keeps a girl from school. At 13 boys often go to trades. There is no obstacle to education from boys and girls working on the land. The only obstacle is as I have said before girls being kept at home in charge of the house. The population is much too scattered in the north of Fife to admit of an infant school."

The *cottages* are generally good, several are attached to each farm. Most of the farms have a bothy for two, three, and four unmarried ploughmen in addition. The cottages have almost all two rooms, sometimes only one is furnished, where there are more than *two* rooms the third is not used."

"Every cottage has its *garden*. There are *no allotments* in this parish."

65. *Mr. D. Anderson*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* are employed from 12 years upwards crow herding and potato lifting."

"Very few girls under 13 are employed."

"As a general rule children attend school throughout the year except in time of harvest and potato lifting."

"The *cottages* are mostly in good condition. Sometimes one room is overcrowded because the family will only use that one."

Kinghorn.

Population, 2,349. - Acreage, 5,596.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

66. *Mr. Geo. Prentice*, landowner and occupier, in a return which he says applies equally to his farms in Kinghorn, Dysart, Burntisland, and Kinross parishes, says:

"*Boys and girls* from 12 to 14 years of age are employed in summer and go to school in winter."

"About as many women as men are employed, and get constant work summer and winter when weather permits." [On the farm in Kinghorn parish, of adult women Mr. Prentice employs 12 married and the same number unmarried on 500 acres of arable land and 350 grass.]

"Men work 10 hours, women and children 9."

"All the females, either wives or daughters of labourers, live on the farm. All can read and write, and some do accounts well."

"All the children on my farms are well educated." [Mr. Prentice occupies 850 acres in Kinghorn parish, 650 in Dysart, 350 in Burntisland, and 300 in Kinrossshire.]

"There need be no interference with labour. No class of labourers are better housed, better educated, or better cared for than farm servants."

"All the *cottages* in this parish (Kinghorn) are good; they generally have three apartments."

"The *bothy system* is not in use here; all the servants have cottages."

67. *Mr. Wm. Drysdale*, occupier, says:

"*Boys* commence work in our parish at from 13 to 14 years of age, and are employed during the whole year in herding the crops from rooks and wood pigeons, in assisting the cattle men, and generally doing any light work suited to their age and capacity. After a time they are entrusted with a horse and cart, and perform the many small operations on a farm which require neither the experience nor strength of a man. At about 18 they are considered fit to take charge of a pair of horses and perform all the duties of an ordinary ploughman."

"*Girls* are employed at about the same age as boys, and are occupied in weeding the crops, thinning and hoeing turnips, and assisting at harvest. Two girls doing the work of one woman."

"The *wives and daughters of ploughmen* residing on the farm are employed in good weather during the whole year. In *winter* they pull and store turnips, spread manure upon the stubbles, and assist in thrashing grain. In *spring* they collect weeds, clean hedges, cut and plant seed potatoes. In *summer* they pull weeds from among the growing crops, spread manure in the turnip drills, hoe potatoes, thin and hoe turnips, and assist in haymaking. In *autumn* they are engaged in harvest work and in lifting the potato crop."

"*The hours of work* are for men from 6 to 12 and 2 to 6 in summer; in winter from 7 to 12 and 1 to 5. Ploughmen ought to be in the stable at 5 a.m. every morning and return to the stable at 8 p.m. to give their horses their fodder."

"*Women, boys, and girls* work in summer from 7 to 2 and 2 to 6. In winter from 8 to 12 and 1 to 5."

"The work to which boys and girls are put does ot, in my opinion, interfere in the very smallest de-ee with their physical development. On the con-ary, from the healthy nature of their employment, e fresh air which they breathe, their comfortable ues, and other causes, the young of both sexes ployed in agriculture contrast most favourably with se of a similar age who reside in towns and are ployed in factories and other manufacturing works. e same observations apply to the grown-up females. heir work at certain seasons is very hard, too much perhaps, for town-bred women; but our workers, rn and brought up in the country, are quite fit for . Their strong frames and ruddy cheeks give most nquestionable proof of their being neither overworked r underfed."

"From the nature of their work our female workers annot be expected to be very choice as to their speech r manners. *Their morality* also is none of the strict-st. The young men and women have frequent meet-gs at night, and in too many cases their marriage ecomes a necessity; sometimes the marriage takes lace before the birth of the child, but often the cere-ony takes place after that event has occurred. In lmost every case, however, the man is faithful to the oman, and illegitimacy is quite exceptional. Great mprovement has taken place in this respect during he last few years. The reason of this change is not ery obvious. It can scarcely be ascribed to educa-ion, because our ploughmen were quite as well edu-ated 50 years ago. I think the principal cause is the etter class of houses which of late have been built or our farm servants. Formerly the cottages had nly one apartment, now they contain two or three rooms, which permits a separation of the sexes and ome attention to modesty and refinement. So much s this the case that there is now a scarcity of females in our parish; young women give up the coarse farm work and go out to domestic service. They are in great demand as domestic servants, as they are strong and able to perform all domestic duties, as well as being generally honest and well brought up."

"I cannot see the smallest necessity in our parish for *any restriction on female employment* in agriculture."

"There are good *schools* in our parish and neighbourhood, to which every son and daughter of our agricultural labourers, with no exception that I am aware of, go so soon as they are able to walk the distance. They continue at school till they are 13 or 14, and those boys who have chosen some other occupation than farm labour are allowed to remain a year or two longer."

Cottages.

"Little or no complaint can be made of the condition of the cottages in this parish and neighbourhood. They are generally sufficient for the supply of labour, and are conveniently situated. The old ones are small and rather overcrowded; but these are being rapidly superseded by new ones of commodious size."

"The '*bothy system*' exists to a very trifling extent in this parish, and will doubtless in a few years entirely disappear."

"All cottages in our parish have *gardens* attached to them."

KINGSBARNS.

Population, 937. - Acreage, 4,370.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

68. *Mr. T. Duncan*, landowner and occupier, says:

"Females and children are subject to no ill-treatment nor physical injury arising from their work, nor is there anything in their work hurtful to their morals nor prejudicial to their training for domestic duties."

"An *infant school* takes the children from four to seven years of age, and the *parish school* carries on those intended for agriculture till they are 12 or 14. All take advantage of the schools."

Cottages, &c.

"Cottages have generally far below the requisite accommodation. They should have two rooms with fire places and a mud place for coals, potatoes, &c. They are generally very properly built on the farms. Newly built cottages are usually on an enlarged pattern, but not to the extent required."

"Foremen are occasionally allowed cows: all have gardens, milk, potatoes, and meal."

"The *bothy system* is greatly circumscribed in the parish. The farmers prefer families in cottages. Some farms have two to four men in bothies."

Loans under the Inclosure Commissioners.

"I am decidedly of opinion that all the Acts of the Inclosure Commissioners during the last 25 years have been prejudicial to the country, and if they were necessary they were only so because of the existence of laws which should have been swept away. If a proprietor cannot accommodate the labourers on his estate decently, either make him sell his land or sweep away the causes that disable him. Instead of building more and better houses, there is a desire among many, too many, proprietors to pull down what they have and so drive into the towns, to lose all claim on the parochial board, those who have spent their best years in cultivating the land. I confess there seems some reason in this, but unless some great remedy is found out to prevent the catastrophe it looks like the swamping of all the tangible and moving wealth of the country to pay *poor's relief*, though it be always as *niggardly* administered as it now is and always has been."

69. *Mr. John Barclay*, occupier, says:

"I do not employ any children under 13 years of age."

"No restrictions are needed. There is too much legislation about land. Abolish the *law of hypothec*; keep the *game laws* as they are; increase the *penalty for trespass*, and let the remedy be taken in the Sheriffs' Court; and allow landlords and tenants to make the best bargain they can."

"The *cottage* accommodation has been increased of late years, but is insufficient for the labour required."

70. *Mr. Maughan*, master of parochial school, says:

"*Boys* are employed from eight years old and upwards from April till end of November."

"*Girls* are employed at the same age as boys generally in weeding."

"I consider that from mixing with or coming too much in contact with the male labourers, a general tendency to laxity of morals is produced. Certainly I consider that the employment of females in agriculture tends to unfit them from attending to or superintending domestic duties."

"I consider that the only means (in a parish like this) of securing a *moderate* education is, that it be rendered imperative on parents or guardians, that children between the ages of seven and 12 should attend school for at least four hours a day during 10 months of the year. There is no evening school."

"The *cottages* are very good. I do not consider them overcrowded."

"The *bothy system exists* to a certain extent, and when it does I consider it decidedly detrimental to morality. In most cases the young men have no superintendence over them, and it offers a great amount of temptation to the females engaged on the farm."

LARGO.

Population, 2,626. - Acreage, 7,585.
Cultivation, chiefly arable, in six-course rotation.

71. *Mr. R. Russell*, occupier, says:

"I employ no *boys* at present, and comparatively few are employed in the parish till they are 14 or 15 years of age. They are generally hired for a year. A few are employed on some farms during green crop hoeing and harvest."

Fife.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"A few *girls* under 15 are employed in hoeing and pulling green crops and assisting at harvest; these are paid day's wages."

"I employ about eight or 10 women throughout the year, 10 to 12 extra from the neighbouring villages during harvest and potato lifting time (this applies to 330 acres arable)."

"Men and women work from 7 a.m. till noon, and from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m. in summer."

"Constant employment of young women in field work cannot be said to be a good school for morals. I doubt however if it is worse than factories or other employments where young men and women are not separated in their work. Young women bred up as domestic servants generally make better wives for labourers than those who have constantly worked in the fields."

"Few or no children being employed in agricultural labour in this parish, all are enabled to attend school, and non-attendance is very rare."

"*The condition of the cottages* in this parish has improved greatly within a recent date. A good deal still remains to be done. The evil is curing itself. If a farmer has not a good house he cannot get a good servant to occupy it. There is little overcrowding. The old houses are deficient in comfort. It is difficult to trace immorality to this cause."

"The *bothy system* is not a good one, want of cottages render it a necessity. Its stronghold is on strong soils where few green crops can be raised: on all green crop soils it is being extinguished. I have had a great many bothy men in my experience. They may be rough in their manners, but I question whether they are more immoral than the better educated classes. I have found that nothing inspires self-respect in this class so much as getting them to lodge their savings in the bank. I have repeatedly had young men with 50*l.* in the bank."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

"*Few ploughmen have cows.* They have *from* 30 *to* 35 *cwt. of potatoes, besides* 400 *yards of a drill* planted in the fields. They have their coals driven."

Leslie.

Population, 4,332.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

72. *The Rev. D. Runciman*, says:

"There is in this parish a flax spinning mill, employing above 1,000 men, women, and children, also a paper mill employing about 150, and bleaching fields which may employ another 150. The demand for boys and girls in these works is so great that *farmers cannot get children* to work for them."

"The supply of *women* is limited. Those who work out are for the most part widows, who in youth were accustomed to farm work, and whose children are employed at the mills. On account of their children's employment they reside in the town."

"There is *no need of any restriction* on the employment of children and women in farm labour."

"There is an abundant supply of the *means of education*, and the parents as a class are attentive to their duty of sending their children to school. I am not aware of a single case of neglect at present, and in visiting I keep a regular record of each case. There may of course, be a case or two, but I do not know of one, and I know the people well."

"We have in this parish some excellent *cottages*, some which are good enough and perhaps two which are not good. I do not see any necessity for a farm labourer's or ploughman's cottage containing more than two apartments, and for perhaps a third of the whole number on a farm one room of good size would be sufficient."

"Where the children are young the parents do not care for more than one room, and they can manage to get on in that very well. A large cottage is a misfortune to a working man. It requires more furniture and more fuel than a small one, and the wife has not time to keep it clean."

"The *supply of cottages is not sufficient* for the labour required on a good many farms, in fact there is a general deficiency of cottages. There are '*bothies*' at every farm except one in the parish, and these are abominations. They are generally kept in a very dirty state. The young men live on 'brose' (raw oatmeal and boiling water) and milk. The milk keeps them in condition. When the work is severe (spring and harvest) the lads suffer from debility, which manifests itself in glandular swellings and otherwise. It is not easy for a young ploughman to get married on account of the want of house accommodation. In the parish there are two young ploughmen recently married, who have to live in the houses of the fathers of their wives. In consequence of the bothy system the agricultural labouring class is deteriorating here; the middle-aged are generally respectable and intelligent, the young men in the bothies are not their equals."

73. *Mr. Dodds*, factor to the Honble. G. Waldegrave Leslie, told me that it was very difficult to get female labourers. Men go off to the flax mills and bleaching fields to get their children employed. Widows with daughters send their daughters to the mills and go out themselves to farm work. Saw three cottages lately built by Mr. Waldegrave Leslie near Strathorr in Dysart parish, consisting of a "but and ben" and lean-to behind with a porch in front. These are built of stone and pan-tiled save three courses of slates above the gutters. With the piggeries, which stand at the further end of the gardens, which are behind the cottages, each cottage cost about 90*l.*, and save the porch, which is a useful as well as an ornamental addition, are the usual type of the more modern cottages in the county, and are considered by landowners, farmers, and occupants as quite sufficient. The pan-tiles used in Fife are the best, and best laid I have seen, and when you say that Fifeshire cottage consists of a "but and ben" with closet between built of stone and covered with tiles, you have described nine-tenths of the agricultural labourers' cottages.

In Mr. Leslie's cottages at Strathorr the kitchen floor is of quarls, and the floor of the other room boarded. This is the usual arrangement in new cottages. I have never been in any county where there was so much sameness in the form and construction of cottages, and every landowner who conversed to me on the subject complained very much of the number of rooms required by the Inclosure Commissioners.

Leuchars.

Population, 1,903. - Acreage, 15,131.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

74. *Mr. Robert Thompson*, landowner and occupier, says:

Children are employed from 14 years old and upwards.

"Women and children are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"The *schools* are readily taken advantage of by the children of the labouring class, and they are generally kept at school until they are about 14 years of age."

"The *cottages* are good and generally conveniently situated."

"The bothy system is general with few exceptions, and is to the extent of lodging about one-third of the male farm servants who can all read and write well."

75. *Mr. Alexr. Duncan*, occupier, says:

"I cut the whole of my crops with the sickle giving 10*s.* per imperial acre for reaping, binding, and stooking. This is the means of bringing out during harvest younger persons than I employ during the rest of the year, those under 18 being generally brought by their parents to assist them in the work. The schools being closed for eight weeks holidays during this time education is not interfered with."

The *hours of work* are for men 10 hours per day, 5½ a.m. to 6 p.m. with 2½ hours for meals. In ter from 7 a.m. to 4½ p.m. with 1½ hours for meals. omen work in summer from 7 a.m. to 12, and .m. to 6. In winter from 8 a.m. to 12, and 1 p.m. 4.

Schools.

There are parochial and subscription schools, th well taken advantage of.

Cottages.

"Our cottages are in good condition, not over-owded and kept in good order. They are sufficient number and very conveniently situated, two lages whose inhabitants are chiefly dependent on ricultural labour being on the farms."

Bothies.

"We have bothies. I approve of the system, being e only way to educate young men for their work, t would recommend that every man should have s own bedroom with lock and key. The bothies this neighbourhood have not sufficient accom-odation to allow of such an arrangement.

Gardens.

All our cottages have gardens.

LOGIE.

Population, 410. - Acreage, 3,599.

Cultivation chiefly arable, the better land in regular otation of grain, green crop, and grass, the lighter il remaining three or four years in grass.

76. *Mr. A. Reid, occupier*, says:

"Some *children* are employed from 14 years of ge hoeing, weeding, and pulling turnips, and also harvesting grain and potatoes."

"*Women* are employed for all the lighter work on rms including hoeing and singling turnips, harvest nd barn work."

"*Men* work from 5 to 6½ a.m. in the stables, and om 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 in the fields."

"Women from 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m.

"I consider that the females employed in field work on the farms and residing with their parents when young make good domestic servants when they re old enough for that, and after they have served n both capacities, they make the best ploughmen's wives. They are better fitted for their own domestic luties than others who have worked in mills or such ike."

"*All the ploughmen send their children regularly o the parish school.*

"The *cottages* are good and conveniently situated, they are sufficient in number and are not overcrowded. There is generally at the beginning of leases an arrangement made for any renewal of cottages or increase of them if such is required."

"There are *bothies* in some of the farms. When they are constructed with a sleeping room for each man, with a common sitting room and fire, and when there are not more than two or three men together under the superintendence of the master, I do not know any better way of boarding the men who are unmarried, and under the necessity of leaving their parents' houses. There is no other way of lodging farm servants in this parish, there must always be a small proportion of young men provided for in bothies or boarders in houses."

MONIMAIL.

Population, 1,054. - Acreage, 6,554.

Cultivation, chiefly arable.

77. *Major Balfour*, landowner, says:

"A few *boys* of 10 or 11 years of age are employed as herds in summer."

"*Girls* are first employed at about 12 years of age gathering stones and weeds and doing other light work, but only in summer."

"*Women* are employed to the same extent as men, their work being picking weeds, spreading manure, planting potatoes, hoeing, harvest work, pulling turnips, and barn work."

Men work 11 hours a day in summer and 10 in winter. Women work 9 hours a day in summer and 8 in winter. Children work 9 hours a day in summer.

"Children and women are subject to *no ill-treatment*."

"The employment of females in agriculture has *no injurious effect on their morals*. The moral tone of many of this class is decidedly low, but it cannot be attributed to the nature of their work. When they leave the farm, which is generally about the age of 17 or 18, they have no difficulty in getting situations as domestic servants, and in towns they are generally preferred."

"*Any restriction on the employment of females or children as at present conducted would be an impediment to agriculture and an injustice to the families so employed.*"

"Parochial and other schools where the usual branches of education are taught, and in most parishes sewing and knitting are taught by a female teacher. These are the means of education provided for the children of agricultural labourers; full advantage is taken of them, a proof of which is the active epistolary correspondence carried on by them when they go into service."

"The *cottages* are generally good, sufficient for the supply of labour required, conveniently situated, no overcrowding, as the houses are ample; one family occupies one house. No evil results to morality arise from these causes. Cottages have been much improved of late years."

"The *bothy system* exists to a limited extent. In only one bothy in three parishes does the number of men exceed three, generally there are only two; and in this district the system has no injurious effects on morals beyond what might be expected from any other system of accommodating young men. The great evils of the system are where the whole or greater part of the labour of a farm or district depend on it, and this is caused by the want of cottages. When married men have to be lodged in bothies, and their families live in towns, often at a considerable distance, the evil is aggravated."

"All the cottages have *gardens*."

78. *Mr. John Sharp*, occupier, says:

"I think the women employed in agriculture are better behaved than those in about the same class in towns."

The *schools* are generally taken advantage of, and our people can nearly all read and write distinctly, and know as much as they need of arithmetic, and also a little of history and geography."

"The *cottages* are conveniently situated, but rather deficient in number."

"About one-fourth of the ploughmen are unmarried and live *in bothies*. They are generally well behaved."

SALINE.

Population, 1,610. - Acreage, 8,188.

Cultivation, mixed; and some hill pasture.

79. *Mr. D. Telfer*, landowner and occupier, says:

"*Boys* from 13 upwards are frequently employed throughout the year, and young boys are occasionally employed as herds in summer and to help in thinning turnips."

"*Girls* from 10 to 15 years of age are seldom employed except for a few weeks in summer potato planting and thinning turnips."

"*Women* are employed in planting, hoeing, and lifting potatoes, hoeing and lifting turnips, hay-making, picking stones off the land, and keeping fields clear of weeds, and during winter assisting in the barns."

Labourers seldom have more than a mile to come to their work, excepting in turnip thinning time, when children are brought in carts a greater distance—say about two miles.

Fife.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Men work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, with an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner. In winter the hours are much shorter."

Women work eight or nine hours in summer, and six or seven in winter. Children work the same time as women when employed.

"Children and females are subject *to no ill-treatment* that I am aware of, and the nature of their work is *not such as is at all likely to cause physical injury.* The younger children referred to above seem to enjoy their work, and I should think are all the better for their healthy employment."

"So far as this parish is concerned the employment of females in agriculture does not appear prejudicial to morals nor the training for domestic duties."

"The *attendance of children at school* in this parish is on the whole satisfactory. Generally speaking they attend school from eight to nine months in the year. The teachers study to give the vacation at the time of harvest when children are often kept at home at any rate, and thus their more regular attendance is secured. Some parents, however, grudge the expense of keeping their children for so long a time at school during the year, although the fees are very moderate. Some children whose parents are poor, although not on the poor roll, are educated at the expense of the parochial board."

"The *cottages* in this parish and neighbourhood are generally good and sufficient for the supply of labour required; upon the whole they are conveniently situated. I am not aware of any overcrowding. Some years ago, when public works were carried on to a considerable extent, the cottage accommodation was rather deficient, but now it is ample for the population which must have decreased since last census."

The *bothy system* is not much in use in this parish. I do not think it has much influence on education, but I certainly think the system is not favourable to morals. A few of the farmers accommodate the unmarried men in the farmhouse, and most of the married men (they being the majority) have comfortable cottages. The bondage system does not exist in this parish.

"Very few farm servants have now the privilege of a cow, but many have potato ground, some in addition to and others in lieu of garden ground; their field of potatoes may be from three to six bolls."

EVIDENCE ON THE MODE OF HIRING AND MANNER OF PAYING AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

The following tables will exhibit the variations in the wages and allowances of ordinary able-bodied labourers male and female, and indicate the manner of arriving at the average value of their earnings.

80. WAGES and ALLOWANCES of Ordinary Married Ploughmen, exclusive of free cottage and garden.

Parish.	Witness.	Money. £	s.	d.	Meal.	Milk.	Potatoes.	Coals.	Harvest Food.
Abbotshall -	D. Aitken -	19	0	0	*6½ bolls	1 †pint sweet milk per day	24 cwt. -	Cartage -	"Harvest food."
" -	J. Williamson	20	0	0	"	½ gallon " -	24 falls -	" -	"
Aberdour -	— Philipps -	20	0	0	"	1 pint " -	2 bolls -	" -	Not stated.
Balmerino -	G. Johnstone	18	0	0	65 stones	½ gallon " -	1,440 square yards.	" -	"Bread and bee in hay time an harvest."
Cameron -	J. Purves -	18	0	0	"	" " -	¼ acre -	" -	Not stated.
Carnbee -	D. Farmer -	17	10	0	"	" " -	" -	" -	"Two meals a da in harvest."
Dairsee -	— Meldrum -	20	0	0	6½ bolls	" " -	12 lippies, *i.e.*, 1,680 yards	Not stated	Not stated.
Denino -	J. Wallace -	18	0	0	65 stones	" " -	1,800 yards (¼ acre).	Cartage -	"
Dunbog -	J. Ballingall -	19	10	0	"	14 gills " -	¼ acre -	" -	"Harvest food."
" -	D. Berwick -	18	0	0	"	½ gallon " -	" -	Not stated	Not stated.
Ferryport -	P. Christie -	16	0	0	60 stones	14 gills " -	2 tons -	Cartage -	"Harvest food."
Forgan -	J. Buist -	18	0	0	6½ bolls	1 pint " -	¼ acre -	" -	Not stated.
Kinghorn -	W. Drysdale -	19	0	0	"	½ gallon " -	6 bolls -	" -	"Month's food."
Kingsbarns -	J. Barclay -	18	0	0	"	" " -	2½ tons -	" -	"Harvest food."
Largo - -	R. Russell -	20	0	0	65 stones	" " -	Not stated -	" -	"Not stated."
Leuchars -	A. Duncan -	18	0	0	6½ bolls	14 gills " -	2 tons -	" -	"
Cruvie -	A. Reid -	18	0	0	"	½ gallon " -	¼ acre -	" -	"Harvest food."
Saline - -	D. Telfer -	20	0	0	"	3 chopins " -	4 bolls -	Not stated	Not stated.

* The boll is supposed to weigh 10 stones, and 6½ bolls = 65 stones.

† "Pint" here means *Scotch pint*, but there are apparently two Scotch pints, one equal to 12 gills (imperial) and the other commonly called the large pint, equal to 16 gills; the second, equal to 16 gills or ½ gallon is usually meant here.

81. VALUATION of WAGES and ALLOWANCES of *Ordinary Married Ploughmen* as given in foregoing table.

Parish.	Witness.	Money. £	s.	d.	Meal.	Milk.	Potatoes.	Cartage of Coal. £	s.	d.	Cottage and Garden. £	s.	d.	Harvest Food. £	s.	d.	Total Value. £	s.
Abbotshall -	D. Aitken -	19	0	0	20*s.* per boll	3½*d.* per pint	3*s.* per cwt.	0	10	0	2	10	0	0	15	0	37	17
" -	J. Williamson	20	0	0	"	5*d.* per half-gallon.	1*s.* 6*d.* per fall.	0	18	0	2	10	0	0	10	0	39	16
Aberdour -	— Philipps -	20	0	0	"	5*d.* per pint	8*s.* per boll	Not stated			2	10	0	Not stated			37	16
Dunbog -	J. Ballingall -	19	10	0	2*s.* 1½*d.* per stone.	3½*d.* per pint	12*l.* per acre	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	15	0	38	8
" -	D. Berwick -	18	0	0	22*s.* per boll	5*d.* per half-gallon.	16*l.* "	Not stated			3	0	0	Not stated			39	14
Ferryport -	P. Christie -	16	0	0	2*s.* 2*d.* per stone.	4½*d.* per pint	2*l.* per ton	0	10	0	2	10	0	0	12	1½	36	6
Kilmany -	D. Anderson -	19	0	0	20*s.* per boll	4*d.* per half-gallon.	50*s.* as value	0	10	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	39	11
Kingsbarns -	J. Barclay -	18	0	0	"	3½*d.* "	33*s.* 5*d.* per ton.	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	38	14
Leuchars -	A. Duncan -	18	0	0	"	4*d.* per 14 gills.	3*l.* per ton	0	10	0	3	0	0	Not stated			40	1
Cruivie -	A. Reid -	18	0	0	"	4*d.* per half-gallon.	12*l.* per acre	0	10	0	3	0	0	0	10	0	38	0

82. WAGES of *Unmarried ploughmen* in addition to bothy quarters, bed clothes, firing, and extra food in harvest.

Parish.	Witness.	Money.	Meal.	Milk.	Potatoes.
ie -	— Meldrum -	20*l.* - -	6½ bolls -	1 pint per day -	Not stated.
oog -	D. Berwick -	„ - -	„ -	½ gallon „ -	"Potatoes for supper in winter (say 20*s.*)."
rport -	P. Christie -	„ - -	60 stones -	14 gills „ -	"Supper potatoes, say 15*s.* worth."
an -	J. Buist -	18*l.* to 20*l.*	6½ bolls -	1 pint „ -	"Potatoes for supper."
barns -	T. Duncan -	20*l.* to 22*l.*	„ -	„ „ -	Not stated.
- -	R. Russell -	20*l.* to 21*l.*	65 stones -	16 gills „ -	"What potatoes they use."
hars -	A. Duncan -	20*l.* - -	6½ bolls -	14 „ „ -	"Supper potatoes."

Young men who are boarded and lodged in farmhouse, not a usual custom, have from 18*l.* to 20*l.* and keep.

83. WAGES of *Women Workers.*

Parish.	Witness.	Ordinary Work.	Potato Lifting.	*Harvest.	†Total value of Earnings for Twelve Months.
erino - -	G. Johnstone -	1*s.* per day -	1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day	2*s.* 9*d.* per day -	Not stated.
eron - -	J. Purves - -	„ -	Not stated - - -	2*s.* per day and food	„
bee - -	D. Farmer -	„ -	„ - - -	2*s.* 6*d.* „ - -	„
sie - -	— Meldrum -	„ -	1*s.* 6*d.* per day - -	2*s.* 3*d.* „ - -	„
no - -	J. Wallace -	„ -	Not stated - - -	2*s.* „ and food	„
hog - -	J. Ballingall -	„ -	1*s.* 6*d.* per day - -	2*s.* 6*d.* „ - -	16*l.* 15*s.* } On an average of 300 days.
„ - -	D. Berwick -	„ -	„ „ - -	2*s.* „ and food	16*l.* 16*s.* }
rport - -	P. Christie -	„ -	1*s.* 4*d.* „ - -	2*s.* 3*d.* „ „	Not stated.
nany - -	D. Anderson -	„ -	Not stated - - -	Not stated - -	12*l.* to 15*l.*
horn - -	W. Drysdale -	„ -	„ - - -	2*s.* per day and food	Not stated.
gsbarns -	T. Duncan -	„ -	1*s.* 6*d.* per day - -	„ „	„
„ - -	J. Barclay -	1*s.* for 8½ hours	Not stated - - -	„ „	„
chars - -	A. Duncan -	1*s.* per day -	1*s.* 4*d.* per day - -	10*s.* per imperial acre	„
vie - -	A. Reid - -	„ -	1*s.* 6*d.* „ - -	3*s.* per day - -	„
nimail - -	J. Sharp - -	„ -	Not stated - - -	Not stated - -	13*l.* 10*s.*

Mr. D. Berwick considers the harvest food worth 9*d.* a day, and Mr. Christie from 7*d.* to 9*d.*
Mr. D. Berwick gives the worker 300 days (*i.e.*, 16 days each in potato lifting and harvest, and 268 ordinary days).

ABBOTSHALL.

84. *Mr. D. Aitken*, occupier, says:
"Average earnings of able-bodied male labourers *s.* to 15*s.* per week, of females 6*s.* per week." For nainder of evidence see Schedules.—G. C.

85. *Mr. J. Williamson*, occupier, says:
"During hay and grain harvest many extra hands e employed, men earning 3*s.* 6*d.* a day and women . 6*d.*" For remainder of evidence see Schedules. G. C.

ABERDOUR.

86. *Mr. J. Philipps*, land agent, says:
"Unmarried men are generally hired at what are lled 'feeing markets,' married men and women ivately." For remainder of evidence see Schedules. G. C.

BALMERINO.

87. *Mr. G. Johnstone*, occupier, says:
"*Men* are hired for the year at the August fair; omen are paid by the day."
In addition to the allowances in kind (see Schedule) *foreman* has 17*l.* and a cow supplied and kept, in ll about 40*l.* a year.
Second man, 19*l.*
Ordinary ploughman, 17*l.* 5*s.* to 18*l.*
Shepherd, 20*l.* 10*s.*
Cattleman, 17*l.* 10*s.*
For remainder of evidence see Schedules.—G. C.

CARNBEE.

88. *Mr. D. Farmer*, occupier, says:
"*Men* are engaged by the year. The money wage paid twice a year. *Women* are paid once a fortnight." For wages see Schedules.—G. C.

DAIRSIE.

89. *Mr. Meldrum*, landowner and occupier, says:
"*Men* are engaged on the first Tuesday of August for one year from the following Martinmas, and paid partly in money, partly in kind; *women* are engaged when required and paid in money by day wages." For wages and allowances see Schedules.—G. C.

DENINO.

90. *Mr. J. Wallace*, occupier, says:
"On the coast after herring time the fishers take harvest work. Not many Irish come for harvest; before we used machines the Irish used to come; of late years I have had to go to Edinburgh for reapers when the corn was badly laid." For remainder of evidence see Schedules.—G. C.

DUNBOG.

91. *Mr. D. Berwick*, occupier, says:
"Men are hired mostly in the district 'feeing markets,' occasionally through a *register* in the county town. Field workers (females) are paid by the day or week."
Foremen besides the allowances in kind of ordinary labourers (see Schedule) and in lieu of the 18*l.* and half-gallon per day of milk have 20*l.* and the keep of a cow (the cow being the property of the employer). I have put the cow's produce at 12*l.* (see Schedule), it is worth more, but the service of the servant's wife in milking, &c., must be deducted."
Mr Berwick puts a *woman's earnings* at,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
16 days harvest at 2*s.* and meat 9*d.* -	2	4	0
16 „ potato lifting at 1*s.* 6*d.* -	1	4	0
268 „ at 1*s.* (ordinary work) - -	13	8	0
	£16	16	0

Lads from 13 to 18 have 8*l.* to 18*l.* with allowances same as bothymen (see Schedule).

FERRYPORT-ON-CRAIG.

92. *Mr. P. Christie*, occupier, says:
"Males are hired at public markets; females privately."
"Men are paid yearly deducting any money advanced in the interim; women are paid weekly."
"Where a cow is allowed instead of milk 5*l.* is deducted from the money wage."—(*i.e.*, the cow is considered worth 5*l.* besides the 14 gills of milk per day, which Mr. Christie (see Schedule) values at 6*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.*)

Fife.
Mr. Culley.
s.

"*Foremen* have 5*l.* in addition to ordinary ploughmen." (See Schedule.)
"*Cattlemen* same as ordinary ploughmen."
"*Shepherds* between ploughmen and foremen."
"*Labourers* not resident on farms 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week."
"*Female domestic servants* 10*l.* and board."

FORGAN.

93. *Mr. Jas. Buist*, occupier, says:
"Married men here remain for a number of years, six years on an average. They are hired at feeing markets in August at Cupar and St. Andrew's, and sometimes at home on application."
"Most foremen have a cow's keep and allowances (see Schedule) besides 18*l.* to 20*l.* in money."
"*Labourers* have in winter 2*s.* 4*d.* per day, in summer 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*"
For wages of ordinary *married and single ploughmen* see Schedules.—G. C.
"*Unmarried men* often sell their oatmeal and purchase bread and bacon."
"*Bothymen* generally marry after being in the bothy about four years."
"Ploughmen are better paid now than during the last 30 years."

KILMANY.

94. *Mr. D. Anderson*, occupier, says:
"*Men* are engaged from Martinmas to Martinmas. For remainder of evidence see Schedule.—G. C.

KINGHORN.

95. *Mr. Geo. Prentice*, landowner and occupier, says:
"Men apply for our vacant places and are hired by the foreman after making inquiry from their former master."
96. *Mr. W. Drysdale*, occupier, says:
"Our *ploughmen* are hired by the year from Martinmas to Martinmas, and are paid half yearly, partly in money and partly in kind. Extra hands are engaged and paid by the week. *Women* are paid at the end of each week for the number of days they have worked during that week."
After giving an ordinary ploughman's wages Mr. Drysdale says "*extra hands* (men) are paid 14*s.* to "16*s.* a week. *Boys and girls* get half a woman's "wage." For remainder of evidence see Schedules.—G. C.

KIRKCALDY.

97. *Mr. Kidd*, bailiff to Mr. Oswald of Dunnikier gives the following example of an ordinary ploughman's gains.

3rd ploughman—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money	18	0	0
6½ bolls of oats	6	10	0
* Half boll of potatoes planted, say 24 falls, giving 6 bolls of 4 cwts. each at 10*s.* per boll	3	0	0
1*s.* 6*d.* a week in lieu of milk	3	18	0
Cartage of, say, four or five tons of coal	1	0	0
Cottage and garden	3	0	0
Meat in hay and corn harvest	1	0	0
	36	8	0

"Day labourers get from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week, if kept at work all the year they can be had at 12*s.* a week. Drainers by the piece make from 18*s.* to 24*s.* a week."
"About one-third of the ploughmen live in bothies."
Most labourers' wives work out, and in hiring a man this is always a consideration; they get 1*s.* a day for nine hours' work, *i.e.*, 7 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. They have 2*s.* a day and meat for, say, 18 days in harvest."

* The Fife boll of potatoes is 4 cwt., the Perth boll 5 cwt.

KINGSBARNS.

98. *Mr. T. Duncan*, landowner and occupier, says:
"*Married men* get from 18*l.* to 24*l.*, and *young men* from 20*l.* to 22*l.* Both have meal, milk, potatoes worth to the married men 15*l.* and to unmarried 13*l.* In addition to cottage and garden in one case and the bothy accommodation in the other, *married men* have from 33*l.* to 39*l.* a year in money or kind, and unmarried men from 33*l.* to 35*l.*"
"*Women* have 1*s.* a day at ordinary work, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day at potato lifting, and 2*s.* a day with food at harvest. They may make about 20*l.* yearly."
"With proper care and economy our labourers can live pretty comfortably, and I think suffer more from bad accommodation than everything else that is antagonistic to *comfort*, *health*, or morals."

LARGO.

99. *Mr. R. Russell*, occupier, in addition to the information given in the Schedules of wages, says:
"*Ploughmen* are hired from Martinmas to Martinmas. They often require about one-third of the money wage at the end of the first half-year, leaving the remainder till Martinmas. Not having the money constantly in hand gives the young men better opportunity of saving a sufficient sum to put in the savings' bank at the end of the year."

Mr. Russell, who has a stock farm in *Stirlingshire*, gives *shepherds'* wages in that county as follows:

Married Shepherds, Stirlingshire.

In money, 15*l.*
Keep of two cows.
65 stones of oatmeal.
Potato ground.
And often a sterk or two of their own.

LEUCHARS.

100. *Mr. A. Duncan*, occupier, says:
"Our mode of hiring is at public markets, which answers very well, and gives the men a holiday. In fact, they are generally allowed to attend two markets in the year, which are held at Cupar and St. Andrew's in the first and second weeks of August. I am glad to have it in my power to express a good opinion of the agricultural labourers in this quarter. When properly handled and kindly treated there is no class of workmen more deserving of kindness or more grateful."

After giving the wages and allowances of *ploughmen, married and single*, and women (see Schedules) Mr. Duncan says:
"Three *foremen* having cows, their wages may be considered worth 5*l.* more, *i.e.*, in all about 45*l.* a year. (Mr. Duncan therefore considers the cow worth 5*l.* more than the allowance of milk, which he values at 6*l.*) Of hired men's wages he says, "No deduction is made from these wages on account of holidays which may average from eight to 10 days in the year. During illness they generally get meat sent from the farmhouse, and no deduction is made from their wages."

SALINE.

101. *Mr. D. Telfer*, occupier, after giving *ploughman's* wages (see Schedule), says:
"One *labourer* has 15*s.* a week without any allowances. Another has 11*s.* a week, one pint (two imperial quarts) of milk per day, and ground for potatoes. A cattleman has 10*s.* a week, one pint per day of milk, potato ground, and free house and garden." [If these men are equal the allowances must be considered by them of the following value: milk and potato ground, 10*l.* 8*s.*, house and garden 2*l.* 12*s.*, in all, 4*s.* a week.—G. C.] "Three female workers employed eight hours in summer and six or seven in winter have 11*d.* per day. Two of these have comfortable cottages and small gardens, for which they pay a small rent."

LABOUR RETURNS.

1.—Labour Returns for Spring Quarter as given by 22 Occupiers in Perthshire.

Index Number.	Parish.	Extent of Farm in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	Auchterarder	570	900	1,470	Variable	Variable	—	—	—	4	22	26	—	—	—	—	5	6	11
2	Auchtergaven	900	—	900	,,	,,	—	—	1	1	21	23	—	—	—	—	5	7	12
3	Clunie	500	23,000	23,500	Turnip soil	6 course	—	—	—	1	24	25	—	—	—	5	2	6	13
4	Collace	520	—	520	Light loam	5 & 7 course	—	—	5	—	12	17	—	—	5	—	5	5	15
5	Dron	2,600	200	2,800	Light land	5 to 9 course	—	—	3	2	33	38	—	—	3	—	1	18	22
6	Errol	360	—	360	Carse land	7 & 8 course	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	2	4	—	6
7	,,	220	3	223	,,	9 course	—	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
8	,,	895	—	895	,,	7 & 9 course	—	—	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	—	8	12	20
9	Fortingal	150	20,000	20,150	Light loam	6 course	—	—	2	—	15	17	—	—	—	2	4	3	9
10	Inchture	365	—	365	Carse land	9 course	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
11	Kilspindie	230	—	230	,,	7 course	—	—	1	2	7	10	—	—	—	2	1	5	8
12	,,	393	60	453	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	10	—	—	10
13	Methven	335	—	335	Light soil	5 course	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
14	,,	1,000	—	1,000	Heavy and light	6 & 7 course	—	—	1	1	15	17	—	—	—	—	4	—	6
15	,,	295	—	295	Heavy loam	5 course	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	2	2	4	8
16	Moneydie	200	—	200	Friable land	,,	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	3	—	5	8
17	Monzievaird	55	100	155	Light loam	,,	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
18	Nuthill	180	60	240	Gravelly	6 course	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
19	Rhynd	360	20	380	Carse land	8 course	—	—	—	—	11	11	—	—	—	—	4	4	8
20	,,	220	27	247	Clay and loam	—	—	—	1	—	6	7	—	—	—	1	3	2	6
21	,,	200	—	200	Clay and black	5 & 6 course	—	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
22	,,	445	—	445	Carse and dry field	5 course	—	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
	Totals	10,993	44,370	55,363	—	—	—	—	14	24	261	299	—	—	13	25	59	94	190

2.—Labour Returns for Spring Quarter, as given by 27 Occupiers in the Lothians.

Index Number.	Parish.	Extent in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Un-Married.	Total Females.
1	Carriden	630	—	630	Clay loam	4 and 6 course	—	—	—	1	14	15	—	—	—	—	8	9	17
2	Dalmeny	250	—	250	Free loam	6 course	—	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	—	2	4	4	10
3	„	440	—	440	Clay and free	„	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	15	—	—	15
4	Linlithgow	300	150	450	Good	5 and 6 course	—	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
5	Livingstone	300	—	300	Free	6 course	—	—	2	1	4	7	—	—	—	3	1	4	8
6	Colinton	350	—	350	Light and heavy	—	—	—	—	2	14	16	—	—	—	2	6	1	9
7	Corstorphine	750	—	750	Clay loam	6 course	—	—	—	5	20	25	—	—	—	—	10	24	34
8	„	220	—	220	Friable loam	„	—	—	—	3	7	10	—	—	—	3	3	2	8
9	Crichton	840	40	880	Turnip soil	5 and 6 course	—	—	—	2	13	15	—	—	—	—	5	5	10
10	Duddingston	320	—	320	Loam	—	—	—	—	4	10	14	—	—	—	—	5	6	11
11	Lasswade	400	100	500	Strong loam	4, 5, and 6 course	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	5	7	12
12	Liberton	390	—	390	Free soil	6 and 7 course	—	—	—	3	9	12	—	—	—	3	8	—	11
13	„	500	—	500	Black loam	4 and 5 course	—	—	—	3	16	19	—	—	—	3	—	12	15
14	Newton	480	15	495	Variable	4, 5, and 6 course	—	—	—	6	19	25	—	—	—	4	1	14	19
15	Ratho	720	—	720	Loam	5 and 6 course	—	—	—	4	17	21	—	—	2	4	12	8	26
16	Aberlady	467	50	517	„	—	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
17	Athelstaneford	550	—	550	Clay and dry field	5 and 6 course	—	—	3	—	12	15	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
18	Dirleton	660	—	660	Variable	Variable	—	—	—	8	27	35	—	—	—	6	—	22	28
19	„	440	—	440	„	„	—	—	—	3	11	14	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
20	„	148	126	274	„	6 course	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	2	—	3	5
21	„	318	—	318	Clay and sand	5 and 7 course	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
22	Dunbar	500	—	500	Red loam	7 course	—	—	—	2	16	18	—	—	—	4	—	18	22
23	Gladsmuir	220	32	252	Clay and loam	4 course	—	—	1	2	5	8	—	—	—	—	4	5	9
24	Haddington	775	25	800	„ „	Variable	—	—	—	2	16	18	—	—	1	11	—	5	17
25	Innerwick	1,455	844	2,299	Turnip soil	„	—	—	—	11	38	49	—	—	—	4	—	22	26
26	Prestonkirk	370	—	370	Clay loam	6 and 7 course	—	—	—	3	9	12	—	—	—	2	—	7	9
27	Spott	500	27	527	Light land	—	—	—	2	3	8	13	—	—	—	2	1	1	4
	Totals	13,293	1,409	14,702	—	—	—	—	8	77	346	431	—	—	3	74	73	219	369

3.—Labour Returns for Spring Quarter, as given by 35 Occupiers in the Counties of Berwick and Roxburgh.

Index Number.	Parish.	Extent in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	Bunkle	960	—	960	Variable	5 course	—	—	4	3	19	26	—	—	2	1	—	8	11
2	,,	900	12	912	Light soil	,,	—	—	3	3	12	18	—	—	3	7	—	3	13
3	,,	489	57	546	Variable	,,	—	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
4	Chirnside	1,000	140	1,140	,,	,,	—	—	—	7	21	28	—	—	2	4	—	13	19
5	Cockburn's Path	390	60	450	Strong loam	6 course	—	—	2	—	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
6	Coldingham	650	900	1,550	Sharp and rocky	4 course	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
7	Coldstream	600	—	600	Turnip soil	,,	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	1	—	8	9
8	,,	405	70	475	Variable	4 and 5 course	—	—	—	2	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
9	Eccles	1,100	—	1,100	,,	5 course	—	—	—	2	14	16	—	—	—	3	—	13	16
10	,,	630	—	630	,,	4 and 8 course	—	—	—	3	10	13	—	—	—	3	—	8	11
11	Edrom	750	80	830	Loam and moory	5 and 8 course	—	—	—	2	14	16	—	—	—	4	1	9	14
12	,,	609	104	713	Good loam	5 course	—	—	2	5	11	18	—	—	1	3	—	6	10
13	,,	486	—	486	Clay, loam, and gravel.	4 and 5 course	—	—	—	4	8	12	—	—	—	3	—	5	8
14	Fogo	482	—	482	Turnip soil	5 course	—	—	—	3	8	11	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
15	Whitsome	525	—	525	Heavy clay	4 course	—	—	—	2	8	10	—	—	—	2	—	4	6
16	Bedrule	700	200	900	Generally friable	5, 6, and 7 course	—	—	—	1	12	13	—	—	—	1	—	7	8
17	,,	400	600	1,000	,,	Variable	—	—	—	3	7	10	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
18	Crailing	800	100	900	Turnip soil	5 course	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
19	Ednam	500	—	500	,,	,,	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	2	—	10	12
20	Eckford	900	250	1,150	,,	,,	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	10	13
21	,,	1,140	100	1,240	,,	,,	—	—	—	—	14	14	—	—	—	3	—	10	13
22	Linton	560	80	640	,,	,,	—	—	3	—	11	14	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
23	Makerston	300	—	300	,,	,,	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
24	Morebattle	220	50	270	,,	,,	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	2	—	5	7
25	,,	70	1,200	1,270	,,	Variable	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
26	,,	100	1,900	2,000	,,	5 course	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	Roxburgh	1,663	28	1,691	,,	,,	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
28	,,	900	—	900	,,	,,	—	—	—	2	18	20	—	—	—	4	—	21	25
29	Smailholm	470	25	495	,,	,,	—	—	2	1	10	13	—	—	—	2	—	12	14
30	St. Boswells	300	—	300	Light clay	,,	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	2	—	10	12
31	Southdean	500	200	700	Sandy loam	,,	—	—	—	2	3	7	—	—	—	2	—	5	7
32	Sprouston	1,296	—	1,926	Turnip soil	,,	—	—	3	2	7	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
33	,,	800	—	800	Light soil	6 course	—	—	—	4	18	22	—	—	—	7	—	13	20
34	,,	1,088	63	1,151	Brown loam	5 course	—	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
35	Yetholm	500	125	625	Turnip soil	,,	—	—	2	8	16	26	—	—	3	4	1	16	24
							—	—	—	1	12	13	—	—	—	1	—	5	6
	Totals	23,083	6,444	29,527			—	—	21	77	376	474	—	—	11	60	5	275	351

4.—Labour Returns for Spring Quarter, as given by Six Occupiers in Stirlingshire, the same Number in Peeblesshire, and Five in Selkirkshire.

Index Number.	Parish.	Extent in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	Airth - -	162	—	162	Black loam -	6 course - -	—	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
2	Denny - -	226	80	306	Dryfield - -	„ - -	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	2	4	6
3	Logie - -	160	—	160	Strong clay -	„ - -	—	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
4	St. Ninians - -	200	20	220	Heavy loam -	„ - -	—	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
5	„ - -	320	—	320	Light sand -	5 course - -	—	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	3	5	3	11
6	Stirling - -	440	220	660	Variable - -	Variable - -	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
	Total - -	1,508	320	1,828	- - -	- - -	—	—	1	10	31	42	—	—	—	5	7	12	24
7	Innerleithen - -	140	68	208	Loam and gravel	5 course - -	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
8	Newlands - -	500	1,220	1,720	Turnip soil -	„ - -	—	—	2	1	10	13	—	—	—	2	1	1	4
9	Peebles - -	350	400	750	Light - - -	„ - -	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	5	4	9
10	„ - -	300	700	1,000	„ - -	„ - -	—	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
11	Traguair - -	500	4,000	4,500	- - -	„ - -	—	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
12	„ - -	500	—	500	Light - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	2	4	6
13	Stobo - -	330	700	1,030	„ - -	5 and 6 course -	—	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
	Total - -	2,620	7,088	9,708	- - -	- - -	—	—	2	11	44	57	—	—	—	2	9	20	31
14	Selkirk - -	420	560	980	Light - -	5 and 6 course -	—	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
15	„ - -	450	550	1,000	„ - -	5 course - -	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
16	„ - -	350	350	700	Free soil - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
17	Yarrow - -	500	2,500	3,000	Light loam -	Mixed - -	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
18	„ - -	120	2,500	2,620	Sharp - -	5 course - -	—	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
	Total - -	1,840	6,460	8,300	- - -	- - -	—	—	1	5	32	38	—	—	—	—	2	13	15

5.—Labour Returns for the Spring Quarter, as given by 20 Occupiers in the County

Index Number.	Parish.	Extent in Acres.			Nature of Soil.	Course of Husbandry.	Males.						Females.						
		Arable.	Pasture.	Total.			Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 8.	Between 8 & 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	Abbotshall	303	—	303	- - - -	- - - -	—	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	1	5	4	10
2	„	131	39	170	Heavy - -	4 course - -	—	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
3	„	128	13	141	Good - -	- - - -	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	1	1	3	5
4	Balmerino	450	20	470	Light - -	6 course - -	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	1	9	4	14
5	Carnbee	347	20	367	Strong clay -	„ - -	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
6	Dairsie	414	112	526	Clay and black land	6 and 7 course -	—	—	—	2	15	17	—	—	—	6	5	6	17
7	Denino	730	261	991	Soft loam -	7 course - -	—	—	—	—	17	17	—	—	—	4	7	7	18
8	Duubog	1,226	240	1,466	Medium - -	Alternate - -	—	—	3	—	24	27	—	—	—	6	14	6	26
9	„	412	156	568	Friable - -	7 course - -	—	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	3	5	2	10
10	Ferryport	496	4	500	Loam and gravel	„ - -	—	—	—	3	11	14	—	—	—	2	3	11	16
11	Forgan	650	—	650	„ „	- - - -	—	—	—	4	11	15	—	—	—	1	10	6	17
12	Kilmany	400	—	400	Light - -	6 and 7 course -	—	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	—	2	4	3	9
13	Kinghorn	500	350	850	Good land -	4 and 5 course -	—	1	3	2	24	30	—	—	—	4	12	12	28
14	„	700	300	1,000	Loam on trap -	5 and 6 course -	—	—	—	3	17	20	—	—	—	6	10	8	24
15	Kingsbarns	350	10	360	Clay and loam -	6 course - -	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	2	6	5	13
16	Largo	330	35	365	Variable - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	4	5	9
17	Leuchars	1,106	—	1,106	Heavy & light loam	6 and 8 course -	—	—	—	—	27	27	—	—	—	—	18	18	36
18	Logie	500	—	500	Medium - -	„ „ -	—	—	—	1	11	12	—	—	—	2	4	4	10
19	Monimail	780	230	1,010	Clay & sandy loam	6 and 7 years -	—	—	4	2	17	23	—	—	2	3	7	10	22
20	Saline	163	106	269	Medium - -	Mixed - -	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
	Totals	10,216	1,896	12,112	- - -	- - -	—	1	11	22	238	272	—	—	2	44	134	117	297

6.—Labour Returns for different Quarters of the Year as given by Occupiers in Perthshire.

Index Numbers.	Spring.										Summer.										Autumn.										Winter.									
	Males.					Females.					Males.					Females.					Males.					Females.					Males.					Females.				
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Females.
									Married.	Unmarried.									Married.	Unmarried.								Married.	Unmarried.								Married.	Unmarried.	
1	—	—	4	22	26	Average	-	5	6	11	—	—	4	22	26	Average	-	11		11	—	—	4	22	26	Average	-	11		11	—	—	4	22	26	Average	-	5	6	11
2	—	1	1	21	23	—	—	—	5	7	12	—	1	1	23	25	Of all ages	-	-	-	50	—	1	1	23	25	,,	-	14		14	—	1	1	21	23	—	—	—	5	7	12
3	—	—	1	24	25	—	—	5	2	6	13	—	2	2	24	28	—	2	5	2	12	21	—	2	2	30	34	—	3	5	6	12	26	—	—	1	27	28	—	—	—	2	6	8
4	—	5	—	12	17	—	5	—	5	5	15	—	3	—	12	15	—	3	—	6	8	17	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	6	6	12	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	3	3	6
5	—	3	2	33	38	—	3	—	1	18	22	—	3	2	33	38	—	3	—	1	18	22	—	3	2	33	38	—	3	—	1	18	22	—	—	—	33	33	—	—	—	1	18	19
6	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	2	4	—	6	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	2	4	—	6	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	2	4	—	6	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	2	4	—	6
7	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	4	6	12	—	—	6	2	2	10	—	2	6	14	22	—	—	16	4	10	30	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	2	—	2
8	—	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	8	12	20	—	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	8	12	20	—	—	—	28	28	Of all ages	-	-	-	100	—	—	—	26	26	—	—	—	3	7	10
9	—	2	—	15	17	—	—	2	4	3	9	—	2	—	15	17	—	—	2	4	3	9	—	—	—	15	17	—	—	2	4	3	9	—	—	—	15	15	—	—	1	—	—	1
10	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	5	—	5
11	—	1	2	7	10	—	—	2	1	5	8	—	1	1	6	8	—	—	2	7	5	14	—	3	3	6	12	—	5	2	3	6	16	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	2	—	3	5
12	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	10	—	—	10	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	16	—	—	16	—	—	3	15	18	—	—	37	—	—	37	—	—	2	11	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	1	2	3
14	—	1	1	15	17	—	2	—	4	—	6	—	1	1	15	17	—	2	—	4	—	6	—	1	1	15	17	—	2	—	4	—	6	—	1	1	15	17	—	2	—	4	—	6
15	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	2	2	4	8	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	2	2	4	8	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	2	2	4	8	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	2	2	4	8
16	—	—	1	3	4	—	3	—	—	5	8	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	1	3	5	30 or 40 of all ages.					—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
17	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2	—	2	4	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	1	2
18	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	2
19	—	—	—	11	11	—	—	—	4	4	8	—	—	—	11	11	—	—	—	4	6	10	—	—	—	11	11	25 to 30 of all ages.					—	—	—	11	11	—	—	—	3	3	6
20	—	1	—	6	7	—	—	1	3	2	6	—	3	—	6	9	—	—	1	3	2	6	—	3	—	6	9	—	—	1	3	2	6	—	1	—	6	7	—	—	1	3	2	6
21	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	2	2	4
22	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	1	3	6
Totals	—	14	24	261	299	—	13	25	59	86	186	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	21	263	287	—	2	9	16	73	130

Lothians.

Mr. Culley.

s.

Index Number.	Spring.							Summer.							Autumn.							Winter.						
	Males.					Females.		Males.					Females.		Males.					Females.		Males.					Females.	
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Over 18.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Over 18.	Total Females.
						Married.							Married.							Married.							Married.	
						Unmarried.							Unmarried.							Unmarried.							Unmarried.	
1	—	—	1	14	15	8	17	—	—	3	15	20	12	20	—	—	3	16	19	13	21	—	—	1	14	15	5	12
2	—	—	2	7	9	4	10	—	—	2	7	9	4	10	—	—	2	7	9	4	10	—	—	2	7	9	2	5
3	—	—	2	10	12	—	15	—	—	6	10	16	—	16	—	—	6	20	26	—	30	—	—	1	10	12	5	10
4	—	—	2	8	10	—	8	—	—	2	8	10	—	8	—	—	4	10	14	—	10	—	—	2	8	10	3	8
5	—	—	1	7	8	—	8	—	—	2	6	8	—	8	—	—	1	7	8	—	8	—	—	1	7	8	2	5
6	—	—	2	14	16	6	9	—	—	2	14	16	6	9	—	—	2	14	16	6	9	—	—	2	14	16	6	9
7	—	—	5	20	25	10	34	—	—	5	20	25	10	34	—	—	5	25	30	10	64	—	—	3	25	28	10	10
8	—	—	3	7	10	2	10	—	—	3	7	10	2	10	—	—	3	7	10	2	10	—	—	2	7	9	4	8
9	—	—	4	8	12	3	18	—	—	4	8	12	3	18	—	—	4	8	12	3	21	—	—	2	8	10	4	8
10	—	—	5	10	15	4	11	—	—	5	10	15	4	10	—	—	5	10	15	4	10	—	—	3	10	13	5	10
11	—	—	3	9	12	3	12	—	—	3	9	12	3	12	—	—	3	9	12	3	20	—	—	3	9	12	3	12
12	—	—	3	9	12	3	15	—	—	3	9	12	3	15	—	—	3	9	12	3	11	—	—	3	9	12	3	11
13	—	—	2	11	13	3	10	—	—	2	11	13	3	10	—	—	2	11	13	3	24	—	—	2	11	13	3	7
14	—	—	3	12	15	3	16	—	—	3	12	15	3	16	—	—	3	12	15	3	60	—	—	3	12	15	3	16
15	—	—	2	11	13	3	10	—	—	2	11	13	3	10	—	—	2	11	13	3	44	—	—	2	11	13	3	10
16	—	—	3	10	13	3	10	—	—	3	10	13	3	10	—	—	3	10	13	3	10	—	—	3	10	13	3	10
17	—	—	3	14	17	4	16	—	—	3	14	17	4	16	—	—	3	14	17	4	41	—	—	3	14	17	4	16
18	—	—	2	20	22	5	17	—	—	2	20	22	5	17	—	—	2	20	22	5	20	—	—	2	20	22	5	17
19	—	—	3	16	19	5	22	—	—	3	16	19	5	22	—	—	3	16	19	5	20	—	—	3	16	19	5	22
20	—	—	2	5	7	—	5	—	—	2	5	7	—	5	—	—	2	5	7	—	10	—	—	2	5	7	—	5
21	—	—	1	9	10	—	10	—	—	1	9	10	—	10	—	—	1	9	10	—	10	—	—	1	9	10	—	10
22	—	—	2	16	18	—	22	—	—	2	16	18	—	22	—	—	2	16	18	—	22	—	—	2	16	18	—	22
23	—	—	2	5	8	—	9	—	—	2	5	8	—	9	—	—	2	5	8	—	9	—	—	2	5	8	—	9
24	—	—	2	16	18	—	17	—	—	2	16	18	—	17	—	—	2	16	18	—	17	—	—	2	16	18	—	17
25	—	—	11	38	49	—	26	—	—	11	38	49	—	26	—	—	11	38	49	—	26	—	—	11	38	49	—	26
26	—	—	3	9	12	7	9	—	About 10.	3	9	12	7	9	—	About 10.	3	9	12	7	9	—	About 10.	3	9	12	7	9
27	—	—	2	8	13	1	4	—	—	—	8	20	1	12	—	—	—	8	40	—	15	—	—	—	8	13	1	4
Totals	—	8	77	346	431	219	369	—	3	74	73	431	219	369	—	3	74	73	431	219	369	—	3	59	46	421	200	308

Berwick and Roxburgh.

Mr. Culley.

s.

8.—Labour Returns for Four Quarters of the Year, as given by 35 Occupiers in the Counties of Berwick and Roxburgh.

Index Number.	Spring.								Summer.								Autumn.								Winter.							
	Males.				Females.				Males.				Females.				Males.				Females.				Males.				Females.			
	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	
				Total Males.			Married.	Unmarried. Total Females.				Total Males.			Married.	Unmarried. Total Females.				Total Males.			Married.	Unmarried. Total Females.				Total Males.			Married.	Unmarried. Total Females.
1		4	3	19	1	2		8 11		4	3	19	1	2		8 11		4	3	26		2		8 11		4	3	26		2		8 11
2		3	3	12	7	3		3 13		3	3	12	7	3		3 13		3	3	18		3		3 13		3	3	18		3		3 13
3			1	7	4			6 6			1	7	4			6 6			1	8				6 6			1	8				6 6
4			7	21				13 19			7	21				13 19			7	28				13 19			7	28				13 19
5				11				11 11				11				11 11				13				11 11				13				11 11
6			2	12				4 4			2	12				4 4			2	12				4 4			2	12				4 4
7			2	11				5 5			2	11				5 5			2	11				5 5			2	11				5 5
8			2	8				8 8			2	8				8 8			2	8				8 8			2	8				8 8
9			2	14				16 16			2	14				16 16			2	14				16 16			2	14				16 16
10			3	10				11 11			3	10				11 11			3	10				11 11			3	10				11 11
11			5	11				11 11			5	11				11 11			5	11				11 11			5	11				11 11
12			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8
13			3	6				6 6			3	6				6 6			3	6				6 6			3	6				6 6
14			2	11				11 11			2	11				11 11			2	11				11 11			2	11				11 11
15			5	8				8 8			5	8				8 8			5	8				8 8			5	8				8 8
16			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8			3	8				8 8
17			2	12				6 6			2	12				6 6			2	12				6 6			2	12				6 6
18			1	7				9 9			1	7				9 9			1	7				9 9			1	7				9 9
19			2	5				10 10			2	5				10 10			2	5				10 10			2	5				10 10
20			2	8				15 15			2	8				15 15			2	8				15 15			2	8				15 15
21			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12
22			2	14				19 19			2	14				19 19			2	14				19 19			2	14				19 19
23			3	11				9 9			3	11				9 9			3	11				9 9			3	11				9 9
24			2	10				7 7			2	10				7 7			2	10				7 7			2	10				7 7
25			1	5				4 4			1	5				4 4			1	5				4 4			1	5				4 4
26			1	6				2 2			1	6				2 2			1	6				2 2			1	6				2 2
27			2	18				25 25			2	18				25 25			2	18				25 25			2	18				25 25
28			1	10				14 14			1	10				14 14			1	10				14 14			1	10				14 14
29			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12			2	10				12 12
30			2	5				7 7			2	5				7 7			2	5				7 7			2	5				7 7
31			3	7				5 5			3	7				5 5			3	7				5 5			3	7				5 5
32			2	12				13 13			2	12				13 13			2	12				13 13			2	12				13 13
33			4	18				20 20			4	18				20 20			4	18				20 20			4	18				20 20
34			2	11				4 4			2	11				4 4			2	11				4 4			2	11				4 4
35			1	12				6 6			1	12				6 6			1	12				6 6			1	12				6 6
Totals	—	21	77	376	474	—	11	60	5	275	351	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

About 30 more in harvest. Variable.

9.—LABOUR RETURNS FOR THE FOUR QUARTERS, as given by the Overseers of the Parishes of

Index Number.	Spring.											Summer.										
	Males.					Females.						Males.					Females.					
	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	2	2	4
2	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	2	4	6
3	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	4	—	4	8
4	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2
5	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	3	5	3	11	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	3	5	3	11
6	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	1	—	1	2
7	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	3	4
8	—	2	1	10	13	—	—	2	1	1	4	—	2	2	10	14	—	1	2	1	1	5
9	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	5	4	9	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	5	5	10
10	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	3	3
11	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	1	2	10	13	—	—	—	—	4	4
12	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	2	4	6	—	2	—	10	12	—	—	—	4	4	8
13	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	3	3
14	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	2	2	7	11	—	1	—	—	6	7
15	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	—	—	4	4
16	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	—	6	6
17	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	3	2	5
18	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	3	3
Totals	—	4	26	107	137	—	—	7	18	45	70	—	9	29	110	148	—	2	10	23	60	95

Index Number.	Autumn.											Winter.										
	Males.					Females.						Males.					Females.					
	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total males.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 16.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 & 13.	Between 13 & 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
1	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2
2	—	4	1	6	11	—	—	4	6	4	14	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	2	—	2
3	—	2	6	4	12	—	—	4	6	4	14	—	1	—	5	6	—	—	—	1	1	2
4	—	—	3	6	9	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	2	2
5	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	3	5	3	11	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	2	3	3	8
6	—	—	2	14	16	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	1	—	1	2
7	—	—	2	8	10	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	2
8	—	2	2	10	14	—	1	2	1	1	5	—	—	1	10	11	—	—	2	1	1	4
9	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	5	5	10	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	4	4
10	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	3	3
11	—	1	2	10	13	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—	4	4
12	—	2	—	10	12	—	—	—	4	4	8	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	2	4	6
13	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	3	3
14	—	2	2	7	11	—	1	—	—	6	7	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	—	—	4	4
15	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	2	2
16	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	—	3	3
17	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	—	3	2	5	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	—	1	1	2
18	—	2	1	5	8	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	4	5	—	—	—	—	2	2
Totals	—	15	37	126	178	—	2	14	33	60	109	—	1	26	107	134	—	—	5	11	41	57

10.—Labour Returns for the Four Quarters of the Year, as given by 20 Occupiers in the County of Fife.

Index Number.	Spring.											Summer.											
	Males.					Females.						Males.					Females.						
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
									Married.	Unmarried.										Married.	Unmarried.		
1	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	1	5	4	10	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	1	5	4	10
2	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
3	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	1	1	3	5	—	1	1	3	5	—	—	1	1	3	5
4	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	1	9	4	14	—	—	—	7	9	—	—	1	9	4	14
5	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	—	4	2	6	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	—	4	2	6
6	—	—	2	15	17	—	—	6	5	6	17	—	—	2	15	17	—	—	6	5	6	17
7	—	—	—	17	17	—	—	4	7	7	18	—	3	—	17	17	—	—	4	7	7	18
8	—	3	—	24	27	—	—	6	14	6	26	—	—	—	24	27	—	—	6	14	6	26
9	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	3	5	2	10	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	3	5	2	10
10	—	—	3	11	14	—	—	2	3	11	16	—	—	3	11	14	—	—	6	5	11	22
11	—	—	4	11	15	—	—	1	10	6	17	—	—	4	11	15	—	—	1	10	6	17
12	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	2	4	3	9	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	2	4	3	9
13	1	3	2	24	30	—	—	4	12	12	28	1	3	2	24	30	—	—	4	12	12	28
14	—	—	3	17	20	—	—	6	8	10	24	—	—	3	17	20	—	—	6	8	10	24
15	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	2	6	5	13	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	2	6	5	13
16	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	4	5	9	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	4	5	9
17	—	—	—	27	27	—	—	—	18	18	36	—	—	—	27	27	—	—	—	18	18	36
18	—	—	1	11	12	—	—	2	4	4	10	—	—	1	11	12	—	—	2	4	4	10
19	—	4	2	17	23	—	2	3	7	10	22	—	3	0	17	20	—	2	3	7	8	20
20	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	2	1	3
Totals	1	11	22	238	272	—	2	44	134	117	297	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Index Number.	Autumn.											Winter.											
	Males.					Females.						Males.					Females.						
	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
									Married.	Unmarried.										Married.	Unmarried.		
1	—	—	1	8	9	—	—	1	8	6	15	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	—	3	4	7
2	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
3	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	1	1	3	5	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	1	1	3	5
4	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	1	9	4	14	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	1	7	4	12
5	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	4	4	8	—	—	1	5	6	—	—	—	3	2	5
6	—	—	4	19	23	—	—	6	6	6	18	—	—	2	15	17	—	—	6	4	6	16
7	—	—	—	23	23	—	—	4	9	7	20	—	—	—	17	17	—	—	4	4	7	15
8	—	3	—	34	37	—	—	6	20	16	42	—	—	—	24	24	—	—	4	10	6	20
9	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	3	5	2	10	—	—	1	9	10	—	—	3	5	2	10
10	—	—	5	13	18	—	—	8	10	18	36	—	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	3	11	14
11	—	—	4	11	15	—	—	1	10	6	17	—	—	4	11	15	—	—	1	10	6	17
12	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	2	4	3	9	—	—	1	7	8	—	—	2	4	3	9
13	1	3	2	24	30	—	—	4	12	12	28	—	—	2	24	26	—	—	—	12	12	24
14	—	—	3	17	20	—	—	6	8	10	24	—	—	3	17	20	—	—	6	8	10	24
15	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	2	6	5	13	—	—	—	8	8	—	—	2	—	5	7
16	—	—	—	14	14	—	—	3	9	7	19	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	4	5	9
17	—	—	—	30	30	About - - 100						—	—	—	27	27	—	—	—	12	12	24
18	—	—	3	12	15	As many as can be got.						—	—	1	11	12	—	—	2	4	4	10
19	—	10	4	30	44	—	8	6	12	10	36	—	—	1	17	18	—	—	6	4	5	15
20	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	2	1	3
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	20	237	258	—	—	38	104	108	250

NOTES ON LABOUR RETURNS.

11. Perth.

No. 1. 900 acres are left several years in grass. ne *average number* of women is given.

No. 3. 14 males over 18 are shepherds.

No. 5. Boys are only occasionally employed; more omen are employed in turnip time and harvest.

Five of the men are shepherds, three grieves, and 19 oughmen; all the last single men living in bothies.

No. 8. Ten out of 26 men are married.

No. 13. 5-course means 2 years grass.

No. 14. Three years grass in the 6-course meant ere, and four years grass in 7-course. 40 to 45 extra ands in harvest. Six ploughmen married, five unarried.

No. 16. Two years grass. All men unmarried. 30 40 women and girls in potato lifting.

No. 19. Course. $\frac{1}{8}$th oats, $\frac{1}{8}$th potatoes, $\frac{1}{8}$th beans, th turnips, $\frac{1}{8}$th wheat. Eight out of eleven men are loughmen.

No. 22. Two years grass.

12. Lothians.

No. 1. "The Labour Return refers to the home opulation employed, but does not show the extra ands taken in for from three to six weeks during harest Of these extra hands the males come direct from reland and return there again. The females come out or a fortnight or during the cutting, tempted by the igher wages, but do not work in the fields at ordinary imes. The same remark applies to the time of potato ifting."

No. 5. The 6-course meant is,—

1. Wheat or barley.
2. Grass (cut).
3. } do. grazed.
4. }
5. Oats.
6. Turnips and potatoes.

No. 7. The 6-course here meant is,—

1. Wheat.
2. Turnips.
3. Barley.
4. Grass (cut).
5. Oats.
6. Potatoes.

No. 9. Some grass remains three or four years; all two years.

No. 15. "$\frac{1}{3}$rd grass, $\frac{1}{5}$th green crop, rest corn."

13. Berwickshire.

No. 4. "A set of Fowler's steam tackle is used at "which three men and three lads are employed when "it works." Two boys under 13 are occasionally employed as field keepers. Five-course husbandry in this county and Roxburghshire means,—

1. Oak.
2. Turnips.
3. Barley.
4. Grass.
5. Grass.

No. 7. This farm lies near the town of Coldstream. The woman returned as married is a widow.

No. 8. "Some married women work in harvest."

No. 9. "The summer return is increased by about 30 labourers in harvest."

14. Roxburgh.

No. 16. The cropping includes two, three, and four years grass. Extra harvest hands are omitted.

No. 23. "Includes reapers, generally Irish."

No. 35. Does not include extra harvest hands.

15. Stirling.

No. 1. Course :—

1. Wheat.
2. Beans.
3. Barley.
4. Hay.
5. Oats.
6. Green crop.

No. 2. Course :—

1. Oats.
2. Turnips and potatoes.
3. Barley.
4. Grass, cut.
5. } do. grazed.
6. }

No. 4. Course same as No. 1.

No. 6. Carse land, same course as No. 1.; dry field land two years in grass.

16. Peebles.

No. 8. 12 extra hands in turnip time and harvest. 5-course includes two years grass.

17. Selkirk.

No. 16. Mr Potts says, "In addition to the above "return some boys and girls are employed in turnip "culture and Irishmen in turnip thinning and harvest. "The numbers, however, vary so much that no reliable "return can be given."

18. Fife.

No. 6. 7-course lengthened to nine by leaving grass two years longer.

No. 7. All the labourers employed in harvest are entered. The 7-course means :—

1. Oats.
2. Potatoes or beans.
3. Wheat.
4. Turnips.
5. Barley.
6. } Grass.
7. }

No. 8. Besides extra hands in turnip time and potato lifting.

No. 10. 7-course same as Number 7.

No. 16. 6-course same as 7-course, omitting second year's grass.

No. 19. About 300 acres left two or three years in grass.

19.—School Returns showing the Number of Children on the Registers and in Average Attendance at 26 Schools in 18 Parishes in the Counties of Perth, Stirling, and Fife.

County.	Parish.	School.	Population.	Acreage.	In Summer.								In Winter.								Remarks.
					On the Register of some School.				In average Attendance.				On the Register of some School.				In average Attendance.				
					Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		
					Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	
Perth	Abernyte	Parochial	310	2,533	29	8	25	6	23	5	18	4	28	24	22	21	23	20	18	17	No other school.
„	Caputh	„	1,728	20,360	91	44	65	41	77	34	61	32	92	82	84	85	76	72	69	69	Six schools in the parish.
„	Inchture	Parochial and others	659	5,328	40	15	48	32	36	12	47	23	45	22	53	39	43	20	49	30	All schools (3) are given.
„	Kilspindie	Parochial and Side	665	6,258	22	23	37	27	17	18	29	22	28	28	44	34	21	24	36	28	Both schools are given.
„	Kinfauns	Parochial	657	4,449	20	10	22	16	18	8	20	14	20	30	22	30	17	26	19	28	There is another school.
„	Kinnaird	„	318	3,501	29	10	21	3	29	10	21	3	29	10	21	3	29	10	21	3	„ „
„	Longforgan	„	1,823	11,247	50	20	30	5	46	16	26	5	33	28	22	6	30	23	16	5	Five schools in the parish.
„	Methven	„	2,290	12,983	42	41	21	14	35	22	20	13	45	67	29	27	35	61	15	25	Three „ „
„	Moneydie	„	252	4,464	26	8	5	2	22	4	4	1	24	27	12	7	20	23	10	7	No other school.
„	Monzievaird	„	782	26,493	21	23	15	12	20	20	14	10	21	25	15	13	21	24	14	12	„ „
„	Rhynd	„	297	2,894	18	15	17	10	15	12	14	9	25	18	21	12	23	17	19	11	„ „
„	St. Madoes	„	280	1,417	20	10	5	1	18	9	4	1	20	10	7	7	18	8	6	6	There is another school.
„	Scone	Parochial & Free Church	2,513	7,954	59	27	53	11	54	22	48	8	47	36	47	27	42	34	40	23	Three schools in parish.
Stirling	Airth	Three schools	1,194	6,388	47	19	35	12	35	14	24	10	43	38	36	16	30	28	27	20	All schools given.
„	Gargunnock	Parochial	728	9,913	13	7	12	3	12	4	12	2	13	12	12	8	12	12	10	6	Three schools in parish.
Fife	Cameron	All schools	1,362	9,324	52	42	40	32	48	37	34	28	46	54	42	39	43	47	40	36	All three given.
„	Denino	Parochial	370	2,737	27	18	29	17	26	13	25	15	29	21	32	16	21	18	19	16	No other school.
„	Kingsbarns	„	937	4,370	40	12	30	12	35	9	28	6	48	19	45	17	46	13	37	15	Two schools in parish.
			17,165	142,713	636	352	510	256	566	269	449	206	636	551	566	407	550	481	465	357	

20.—School Returns showing the Number of Children on the Registers and in Average Attendance at 25 Schools in 19 Parishes in the Counties of Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles.

County.	Parish.	School.	Population.	Acreage.	In Summer.								In Winter.								Remarks.
					On the Register of some Schools.				In average Attendance.				On the Register of some Schools.				In average Attendance.				
					Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		
					Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	
Lothians	Crichton	Parochial	1,304	5,102	30	10	29	10	25	8	24	8	28	16	28	16	24	16	24	16	Three schools in parish.
,,	Dirleton	,,	1,540	10,798	16	28	8	10	13	24	6	7	16	34	8	12	13	28	6	9	Four ,, ,,
,,	Gladsmuir	Church of Scotland	1,945	7,165	18	14	30	15	15	12	27	12	18	21	38	18	15	19	31	15	,, ,, ,,
,,	Innerwick	Parochial	937	13,424	30	6	20	4	25	5	18	4	32	10	22	4	26	10	20	4	Two ,, ,,
,,	Linlithgow	Six schools	5,784	11,603	18	8	17	13	16	6	15	11	17	10	16	15	15	8	14	13	Agricultural labourers' children.
,,	Livingston	Parochial	1,366	5,391	28	10	14	4	27	10	10	4	20	15	10	4	17	12	8	3	Two schools in parish.
,,	Ratho	,,	1,659	6,168	10	16	14	5	8	10	13	4	11	13	12	6	10	9	8	4	Three ,, ,,
,,	Spott	,,	555	7,582	30	15	28	16	25	10	24	9	40	18	36	14	35	14	30	10	No other school.
Berwick	Bunkle	Private	756	9,256	20	3	19	8	18	2	16	8	30	6	21	13	27	4	19	12	Two schools in parish.
,,	Eccles	Parochial	1,861	12,488	32	28	31	26	28	24	27	22	35	32	34	28	31	28	30	24	Three ,, ,,
,,	Ladykirk	,,	564	3,446	26	4	28	11	24	3	25	10	24	11	26	16	21	11	24	15	No other school.
,,	Polwarth	,,	251	3,012	5	5	9	2	5	5	9	2	6	5	12	3	6	5	12	3	Two schools in parish.
Roxburgh	Bedrule	,,	222	3,952	35	8	25	3	30	3	20	3	37	13	30	5	30	13	25	5	No other school.
,,	Hownam	,,	289	15,107	14	7	6	4	13	7	6	3	15	9	7	6	14	8	6	6	,, ,,
,,	Yetholm	Parochial and Girls	1,207	6,036	20	25	60	8	20	20	45	6	25	25	72	12	20	20	60	12	Three schools in parish.
Selkirk	Roberton	Parochial	640	29,666	14	19	19	12	12	17	17	10	14	25	19	15	13	23	19	14	Two ,, ,,
Peebles	Broughton	,,	297	4,720	8	5	4	2	8	5	3	2	3	6	4	2	2	6	4	1	,, ,, ,,
,,	Eddleston	,,	753	18,590	26	21	17	19	25	20	16	17	17	25	14	21	16	24	13	17	No other schools.
,,	Linton	,,	1,534	23,420	16	30	5	6	12	28	4	6	16	30	5	6	12	28	4	6	Four schools in parish.
			23,464	196,926	396	262	383	178	349	219	325	140	404	324	414	216	347	226	357	189	

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Culley.

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21. Lord Kinnaird's Evening Classes for Ploughmen, &c., held at nine Stations in the adjoining Parishes of Abernyte, Errol, and Inchture in the Carse of Gowrie.

Attendance at the different classes during the months of December 1869, January and February 1870.

Station.	Number of Pupils.
Abernyte	25
Errol (Daleally)	23
„ (Grange)	30
„ (Inchoonans)	19
„ (Inchmichael)	14
„ (Lornie)	26
„ (Middle Bank)	9
Inchture (parish school)	47
„ (Powgavie bothy)	18
Total number of pupils	211

The Inchture and Abernyte classes were open on 22 nights (I did not receive a full return of the Errol classes), with the following effect as to attendance:—

At Abernyte, out of the 25 pupils three attended on 21 nights, four on 20 nights; 11 pupils attended on between 15 and 20 nights, the remaining seven for five nights or more.

Of the 47 pupils on the books of the Inchture class eight attended the whole number of classes (22), 30 attended between 20 and 21 classes, and the smallest attendance is 15 out of 22.

Of the 18 pupils at Powgavie 16 attended the whole number of classes, and the remaining two 20 and 21 respectively.

Judging from the five weeks' return I received, the attendance at the six stations in Errol parish is equal to the average of Inchture and Abernyte.

Of the 211 pupils the ages are not given in 19 cases; of the remaining 192 the ages are as follows:—

Above 40 years of age	4	192.
Between 30 and 40	9	
„ 25 and 30	17	
„ 20 and 25	34	
„ 15 and 20	79	
Under 15 years of age	49	

The oldest pupil, Jas. Gairns, a ploughman, is 51.

The occupations of the pupils are stated in 148 cases, above 90 per cent. being described as ploughmen.

The total expense of maintaining these classes is stated in Mr. Duncan's report at 93*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* for the winter 1868 to 1869.

	£	s.	d.
Teachers salaries and expenses	38	10	6
Slates, books, light, firing, &c.	27	9	8
Cost of annual supper	27	14	0
	£93	14	2

The following is an extract from the report of the teacher of the evening schools in Errol district (dated February 8th, 1870):—

"I have no doubt there were several names in the first report which do not appear in this, but I may be allowed to state that in some of the schools I found a few boys who attend the day school, whom I at once dismissed, as I find they are a great hindrance to the progress of those for whom these classes are intended and who are in a great many cases very diligent and persevering, and I may say very interesting, having many odd ways of their own of doing both simple and compound rules."

Of the 121 pupils 53 had attended on each of the four nights during the month upon which the school was open, and 48 had attended on three out of the four nights.

Savings' Banks.

22. According to the report for 1869 of the *County and City of Perth Savings' Bank* (a bank which has been in existence since 1838), the total amount due to depositors is about 290,000*l.* The transactions for the year 1868 amounted to about 60,000*l.* worth of deposits and about the same amount of withdrawals.

The following table classifies the depositors, numbers 3 and 6 representing the agricultural labouring class:—

Trades Classification.

Occupation of Depositors.	No. of Depositors.		Total Number, 1867.	No. of Depositors.		Total Number, 1868.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.			
1. Weavers, mechanics, and artificers of various kinds, and their wives	1,678	549	2,227	1,699	553	2,252	25	—
2. Shopkeepers, &c.	199	101	300	204	101	305	5	—
3. Ploughmen, gardeners, and Foresters	745	—	745	754	—	754	9	—
4. Domestic servants	—	1,883	1,883	4	1,899	1,903	20	—
5. Railway engineers, guards, &c.	211	—	211	220	—	220	9	—
6. Common labourers, principally engaged in agricultural employment	740	657	1,397	749	650	1,399	2	—
7. Professional persons of small income	282	—	282	295	—	295	13	—
8. Minors under 15 years of age	912	912	1,824	951	929	1,880	56	—
9. Trustees for children and old persons in poor circumstances	126	—	126	135	—	135	9	—
10. Description not specified—usually widows, and young women supporting their parents	—	1,320	1,320	4	1,351	1,355	35	—
	4,893	5,422	10,315	5,015	5,483	10,498	183	—
11. Charitable Institutions and Friendly and Co-Operative Societies	—	—	130	—	—	138	8	—
12. District Savings Banks	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	—
			10,453			10,644	191	—

Deposits by Farm Labourers.

The following are examples of such deposits now
d by the Perth Savings' Bank:—
Twelve depositors opened account in November and
ember 1860, with an aggregate amount of 95*l.*, in
s varying from 3*l.* to 18*l.* In nine years the ag-
gate amount of these deposits had increased to
l. 0*s.* 3*d.*, showing an average saving during nine
rs of 47*l.* 10*s.*, or 5*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per annum. The
est balance of these 12 examples was 158*l.*, and
next 100*l.*, showing an annual saving (deducting
inal deposit) of 15*l.* 11*s.* and 9*l.*11*s.* respectively.
Twelve accounts opened in November and December
5, with an aggregate deposit of 86*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, in sums
ying from 1*l* to 16*l.*, had increased their total deposit
99*l.* 18*s.*, an average saving of 5*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per annum.
The highest average saving of the second series was
. 16*s.* per annum.
Eight out of the 24 depositors quoted above had
r 50*l.* to their credit.
The lowest deposit on which any account out of 36
mples was opened was 10*s.*, the highest 18*l.*

23. The *Kelso National Securities Savings Bank*,
ich has been in existence for 21 years has a balance
22,000*l.* At the last meeting of the trustees Mr.
B. Kerr (the actuary) told the story of a young farm
ourer who came the day before he was to start for
stralia, and withdrew 20*l.* out of a deposit of 65*l.*
ving the balance of 45*l.* as a present for his mother.

24. Extract from the report (1869) of the *Fifeshire*
tional Securities Savings' Bank. Given to the
sistant Commissioners by *Mr. Horsbrugh*, actuary.
The number of new accounts opened during the
st year, was 175, and the number closed 122—
owing an increase of 53 to the accounts in operation
20th November 1869, which then numbered 1613.
he new accounts last year numbered more than in
ch of the four preceding years. One-third of the
mber were in name of mechanics, and the remaining
o-thirds, in name of ploughmen and labourers,
avers and spinners, and female domestic servants.
There was an increase of 256 in the number of
posit transactions of last year over the year 1868,
d 13 fewer withdrawals—the average of deposits
ch week being 31, and of repayments 18. For
out a month after the two half-yearly terms, the
parate deposits were fully more than the average
st stated, arising mainly in consequence of two of
e most numerous classes of depositors—farm servants
d female domestic servants—never failing to add a
tle to their accounts. These depositors are the
ost regular customers the Savings Bank has, and by
rsevering saving habits are a pattern in this respect
others in easier circumstances in life.
The balances of this bank invested with the
tional Debt Commissioners on the 20th November
69, was 30,741.
On the 20th of November 1864 there were 1,600
en accounts as under:—

500	in the name of	female domestic servants.
400	„	ploughmen and labourers.
300	„	mechanics.
250	„	weavers and spinners.
150	„	married women, minors, &c.

Cow Clubs.

25. The *Spott* (Haddingtonshire) *Friendly Society*
onstituted 1799), was formed "for the purpose of
assisting any members who may have the misfortune
to lose their cows by death; to which is added a
funeral society."
The cows are insured for 10*l.* each.

The following is from a letter addressed to the
ssistant Commissioner by *Mr. J. G. Dickson*, Secretary
the club.

EAR SIR, Spott, April 11th, 1870.
. . . . . There are at present 323 members
ying to the Cow Fund. They have subscribed
uring the last seven years 1,592*l.* 13*s.* The number
of members has varied considerably during that time and I find it no easy matter to get at an exact average annual payment. Taking the present number of members as the average number, the annual payments amount to 14*s.* 1*d.* per cow.
The number of members connected with the funeral fund is 750, paying 1*s.* to 2*s.* annually. . . . .

Yours, &c.
(Signed) John G. Dickson.

26. *Dunse Cow Club.*

To insure cows belonging to members (with only two or three exceptions agricultural labourers) within a radius of six miles from Dunse.
This club was instituted in 1834.
The average annual payment from 1862 to 1870, has been 6*s.* 10*d.* per cow to insure 8*l.*
The average death rate has been 5·23 per cent.
The average number of cows insured 117.
The number has gradually diminished from 126 in 1863 to 113 in 1869.
The annual payments during the last seven years have varied from 12*s.* to 4*s.*
The club is almost altogether self-supporting, and subscriptions are punctually paid.
The above is a summary of the secretary (Mr. Jas. Swan's) report to me, G. C.

27. Extracts from rules of the *Border Farm-servants, Protection Association* (headquarters at Jedburgh).

1. "The association shall be called, &c. . . . . being instituted for the purpose of protecting the interests of its members."

2. "All farm servants in the borders of Scotland, of good moral character, are eligible, &c. . . . . ."

4. "If it shall appear, from satisfactory evidence laid before the Committee, that any member has been deprived of work in consequence of taking an active and judicious part in the Society's affairs, he will be entitled to receive *Six Shillings* weekly from the funds of the Society while out of employment, but it will be the duty of the Committee to see that every endeavour is made to get a re-engagement; but members proceeding to redress any grievance without the knowledge or sanction of the Committee shall have no claim whatever."

5. "All disputes arising between any member and his employers may be submitted to the Committee, who would consider the case, and if they think it of sufficient importance a General Meeting will be convened, when the whole case will be laid before the members, and if they consider that their member is in the right the Society will support him to the utmost."

14. "The Society cannot be dissolved or altered from the original purpose for which it was founded (*to put down the bondage system.* G.C.) while one-third of its members object to its dissolution, &c. . . . ."

Then follow allowances of 3*l.* to be paid to the next of kin on the death of a member, and one pound on the death of the wife or child (over 15 years of age) of a member, and 5*l.* in the event of the death of a member's *cow.*

An additional rule puts a young man losing his mother in the same position as a member losing his wife.

The following is an explanatory letter from *Mr. Thos. Simson*, secretary of the association:—

"I may remark, that although the foregoing rules contain nothing which prohibits a member from engaging a *bondager*, a resolution was engrossed in the minutes of the society at its institution which strictly pledges its members from making any such engagement, *the abolition of bondage* being the principal object of the society."

"It is matter of regret that so many of the farm servants of the district keep aloof from the society which was instituted to protect their interests in 1866, thus precluding themselves from enjoying the benefits derived therefrom. In the society at the present time there are only 60 members, while there might be four times that number."

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Culley.

S.

"Since the introduction of the benefit rules which took place in 1868 above 20*l.* have been paid out of the funds to assist members. An additional number of members is only required, so that the benefits might be doubled, which is very much desired, as none of them reach near the amount they ought.'"

"The members of the society at present intend to get up public meetings next winter for the purpose of petitioning Parliament for household suffrage, or at all events an extension of the borough franchise."

28. Education and Juvenile Crime in Roxburghshire.

During the present year (1870) the Commissioners of Supply for the county of Roxburgh appointed a committee to conduct an inquiry into the state of education and amount of crime existing amongst children under 14 years of age. The following are extracts from the report of the committee kindly given to me by Mr. James Stevenson, clerk of supply :—

1st. Number of young persons uneducated, or imperfectly educated, and not attending school, under 14 years of age :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Hawick	29	52
Kelso	30	16
Burgh of Sedburgh	30	28
Other parts of county	43	63
Totals	132	159

2nd. Number of young persons charged with any criminal offence during the last three years :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Hawick	35	4
Kelso	27	0
Rest of county	34	3
Totals	96	7

". . . These returns lead to the inference that the number of young persons who might be beneficially educated in an industrial schoool is very considerable, and these are to be found chiefly, although not exclusively, in the several towns, the numbers in the rural districts being comparatively insignificant."

After explaining the provisions of the Prisons Act, 1860, sec. 51, the report continues.

"The committee postponed the preparation of their report in the anticipation of an education bill, with compulsory clauses, being not improbably introduced into Parliament, before the next meeting of the Commissoners of Supply, applicable to Scotland; but the slow progress of the English bill seems to render it now very doubtful if any measure can be passed as regards Scotland during the present session, and there seemed no sufficient cause for further delay. Besides the committee do not anticipate that any such measures, even with compulsory clauses, would have the effect of rendering unnecessary the maintenance of industrial schools, &c. &c."

The report is signed by Lord Schomberg H. Kerr, now Marquis of Lothian.

29. Return* of Agricultural Labourers Tried and Convicted of Crimes before the Sheriff Court of Perthshire, at Perth, during the year 1869.

Theft	11
Falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition	1
Assault	13
Assault and breach of peace	10
Breach of peace	5
" and malicious mischief	2
Cruelty to animals	1
Total	43

* This Return does not include females.

Drunkenness.

30. In a letter addressed to the Assist. Commissioner *Lord Kinnaird* says,—

"I attribute the improvement in the general conduct of the ploughman class in a great measure to the abolition of the sale of spirits at the turnpike gates (a change which took place in 1853).

"The trustees made a large profit by the increased value of 'toll bars' at which the sale of sprits was carried on to the destruction of the morals of many of those using the roads.

"I have put down all public houses for the sale of spirits in Inchture and Longforgan, and the good effects has been beyond belief. The habitual drunkards, of whom there are not many, have to go to Dundee, and except on the Dundee market days it is rare to see a drunken man."

Illegitimacy.

31. Extract from a letter addressed to the Assistant Commissioner by *Mr. George Dickson*, sheriff substitute, of Berwickshire (dated 28th August 1870).

"On the subject of illegitimacy in Scotland generally there were some good articles in the 'Scotsman' about three months ago written by Dr. Strachan, who has devoted much attention to the subject. He lays a good deal of blame upon the women, and I think he is right. There seems to be no notion among young women in this county that there is anything improper in receiving men in their bedrooms at midnight. Dr. Johnson said, "Where there is shame there may in time be virtue," but with our rural population there is not even *shame*. I suspect, however, that there is a deeper question than a mere social one. In former times the influence of the church in such matters was very great and even tyrannical, so oppressive, I fancy, that it overshot the mark; still a great control was exercised and the evil was kept within bounds. Now a days the Church has not the slightest influence in the matter, and I think the breaking loose of the population from ecclesiastical repression has much to do with the present immoral condition of the lower classes. The disclosures in filiation cases in my court exhibit a condition of unbridled licence as to a large extent the rule of life among the labouring class."

32. Copy of a letter from *Mr. Francis Russell*, sheriff-substitute, of Roxburghshire :—

My dear Sir, 24th October 1870.

The matter, on which you request that I should make some suggestions, is so important and extensive, that in order to give you any help worth acceptance, I should require more time than I have at command, and a fuller preparation also than I yet claim to possess; but as you have asked me to "jot down my "ideas as to a system of education, which would help "the labouring class or rather certain members of "that class, up in the social scale, without interfering "with the action of the elementary classes, for which "the State grants are now given," I shall do what I can under the circumstances to comply with your request.

As it seems to have been assumed, in influential quarters, that the duties of the State in the matter of education are sufficiently fulfilled by provision being made for the *elementary education* of the population without any provision being made for the *higher* education of those who are in circumstances to profit by it, I must premise my remark with a protest against this view, as being in my opinion quite inadequate to the public wants, and not duly regardful of the public interests.

These appear to me alike to require, that means shall be provided by which those members of the community who are the best qualified by natural endowments, shall have the opportunity of obtaining that higher education, by means of which alone they can be fitted for the public service in its higher departments. By "public service" I do not mean merely the direct service of the State (although that is

cluded); what I have in view includes the profes-ns—medical, legal, and educational, the last em-acing the clergy—and the other occupations, at the se of which lies a full and systematic education.

I think the State has few if any interests more essing than this, that the best men, best by nature, ough not in such pecuniary circumstances as to be le to meet any but moderate costs, shall be available r the higher positions and professional or public life; d I think this interest becomes more pressing, as ith the advance of civilization, and the extension of demands, the fields of study have become so en-ged, and the intellectual requirements have so much reased. Without accepting as practicable the eories, which have been advanced with a view to e universal organization of labour, one may well lieve that there is a great and urgent need of such organization of education as shall not deprive the mmunity of the services of those best qualified by tural endowments to give their services in the ghest departments.

I need not say that in this county there is no such ganization, either in England or in Scotland. Private forts and benevolences have been mainly relied on; e public, as represented by Government, have not ndertaken the duty, or even admitted it, unless very rtially, to be a duty.

It is otherwise in some of the counties of Europe. I on't know if you have seen Arnold's very interesting eport on the schools and universities of the continent, ne most important of these being France and Germany. f not, I would advise you to look at the volume, hich shows how the thing may be done; although o one would propose that any system, such as is here described should be adopted without modi-cation in this country. However, I do hope that efore many years shall have passed, we may see a linister of Education in this country, whose duty it hall be to consider the state of education in the ountry in all its departments, and to make such roposals for supplying grants here, and removing edundances there, as a wise consideration of the ircumstances shall suggest.

Something has of late years been done in this irection, both in England and in Scotland. The easures taken with regard to public schools in England may soon be expected to show good fruit. As regards Scotland, the Act passed in 1869, 32 & 3 Vict. c. 39., "to make provision for the better government and administration of hospitals and other endowed institutions in Scotland," has already een attended with beneficial results. A scheme was roposed in an able paper by Sir A. Grant (Prin-ipal of the University of Edinburgh) contributed to volume of "Vacation Studies" (I think that is the itle of the volume), and the scheme has been very isely carried out by the Edinburgh Merchants Co., n reference to the endowments at their disposal The schools or classes they have established are lmost, if not quite self-supporting, a very im-ortant consideration. Hitherto in Scotland we have ot on pretty well without such secondary schools s I will presently propose, from the circumstance hat in most parishes the teachers of the Parochial Schools have been capable of preparing such of the upils as shewed the desire and aptitude for a higher ducation than the ordinary school standard, for one r other of the universities; and in point of fact a ery considerable, I should say a large proportion of he students at the universities of Scotland have had o other preparatory instructions; and yet that pro-as afforded no small number of those who have been minently distinguished in science or literature, or in ne or other of the liberal professions. Many of the arish schoolmasters have held the degree of A.M. rom one or other of our universities; and this remark pplies especially to Aberdeenshire and the adjoining ounties, where the beneficial influence of certain equests, well conceived in aid of education, and wisely dministered has been apparent.

There seems a disposition rather to lower than to raise the standard of education, as regards the parish schools; and unless some provision be made for supplying through other schools what has hitherto been supplied by the parish schools in the form of a higher education, that is to say, especially the rudiments of Latin, grammer, and mathematics, I can well anticipate that in Scotland in the future we may be worse off than we are at present, in the event of there being no sufficient encouragement afforded to attract to the schools as teachers, men of the same attainments as have in years past filled those important offices. On this matter I do feel strongly, for what of superiority can be fairly claimed for Scotland's sons, is due probably quite as much to the facilities afforded for the higher education, as to the general extension of elementary instruction, both of course considered in connection with the natural endowments of the race. Whether in England or in Scotland, we are by no means without the secondary education which qualifies for university studies, but it is not organized. It is here, and not there. In each country there are grammar schools (in Scotland, which I know best, to a considerable extent) but these are not distributed over the country with a view to its necessities. In most of the considerable burghs there are or have been such schools; but they are not in all cases in a state of efficiency, and these are large districts within which no such school exists.

To meet the public wants as regards the higher education, I think that secondary schools ought to be established (where they do not already exist) in each district of the country; the districts being formed with a view to the local conditions, and that in these schools such an education should be provided as would prepare the pupils either (1) for the upper branches of mercantile or other industrial life; or (2) for the universities. There would naturally be a classical and a modern department. The former in preparation for further study at the universities; the latter embracing the modern languages, mathematics, and such other studies as would be preparative for those departments of industry, which do not require the high preparation afforded by the university.

Now, in saying that such secondary schools ought to be provided by the State, in the public interest, I am not to be understood as implying that this should be done wholly or mainly at the public expense. How much shall be defrayed by the State, how much by the locality, how much by the individual pupils; these are matters of detail, and judging from the experience which we have of endowed schools. I should anticipate that the *public* burdens will be moderate, and I believe they will be far more than compensated by improvements thus effected in the public service, using that expression in the large sense already indicated.

I am not prepared to enter into details on this matter, nor would you, I presume, desire me to do so; I have indicated generally what I think is wanted, and what I think cannot be dispensed with, unless at serious cost to the public service and the future well-being of the community. In making this proposal I am assuming that the secondary education to be thus provided shall only be available (unless perhaps at the personal cost of the pupil, and the expedience of this is doubtful) to those pupils, who can produce evidence of such proficiency in the preceding studies as gives fair promise of the farther opportunities not being wasted.

As regards Scotland, I am satisfied that such schools as I have proposed will be hailed by the teachers in our universities as an invaluable boon, for in part there has been felt a practical and as yet an insuferable difficulty in establishing any efficient entrance examination in the universities because of the want of such institutions, or their equivalent. The parish schools have done wonders; but their time seems to have nearly passed now, so far as regards the higher education.

In regard to "the position and manners of the agri-" cultural labourers, male or female," in this district,

Miscellaneous.
Mr. Culley.
8.

as to which you ask for any hints which may occur to me, I have little to say beyond what must have come under your own notice.

Physically, they are a well developed healthy race, subject to no disease so far as I aware, in any special sense; rheumatism is common among them, as I presume it is among all persons who in this climate are exposed habitually to the visissitudes of the weather.

Morally, they are honest, steady, industrious, frugal, and, I will add, sober, any instances of intoxication being occasional, and their habits being, almost without exception, sober.

Intellectually, they are a good deal above the average, and it is rare to meet with one not possessed of a good measure of intelligence.

As regards education they are not what could be desired, and what the educational opportunities, as regards schools, might be held to promise. My experience leads me to the conclusion, that while most or nearly all of them can read only a moderate proportion are able to write with such facility as to frame a passably correct letter; but most of them can write a little.

There is one matter not to be passed over, which must have come under your notice, the large proportion of illegitimate births. Officially this has come very much under my notice, and the result of my experience has been to make me very indisposed to dogmatise on the subject, or to ascribe the admitted evil to any one cause, or to suggest any particular remedy as likely to be effectual. No one can have studied the habits of peoples with any intelligence and not have perceived how complicated generally are the causes which have formed these habits, and by how slow and difficult steps these habits are to be changed. We have no statistics of early date, enabling any comparison to be made between the past and the present in this respect, but I have no reason to believe that there has been a change for the worse. The facts shew an evil habit, and I fear it has been of long continuance; as the mothers, so the daughters. As regards the children I would observe that they form no separate class, but are absorbed into the community and without difficulty maintain such a position there as corresponds with their individual worth. The stain of bastardy is little felt and forms no serious impediment to success in life. This remark applies to either sex; the young women of illegitimate birth not finding this circumstance any considerable impediment to marriage in their own class. In married life, so far as my experience enables me to judge, infidelity is very rare among the class under consideration. In fact, one seldom or never hears of it; and this circumstance obviously increases the difficulty of determining the precise amount of moral blame to be imparted to those of the agricultural population of this county, who have been the occasion of no small amount of comment and censure.

Yours respectfully,

George Culley, Esq. FRANCIS RUSSELL.

33. LOANS FOR COTTAGE BUILDING UNDER SANCTION OF THE INCLOSURE COMMISSIONERS.

Opinion of Mr. James Ritchie, C.E., Inspector for the Inclosure Commissioners (Perth district).

The 19th Inquiry, Head III., of your schedule refers to *the erection of labourers' cottages* on advances of public money by the Inclosure commissioners, under Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114., (July 1864).

Several Land Improvement Companies likewise advance money for the erection of labourers' cottages under the supervision of the Inclosure Commissioners.

Under these Acts a great variety of works connected the improvement of land may be executed, and the yearly rent-charge repays principal and interest in 25 years.

Considering the substantial character of the farm buildings erected under these Acts, with fair usage likely to stand good for 80 or 100 years, and how much more permanent they are as works of land improvement, than for example most works of enclosing, drainage of flat lands, irrigation, warping, road-making, &c. I should consider it reasonable and desirable and likely to cause greater progress to be made in supplying the want of good cottages, were the outlays upon farm buildings to be made repayable by a rent charge extending over 35 or 40 years instead of 25 years.

No other way of reducing the cost of such building to landowners occurs to me. I would not advise less substantial workmanship, and labourers cottages are now erected with a living room, and one, two, or three bedrooms or closets as desired, and I am glad to say that the necessity of providing sleeping places, admitting of a proper separation of the sexes in labourers' cottages is becoming daily more acknowledged.

JAMES RITCHIE, C.E.,
Inspector for the Inclosure
Perth, 1st March 1870. Commissioners.

34. Copy of a letter to the Assistant Commissioner from *Mr. Thos. Bennett*, late principal agent to the Duke of Bedford.

MY DEAR SIR, May 30th 1870.

As a northern man I can enter into your notions of letting cottages with farms; but you will find that the plan will not go down with the southern landowner. Neither from my long experience should I feel disposed to leave the *day* labourer to the entire mercy of the employer. I do not see (as you are inclined to believe) that the plan would lead to a system of yearly hiring; certainly not, so long as there is such an amount of surplus labour. I believe the nearest approach to your system will be arrived at by, to a certain extent, breaking up the village system by building cottages contiguous to farms, such cottages to be held by the landowners but their occupants changed to suit the farmer. Every agent or owner will always listen to any reasonable objection a farmer may have to any man or family. And, on the other hand, if the objection is frivolous, the labourer will always have a friend in the owner who will not wantonly disturb him.

You have seen enough of the southern labourers to know that they have no migratory ideas; perhaps it would be much better for them if they had. Habit becomes second nature and it is hard to work against their long formed attachment to the village or parish in which they were born.

Where there is a superabundance of labour the employer rarely takes much interest in the condition of the people. If illness or any accident occurs, wages cease on the moment, and the poor people are just as eagerly turned over to the relieving officer by the employer as they are themselves ready and willing to go.

I have often heard them blamed for "running to "the parish" but to whom else are they to go when wages ceases.

When wages are paid in kind (the grain paid a quarter in advance, and the cow's grazing going on) the northern farmer does not at the time feel the money loss occasioned by a labourers temporary illness, and puts up with the inconvenience, and if other members of the family are earning wages there is no need to go to the parish in case of casual illness. This is no doubt to those who are brought up in the practice, a far more wholesome state of things and calls forth better feelings between master and servant, but I do not see how the change could be brought about in face of the feelings I have alluded to. I fear the tendency will be for the northern farmer to fall into the practice of the south and go in for weekly money wages. I believe nothing but the *cow and milk diet* will save the northern custom; if ever they become a beer drinking people, you may say good bye to the cow and the best family habits of the northern labourer.

Faithfully yours,

George Culley, Esq. THOS. BENNETT.

VIDENCE accompanying Mr. J. HENRY TREMENHEERE'S REPORT on DUMFRIES-SHIRE, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE, WIGTOWNSHIRE, and AYRSHIRE.

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Nos.
. Mr. S. Neil, schoolmaster.
. Mr. W. Welsh, farmer.
. James Parker, grieve.
. Mr. John Richardson, farmer.
. Mr. Corry, farmer.
. Mr. John Kennedy, farmer.
. Mr. W. G. Strachan, schoolmaster.
. Mr. W. Smith, schoolmaster.
. Mr. G. Baird, schoolmaster.
. Mr. J. Thompson, schoolmaster.
1. Rev. R. Davidson, Minister of Holywood.
2. Mr. R. Barber, farmer.
3. C. Stewart, Esq., magistrate.
4. John Ballantine, labourer.
5. Robert Smith, labourer.
6. James Ballantine, labourer.
7. Mr. James Moodie, schoolmaster.
8. Mary Johnstone, labourer's wife.
9. Mary Waller, labourer's wife.
0. Elizabeth Wilson, labourer's wife.
1. James Tweedie, grieve.
2. Mr. J. Dalzell, farmer.
3. Eliza Copeland, labourer's wife.
4. Mr. W. Howitt, surveyor to Duke of Buccleuch.
5. Mr. James Boreland, schoolmaster.
6. Mr. W. Johnstone, land steward.
7. Mr. A. Dobie, farmer.
8. Mr. J. Adams, factor.
9. Dr. Rammage, schoolmaster.
0. Mr. J. Milligan, farmer.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

1. Mr. W. Barbour, farmer.
2. Mr. Grierson, farmer.
3. Mr. J. Biggar, farmer.
4. Mr. W. Johnstone, schoolmaster.
5. G. McKie, Esq., magistrate.
6. Mr. J. McGill, farmer.
7. Rev. J. J. Dickson, minister.
8. Master of parochial school, Dalbeattie.
9. Mr. H. Kerr, farmer.
10. S. Jerdan, ploughman.
11. Mr. A. McEwen, factor.
12. Mr. J. Stewart, farmer.
13. Mr. J. McLelan, schoolmaster.
14. Mr. W. Grierson, farmer.
15. Mr. J. Gordon, farmer.
16. Rev. H. Morton Jack, Minister of Girthorn.
17. Mr. J. Moule, factor.
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20. Rev. D. Wark, Minister of Auchincairn.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

Nos.
1. Mr. J. McLean, schoolmaster.
2. Mr. J. Hewettson, farmer.
3. Mr. J. McCarron, farmer.
4. Mr. A. Scott, schoolmaster.
5. Mr. J. McMurton, farmer.
6. Mr. J. Laurie, schoolmaster.
7. Mr. Rankin, farmer.
8. Mr. McMaster, Culhorn, farmer.
9. Mr. R. Frederick, farmer.
10. Mr. A. Guthrie, factor.
11. Mr. J. Dent, farmer.
12. Mr. G. Cowen, farmer.
13. Colonel J. McDowall, magistrate.

AYRSHIRE.

1. Mr. J. W. Cunningham, farmer.
2. Mr. J. Miller, schoolmaster.
3. Rev. J. Wilson, Minister of St. Quivox.
4. Mr. W. Kilpatrick, farmer.
5. W. A. Young, farmer.
6. Mr. R. Wallis, farmer.
7. Rev. J. Fairlie, Minister of Mauchline.
8. Mr. J. Miller, farmer.
9. G. Bowden, labourer.
10. Mr. G. Reid, schoolmaster.
11. Mr. W. Gough, schoolmaster.
12. Mr. W. Orr, seed merchant.
13. Mr. W. Logan, schoolmaster.
14. Mr. G. Henry, farmer.
15. Mr. J. Copeland, schoolmaster.
16. Mr. C. Caldwell, farmer.
17. Mr. D. Cunningham, farmer.
18. Mr. J. Drennan, farmer.
19. Mr. W. Sloan, farmer.
20. R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., magistrate.
21. Mr. H. Wilson, farmer.
22. Mr. R. Caldwell, farmer.
23. G. McClure, labourer.
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Remarks on Mr. Hope Johnstone's system of cottage tenure and small holdings by the Rev. P. Hope.

Letter from Mr. W. G. Strachan, master of the parochial school, Langholm, Dumfries-shire.

Dumfries-shire.

Mr. J. Henry Tremenheere.

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DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

1. *Mr. Samuel Neil*, master of the Moffat parochial school, supported by endowment and by the heritors. This is a mixed school, with 140 pupils on the books. The teaching ranges from the simplest elements of education up to Greek, Latin, Italian, and mathematics. The lowest payment is 2*s.*, the highest 12*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. The attendance suffers during a portion of the year, from the end of March until the end of October, when about a third are absent, employed in farm work with their parents. Parents are desirous that their children should be educated, but they will not deprive themselves of the fruits of their labour at a season when it is of importance to them. The school is not under inspection, except by the presbytery, who examine it twice a year.

The children pay for their books, a practice which I think beneficial. It teaches them care, and they get the books at the wholesale price, no profit being made by the schoolmaster. If the parents are too poor to pay for the books, they are given gratuitously from a fund provided for the purpose. The use of a dictionary is general, and I find it an important means of inculcating upon children the meaning of words. Lessons are learned at home, and sums worked out for the following day, which saves a great deal of time. Pieces of prose and poetry are also learned by heart and repeated at certain intervals. I consider it a valuable aid to education, as it forms the taste and gives a command of language which no other mode of teaching does. The children are partial to the exercise.

2. *Mr. W. Welsh, Brayfoot.*—I am the largest sheep farmer in the parish of Moffat, and I rent extensive sheep farms in other parts of Dumfries-shire, and possess many thousand head of sheep. I have also arable land in my occupation. From the nature of my business much labour is not required. The shepherd is the most important person in this kind of farming. Shepherds are a remarkable and superior class of men; many possess small capitals, which their occupation requires. They are also highly intelligent and well educated, and very solicitous for the education of their children. As a proof of their independence, I may mention that a few years ago my chief shepherd bought 15 acres of land for 500*l.* In a few months I offered him 800*l.* for the same property, but he declined to sell. Shepherds are not generally paid in money wages, but by "packs" and other perquisites. The wages of my chief shepherd are thus made up—pasture and hay for a cow, right of grazing 40 to 50 sheep, the use of an acre of land, cottage free, 60 stones of oatmeal. I keep two male farm servants who board in the house, but sleep in a cottage adjoining. Their money wages are from 16*l.* to 20*l.* a year. Women work out occasionally, but they have nothing to do with horses or cattle. Thinning and taking up turnips, planting and gathering potatoes, and work in the hay and harvest fields are their chief employments. Day agricultural labourers are not much employed, but get from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3s. a day. A man to whom I lately offered 2*s.* during the short days, refused it. The bothy system is not known in this part of Dumfries-shire, or in any other part that I am acquainted with.

3. *James Parker*, grieve to Mr. Anderson, farmer, Moffat.—I have a cottage rent-free, consisting of two good rooms and a scullery, and my wages are 32*l.* a year without food. With respect to wages, both systems exist in this part of Dumfries-shire—payment entirely in money and part payment in produce. They both have their advantages. Good male farm servants are paid from 18*l.* to 20*l.* a year and their food. Women are not much employed in field work, but can easily get 15*d.* for 10 hours work, and in harvest from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* The cottages hereabouts are all good. There is a great desire among all classes to educate their children.

4. *Mr. John Richardson*, Milton, Kirkpatrick Juxta, farmer.—The farming in this part of Dumfries-shire is chiefly pastoral, but there is a fair amount of arable land on which oats, potatoes, and turnips are grown. Boys are not employed in agriculture here under 14 years of age. Girls are employed solely during the summer months, principally in hoeing turnips and making hay. Neither are subject to the slightest ill-usage. They have two hours for dinner and 10 hours of work.

The children of agricultural labourers all receive a good education, but during the summer months their attendance at school is 12 or 15 per cent. less than at other seasons. Cottages are generally good, and the bothy system does not exist in this parish. Mr. Hope Johnstone is the proprietor of the greater part of this parish, and has for a great many years directed his attention to the improvement of cottages and lets small allotments of land, sufficient to keep a cow in summer and winter. Unmarried farm servants are engaged at the district hiring markets half-yearly, male servants at the rate of 10*l.* half-yearly with food, and females at 6*l.* I consider the average value of the earnings of an able-bodied agricultural labourer as 35*l.* a year.

5. *Mr. Corrie*, Pomplay.—I rent a farm of 240 acres, all arable land. I pay my two ploughmen 33*l.* a year each, with a free cottage and garden. They of course provide for themselves, except at harvest time, when they have free rations for five weeks. I keep a lad to whom I pay 5*l.* half-yearly with his food. It is astonishing the difference food makes in the appearance and health of those who are boarded in farm houses and those who have to provide for themselves. Married men who live in cottages seldom taste animal food, my lad gets a substantial meat dinner every day. It is the practice in this county to hire servants in the open market. Married men are hired by the year, unmarried by the half-year. The married men, although their cottages are substantially built, warm, and well ventilated (very few have more than two rooms), lead a hard life, their meals being usually chiefly tea or coffee with bread or oatcake. They have generally the privilege of growing potatoes upon employers' land. The labouring class are all well educated, one of my ploughmen takes in the *Dumfries Courier*, a weekly paper, and you will generally find a labourer in the evening either reading a newspaper or a book. The farms in this part of Dumfries-shire range from 100 to 300 acres, there are few larger or smaller. The average rent for land, which is not either of the first quality, is 30*s.* per acre. I do not think labourers look forward to taking farms on their own account. A married man with a family cannot save money, and young men who are taken into the farm houses leave early and marry. Children are very little required in agriculture, and are kept at school until a proper age for work. Much field work is done by women engaged for the purpose. Hoeing turnips and planting and taking up potatoes are the chief employments, for which they get 1*s.* a day, but in harvest 2*s.* with their food. They are also employed in spreading dung, making hay ricks, &c., but I do not think that any of these occupations demoralise them in the slightest degree, and they are very glad to be so employed.

6. *Mr. John Kennedy*, Lockwood Mains, Johnstone.—I occupy a farm of 278 acres, 250 of which are arable. Boys are very seldom employed in this parish younger than 13 years of age, and then, for the first two years, only during summer and spring. Girls are employed at about the age of 14, but for the first two years only in summer time. Women are employed in all kinds of outdoor work, viz., in turnip hoeing, haymaking, turnip lifting, and pitting, &c. Labourers generally live on the farms or near to the place where they work, and seldom have to walk more than a mile. Men work from 7 till 12 and from 2 till 7 in summer, and from 8 till 4 in winter, women and girls about the same time. I never heard of any injury being caused either to health or morals by out-door occupation, and females generally become very robust on their work.

gangs are employed, the women and girls living on farm. The farms being generally small, I do not that any restriction is necessary as to the employ- t of females in agriculture. Children under 12 or ears of age are employed, but only on light work gin with.

ducation is well attended to in this parish. Chil- generally go to school when five years old, and inue regularly until 11 or 12, and attend again for or three winters after they begin work. The ols are of a good class, and taken advantage of, ss in a few instances from the indifference of the nts.

he bothy system does not exist in this parish. t of the farm servants lodge in cottages on the ns.

he cottages are generally very good, but are occa- ally overcrowded when the family is large. They e generally gardens and potato ground; the ure from the pig is carted and laid on the land by employer.

he Act 27 & 28 Vict. for enabling proprietors to row money for building and improving cottages been taken advantage of only to a limited extent. great many labourers' cottages have been put up the tenants themselves, the proprietor giving free ie and sawn house timber, the tenants providing other materials and paying for the workmanship. e landlord gives a lease of 21 years of the cot- e with garden ground at a nominal rent of 5*s*. e greater numberof these cottages have additional d, sufficient to pasture a cow, at a moderate rent.

With respect to hiring, both male and female ser- nts are generally engaged in the public markets, and ges are paid partly in money and partly in produce. e common rate is 18*l*. in money, 80 stones of oat- al, one ton of potatoes, a load or two of turnips, d for five weeks in harvest, free house, garden and ng, and the use of land from which about one and alf tons of potatoes are raised. Female labourers always paid in money. Boys and women living in farm house are paid from 6*l*. to 10*l*. and from 10*l*. 14*l*. a year.

7. *Mr. W. G. Strachan*, master of the parochial hool, Langholm.—This place has a considerable nufacturing population, but the surrounding country chiefly pastoral. My school has 195 pupils on the l with an average attendance of 164; a very small portion are from the country, some 15 or 20, but ese come some from a distance of five or six miles, and e 15 and 16 years of age, and are the most regular attendance. I may say that all the children in the rish of suitable age go to school. In addition to e regular parochial school there is a side school, a e church school, and several others. The atten- nce of the children of the labouring classes is good. The cottages on the estates of the Duke of Buccleuch e excellent. Much immorality is caused by the ing fairs.

Boys are never employed younger than 12 in field rk, and at first only in spring and summer. A byre man is kept on every farm, and women are employed nerally in hoeing turnips, making hay, harvesting, .

The women and young persons thus employed stly live on the farms. The hours of work for n, women, and young persons are 10 hours a day. l married labourers have pasture for a cow and tato ground in addition to a garden.

8. *Mr. W. Smith*, Dumfribble, Kirkmichael.—I farm estate of 350 acres, all arable land. Women are a od deal employed in agriculture when they can be ocured; their wages seldom exceed 1*s*. a day. I not think that the employment in any way affects eir morals, but it may make them untidy in their ttages and their persons. The occupation is bene- ial to their health. Boys are employed for a portion the year, but not to interfere much with their ucation. I consider a certain amount of labour is important part of their education. The parochial school is well supported and the average attendance is good. All the ploughmen here are able to read and write, and many employ themselves in the evening in reading. Books are to be found in most labourer's cottages.

Wages have risen at least 100 per cent. within the last 40 years. I pay my head man 32*l*. a year in money, in addition to which he has a cottage and garden rent-free, which I value at 2*l*. a year. The privilege of cutting turf for fuel is worth 1*l*. more, and he has as much ground for growing potatoes as he can manure; profit of a pig is quite 2*l*. a year. Altogether his wages, including perquisites and his food in harvest (equal to 30*s*.) are equivalent to 38*l*. year.

My female servants do no out-door work; the class of women who take service on small farms are of a coarser description and are expressly engaged for field labour; their wages vary from 8*l*. to 12*l*. a year.

Agricultural labourers as a rule do not look forward to taking small farms; it is seldom that they can save sufficient money, although I know a few instances where they have been able to do so. Farm servants are in a more favourable position for saving than agricultural labourers living in cottages and providing for themselves, but I am afraid that the love of spending money is stronger than of saving it. The "feeing-fairs" and the easy communication with towns by railways greatly contribute to this.

Cottages have rarely more than two rooms, and the inmates generally find them enough. In considering the question of cottage accommodation it must be remembered how limited are the means of an agricultural labourer for furnishing even two rooms, and where a cottage contains a third, it is generally used as a lumber or store room. The kitchen is the general sleeping place. Most cottages have small gardens, but the occupants take very little interest in them and they are often left uncultivated. The custom of changing places once a year prevents the formation of any real attachment to their homes and creates a feeling of indifference to the comfort of their cottages.

9. *Mr. G. Baird*, master of the Benevolent Society School, Dumfries.—This is a town school, although there are some children of agricultural labourers who come from a distance of four miles. It is chiefly for children of the poorer class, and the rate of payment is uniform, viz., 1*d*. per week. The school is chiefly supported by voluntary contributions and the government grant. The attendance is very regular throughout the year, the number on the books being 240 and the average attendance 200; children remain up to 13, 14, and 15 years of age; none leave before 13. I adopt the practice of giving the children lessons to prepare at home, such as arithmetic, getting words with their meaning by heart, and learning to repeat passages of poetry and prose, which I consider important aids to education. The parents are generally desirous that their children should be educated, although there are many in this as in every large town who are indifferent and will not pay even 1*d*. a week for their children's instruction.

10. *Mr. John Thompson*, master of the parochial school, Holywood.—The parish being a very extensive one, 10 miles in length, the provision for education is divided among three schools. There are on the register 65 boys and girls, and the attendance in the winter months it 56. One-third of the scholars are absent from March until the end of October. Many are taken to work at ages varying from 10 to 14, but there is a large amount of absenteeism, which arises entirely from the indifference of parents; some pressure is required to oblige parents to do their duty in this respect, very few can plead the excuse of poverty for keeping their children from school, and the earnings made are not indispensable. Very few boys who leave the school have done more than pass Standard IV. although I have had boys as old as 14. The long absence from school is the cause of this; during

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their absence they go back and lose a great deal of what they had learned. The school fees vary from 2*d.* to 3½*d.* per week. The salary is 30*l.* a year, and in addition I have the school fees and the government grant, which generally amounts to a little over 20*l.* I think it a hardship that I am not provided with a house, I pay for lodgings out of my salary.

11. *Rev. Robert Davidson*, minister, Holywood.—It is very desirable that something should be done to enforce regular attendance for the greater part of the year upon children at the parochial schools. A great many parents are exceedingly neglectful in this respect. It is not so much that the children are taken from school too young, as the long breaks in the attendance, which are most injurious to the children's progress. The wages of the agricultural labouring class are fair. Farm servants have from 13*l.* to 20*l.* a year with their food in the farmhouse. The cottage accommodation for those labourers who do not live in the farmhouses is far from satisfactory. Two rooms are the exception, one generally serving for the whole family, who cook, eat, and sleep in the same apartment. These defective arrangements are partly owing to the tenants on whose farms the cottages are located, and who, to save the expense of providing other accommodation for their labourers, often divide a two-roomed cottage into two separate dwellings, having a door in common.

Children employed in agriculture in this parish are certainly not over-worked. The labour is light and the injury is not to their health but to their education.

12. *Mr. Robert Barber.*—I farm 180 acres, all arable land, in the parish of Holywood. I do not employ boys under 13 years of age. Women are much employed in field work, and earn 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and for the harvest, 30*s.*, 2*l.*, with their food. Cottars have the privilege of planting with potatoes as much land as they are able to manure, and that with a cottage rent-free brings a labourer's wages up to about 35*l.* a year. I pay wages all in money. None of the farms in this part of Dumfries-shire exceed 200 acres, but the majority are much smaller. I do not know any instance of a cottar having saved money enough to take a small farm.

13. *Charles Stewart, Esq.*, Hill Side, Lockerbie, magistrate.—I was for nearly 50 years factor of Mr. Hope Johnstone, the largest landed proprietor in Annandale, and I have therefore had ample opportunities of noting the condition of the agricultural population and the advance in the rate of wages in Dumfries-shire. The farms do not exceed on an average 200*l.* or 300*l.* a year, and it is very rare that a farm it let smaller than sufficient to employ a pair of horses and a plough, say of 80*l.* or 100*l.* a year rent. Wages are now higher by 100 per cent. than they were 30 years ago, and the position of the labourer has in a pecuniary sense proportionally improved. There are two classes of agricultural labourers in this county, viz., the farm servants, generally young unmarried men who are lodged and boarded in the farm-houses, and the class called "benefit men," *i. e.* men who live in cottages on the farm and receiving wages in money or partly in money and partly in provisions. This class of labourers is entirely distinct, and hiring or "feeing" fairs are held for each. The net wages of a cottar, including his benefit, *i. e.* the proportion of food given him and other privileges, average about 32*l.* a year. The wives of married cottars are generally bound to work out when required, and if incapacitated by pregnancy or any other cause, the daughters, if old enough, take the places of their mothers. The hardest work they are put to is loading dung carts, but it is only the most robust that would be so employed. This custom, particularly when the wife has children too young for field-work operates in many cases to the disadvantage of the family, who are left in charge of the eldest throughout the day, and who is therefore for the greater portion of the year unable to attend school. The food of cottars consists chiefly of porridge, tea, and potatoes, and a little bacon occasionally, if a pig is kept. Animal food is rarely if ever bought, but wheaten bread, if there is a town near at hand where it can be conveniently procured, is coming into general use as a substitute for oat-cake. I do not think it is in the power of a cottar with a family to save money, but farm servants, who have nothing to spend their wages on but their clothes, may. On small farms of from 80*l.* to 100*l.* a year, the work is almost wholly done by the tenant and his family, little labour being hired. This, of course, keeps such of the children as are old enough to be useful, even in a small way, from school, excepting in the winter months. The people notwithstanding highly appreciate education. Many boys after they have received a good education go to England, and it is the height of their ambition to return to their native country and purchase land or take farms. Many find employment as "teamen," or retailers of tea and groceries, which they hawk about the country, and who not only make money, but are often admitted into partnership with their employers in consequence of their steadiness and intelligence. This is one of the results of the Scotch system of education, which provides for those who take advantage of it as a stepping stone to advancement in life, and has been the making of many, both as colonists and in English mercantile houses.

Shepherds are a very important class in Dumfries-shire, and they rank high in all moral qualities. They have great responsibilities and generally live in remote and solitary places, and do not see their master's face for weeks together. There are two classes of shepherds, those who tend sheep on the upper hill ranges, and on the lower. They are paid differently, those on the higher ranges by "packs" of from 42 to 45 sheep which they purchase on entering upon the place, and of which they receive the increase, and a cow of which they have the yearly calf. On the lower ranges they are paid about 20*l.* a year in money and have two or three sheep, with 65 stones of oatmeal and pasture for a cow. The habits of both are very frugal and they save money. Great attention is paid to the education of their children, and, as schools are seldom accessible, they hire a schoolmaster, who lives with each shepherd for a month at a time, and the children of the neighbouring shepherds within a certain distance assemble daily for instruction.

With respect to the parochial schools I think that one-third of the children in the agricultural districts are absent for a quarter of the year.

I was, when factor to Mr. Hope Johnstone, the originator of the system of granting building leases to agricultural labourers on the Annandale estate, and it continues in operation to the advantage both of the landlord and the tenants. The system is this,—a lease of 21 years is given of the homestead and a large garden at a rent of 5*s.* yearly. The tenant erects the house at his own expense, excepting the price of timber which is given from the estate, together with hewn freestone for chimney heads, door and window rybots, jambs, ridge stones, &c. The proprietor reserves the right to resume possession on giving six months' notice on any Whitsunday and paying the proportion of the tenant's outlay for the time unexpired of the lease, the value or outlay being fixed at the commencement at from 35*l.* to 40*l.*, according to the size of the house. They are all covered with Welsh slate and boarded with Scotch fir boards. The room end is also boarded, and in most cases the kitchen is either flagged or boarded.

The cost to the tenant when the plan was first started was,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Welsh slates - -	4	10	0
Mason and slater - -	5	10	0
Joiner and windows -	7	0	0
Lime and other outlays -	4	0	0
	£21	0	0

other consists of the tenant's own work in ng and finding stones, assisting masons, and iage which they can get in exchange for work farmers and neighbours. The cost to the tenant d now be increased to 30*l.* or 35*l.* from the higher of trades men's wages and better finishing.

he landlord's cost for freestone and sawing wood out 12*l.* or 13*l.*, and the value of the house timber aps 8*l.* or 10*l.*, so that with interest at the end of ears the proprietor has the house at a cost of 45*l.* 0*l.*

two-thirds or three-fourths of the cases the tenants granted on separate leases, mostly from year to , 2, 3, or 4 acres of land, which they improve for ure for summering and wintering a cow, some- s cultivating a little, and in all cases by the manure either on their own or the neighbouring farmer's nd, securing potatoes for their family and for one wo pigs for sale. As the ground is coarse and pendicles do not interfere with the regular sures for farms, the rent seldom exceeds 20*s.* an .

one but persons of the best character, well-known he neighbourhood, and generally natives of the te, are taken as tenants. Most of them have been ghmen, have saved a little money, and wish to le with their wives and families. Great care is taken to place any without a certain prospect of future k, and the state of the population in the parish in rence to this is kept strictly in view. In some s where a deserving and suitable man is unable to ertake all the cost, assistance is given to him by viding slates and windows and charging interest. en the leases expire, the tenants or their families ain under renewed leases where more outlay is uired, or without leases at moderate rents of from to 40*s.*, according to the house and the circum- ces of the family. It is only when the family die emigrate, or move for some superior employment, vacancies occur. When let to strangers the rent igher, the house with cow grass being let for 5*l.* or a year.

The result of this mode of granting leases and dicles has been very satisfactory to the proprietor, very gratifying, inasmuch as it has been the means affording permanent residences who take an interest heir little holdings to a large class of the native ulation.

4. *John Ballantine*, Kirkpatrick Juxta.—I am of Mr. Hope Johnstone's tenants under a lding lease granted to me in 1860. My house tains a kitchen, two bedrooms, a loft, small byre, piggery. I have also a good garden and two es of pasture land included in the lease. My house larger than those usually built on lease, and the lay of the landlord was more than is commonly the e, and I pay a "feu" rent of 1*l.* a year for the se and 5*l.* 10*s.* a year for a pendicle of 2½ acres. e lease is for 19 years. I wanted a good house, and as able to lay out rather more money upon it than sual. My share of the cost amounted to about 50*l.*, I think it money well laid out; I could not have such a house to rent at any price, and I am quite isfied with it and very comfortable. I had saved a le money before I married, and it is well laid out. lease has nine years to run, but I maks no doubt of aining tenant at a low rent. The chief expense the house to me was in tiles and lime. I got some p in carting the stone. Considering that a man not get more than 3 per cent. interest in the ings' bank, what can he do better with his ney than lay it out as I have done in making for nself a comfortable home, which he is sure of not ng turned out of while he lives.

15. *Robert Smith*, Johnstone.—I am a tenant Mr. Hope Johnstone. My house was built in 61. I had a lease for 19 years at a rent of 5*s.* part of the cost of the house amounted to 40*l.* has three rooms, a scullery, and pigstye. I have no ndicle for a cow, no land suitable for it being at hand. I expect to continue tenant when the lease expires, at a rent of 2*l.*, and as my first outlay was 40*l.*, for which I could not have got more than 1*l.* 5*s.* interest a year, I consider that I have paid only 1*l.* 10*s.* a year for a very good house. Having been well built it has not required any repairs to speak of, and it is dry and warm.

16. *James Ballantine*, Kirkpatrick.—I am a tenant of Mr. Hope Johnstone. My house was built in 1850. My portion of the cost was 24*l.*, but labour was then much cheaper than it is at present, and if it was to be built now it would cost nearly double. There is a kitchen, two bedrooms, scullery, small byre, pigstye, and a good garden, for which I pay 5*s.* a year rent. My term expires next year but I expect not to pay as yearly tenant more than 2*l.* rent. I have a cow's grass, for which I pay 3*l.* 10*s.* a year. I have no pendicle, but the cow is free to graze in a large field along with other cows. I consider I make a profit of 8*l.* a year from the cow. I think the best use a man can make of a little money, if he has got it, is to lay it out in the way I have done.

17. *Mr. James Moodie*, master of the Maxwelltown borough school, supported by the heritors school pence and government grant.—Number on the register 280, average attendance 234. Very few boys remain until they are 14, the average leave at 11. The school is thus arranged for the approaching government inspection:—

Standard	VI.	-	-	18
„	V.	-	-	20
„	IV.	-	-	11
„	III.	-	-	27
„	II.	-	-	37
„	I.	-	-	40

There are many children besides, too young to be classed.

Being chiefly a town school the children are not much wanted in agricultural labour, but there are other causes of absenteeism. In Dumfries a great market for agricultural produce and cattle is held every Wednesday, and many of the scholars, boys and girls, are kept at home to look after the children, their mothers having gone to attend the market; whilst other boys are hired by the farmers to look after their cattle whilst in the market.

Most of the scholars do a portion of their school work at home, the younger preparing reading lessons, the elder geography and arithmetic. I consider it a very good practice, as it not only saves time in school but keeps the children out of mischief and gives the parents an interest in their education.

18. *Mary Johnstone*, Tynwald.—My husband works for Mr. Dobie as head ploughman at 32*l.* a year and a one-room cottage rent-free, but no perquisites of any kind. Cottars are not allowed in this parish to keep a pig; one would be a great help. Butchers' meat never enters this cottage, and bacon is too dear to buy. We live on oatmeal, scones, and have potatoes sometimes for supper. We have eight children, five boys and three girls; the eldest boy is 18 and is in service, another boy 10 years old and a girl 8 go to school. We are wishful that our children should have education. There is a boy living near here with his mother, a widow, who won't go to school, and has never been to one. The policeman tried to make him go, but it was of no use. Four of our boys sleep in one bed, and I, my husband, and the three girls in the other.

19. *Mary Waller*, wife of James Waller, labourer, working on Mr. Dobie's farm.—My husband gets 22*l.* a year with his meat at the farmhouse. This cottage is rent-free. I have seven children at home, the two eldest go to school. The eldest boy now at home is 13 and is now out at work scaling dung, and will have employment till winter, when he will go to school again. The girl can read and write but cannot do accounts. My eldest boy is 16, he went to farm service when he was 12 and got 2*l.* a year; he now gets 6*l.* with his food. He could read, write, and sum when he went to service. We live chiefly upon porridge and wheat

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bread. We buy wheat at the farm for 6*s.* a bushel and oats for 3*s.* We take it to the mill to be ground, and the miller gets the bran. We have two beds but only one room.

20. *Elizabeth Wilson*, wife of J. Wilson, labourer, Tynwald.—We came here from Balmaclellan, New Galloway, for a warmer climate at Whitsuntide last, but the cottage we have got is very damp, and must be very cold in winter, as there are openings all round between the joists and the roof, and we found the water running down the walls in June. The cottage we have is new and has only one room. My husband works for Mr. Dobie, and gets 32*l.* a year and this cottage, and that is all. He won't allow any of his workpeople to keep a pig ; I don't know why. We have three children, the eldest is 12 ; he can read, write, and do accounts.

21. *James Tweedie*, grieve to Mr. Dobie, Tynwald Mains.—I get 32*l.* a year money wages, a cow's grass, and keep a pig, and have as much land for growing potatoes as I can find manure for. The cottage I live in has two rooms, one is boarded, but the other is paved like a street. The walls are damp for want of lath and plaster, and from the water under the foundation.

22. *Mr. J. Dalzell.*—I farm an estate of 400 acres belonging to the Marquis of Queensberry. When I took possession of the farm I found the cottages on it in so bad a state that I was obliged, for my own interest, to lay out 300*l.* in repairing and improving them, otherwise I should not have had a labourer, as none would live in the cottages in the state in which they were. They have only one room each.

Children are employed on my farm on light work for three months in the year, beginning in June, and are paid from 6*d.* to 9*d.* a day, according to age. They have plenty of time for school during the other nine months, and there are no Christmas holidays in Scotland. They work 10 hours a day, but have no distance to go, as they mostly reside in the cottages on the farm or come from a village near by. Women are much employed in farm work. I give employment to ten for the whole year, at 1*s.* a day with cottage rent-free. They are hired, like the men, at the feeing fairs by the year. They have 2*s.* a day at harvest and their meals. They are mostly single women or widows.

It would be greatly to the interest of landed proprietors to have good cottages for the labouring population, as it would certainly increase the rental of their farms.

The farms in this part of Dumfries-shire rarely exceed 400 acres. Rent averages about 25*s.* per acre. The agricultural labourers very rarely look forward to taking a farm. A married man cannot save money sufficient to enable him to take even the smallest with any hope of success. Men of that class are, I think, in a better position as grieves than they would be as small farmers.

23. *Elizabeth Copeland.*—My husband is a woodman and works in the woods of the Duke of Buccleuch on 14*s.* a week all the year round. The cottage is rented at 2*l.* 5*s.* a year; it has a kitchen, small scullery, and one bedroom above the kitchen. I have seven children, four are at home and the others out at service. I and my husband and the youngest child sleep in the kitchen, the other three children sleep together up stairs. The three eldest go to school regularly ; they do not work out, although they might earn a bit of money if they did, but I consider the education of a poor man's child its fortune, for what else has it to look to in life. We pay for our children's schooling, 1*s.* 4*d.* a month for the eldest, and 10*d.* and 8*d.* for the younger ones.

Not five shillings worth of butcher's meat enters this cottage during the year. We live on milk and bread and butter, and now and then we have potatoes. My husband has his breakfast of milk porridge and takes his dinner, a bottle of milk and bread and cheese, with him to the woods ; his supper is of porridge and bread and butter. I do not think this kind of food suitable for a man who works hard, and I do not think it keeps up his strength.

24. *Mr. W. Howitt*, architect and surveyor to the Duke of Buccleuch.—The Duke has laid out in the building and improvement of cottages within the last ten years quite 50,000*l.*, and in the building and improvement of cottages and steadings together within fifteen years, at least 250,000*l.* The improvement in the sleeping accommodation in the farmhouses has been an object of much attention, the immorality of the country districts being chiefly attributable to the very general deficiency in this respect. With respect to labourers' cottages, they have generally been built upon a new plan, with slated instead of thatched roofs, and every precaution has been taken to keep the cottage dry by asphalte or concrete foundations. The old cottages were greatly deficient in that respect. The general practice is to build cottages with a kitchen, a small scullery, and a bedroom upstairs. Cottars, however large their families, seldom wish for more accommodation than a kitchen and bedroom, and some cottages are built with only one room for elderly persons and widows. Beds in the kitchen are universal, the climate is, perhaps, the cause of this, but it is not conducive to decency or morals ; the custom is so general that I do not think it can be changed.

There are two views to be taken of the question of accommodation for an agricultural labourer. He has rarely the means of furnishing three rooms, and often not two, and if he cannot furnish all the rooms in his cottage, he shuts one up or uses it for lumber, and he therefore, as a rule, prefers a two-roomed cottage to one with three rooms, and for the same reason he is often willing to do with only one room. On the subject of ventilation, their prejudices are strong; they like their cottages to be *close* and snug, and do their best to defeat any arrangement the architect may make for the admission of fresh air.

25. *Mr. James Boreland*, master of Carron Bridge school.—This school is supported chiefly by the Duke of Buccleuch. It is a mixed school with 95 on the books. As a rule, one-third of the children are absent from the beginning of June until the beginning of November, employed in field-work, and a portion of the school leave earlier, viz., in April, for barking. Both boys and girls remain at school on an average up to 14 and 15, and some longer, who are preparing themselves for mercantile employment. They can acquire some knowledge of mathematics, French, Latin, and Greek. A good deal of the work is done at home, such as preparing reading lessons, spelling, geography, grammar, and history; poetry also is learned by heart. The shorter catechism is taught, but the only religious book used is the Bible. The terms of the school are 8*d.* a month for reading; 1*s.* 2*d.* a month is the highest charge, except for the classics and mathematics, which are 2*s.* 6*d.*

26. *Mr. W. Johnstone*, land steward of the Duke of Buccleuch. — Farms in Nithsdale average from 150 to 250 acres. I speak of mixed farms of arable and pasture land. The acreage of sheep farms is larger, and they often pay 600*l.* a year rent. There are very few what would be called small farms of from 50*l.* to 80*l.* a year, and agricultural labourers are very rarely able to take even the smallest farm. They have scarcely the means to save, and are often in debt. I have, from my position, been able to observe the progress of cottage improvement on the Duke of Buccleuch's estates. The greatest change made by his Grace was keeping the cottages in his own hands when he granted a lease of a farm, and thus preventing the tenants from sub-letting the cottages. It places the labourer in a more independent position, as he is not liable to be turned out of his cottage at a moment's notice by his employer. The security he thus obtains also attaches him to his place. It is of very little use providing more than a cottage with two rooms for a labouring man and his family ; they would not occupy a third room if they had it, and the habit of putting the beds in the kitchen is universal.

Boys and girls are useful after 10 years of age, but not before, and there is employment for them for four or five months in the year. In the barking season a number of boys, girls, and women go into the woods under the charge of a superintendent, and pass the day there, taking their meals with them. This practice, no doubt, gives rise to some irregularities, but not quite to the abuses of the gang system of England. I do not permit cottars to keep pigs on the farms which I manage. I found it gave rise to a pilfering for the pig. I accordingly prohibited it, and I give a ton of picked potatoes instead.

Children attend school pretty regularly here until they are 10; after that their education is a good deal interrupted by the demand of labour in different ways. There is much time lost in idleness in the winter months, and I am of opinion that a compulsory attendance of children for six months in the year would produce much good. Parents do not in all cases do their duty to their children, as far as my experience is concerned.

The high rate of illegitimacy in this county, one in six, according to the Report of the Registrar General, being born out of wedlock, is owing, in my opinion, to the bad arrangements of many of the farmhouses, the men often sleeping in a loft over the stables, and being thus subject to no control they go out at nights for no good.

27. *Mr. A. Dobie*, Tynwald Park Farm.—I rent and farm 1,300 acres, chiefly arable land, under the Marquis of Queensberry. I employ no children under 10 years of age, and those that I do employ are not required for more than two months in the year, therefore the work need not interfere with their education. Woman are much employed in this parish in field labour. I find work for them all the year round; their wages are 1*s.* a day, with 2*s.* a day in harvest with their food. They are principally single women and widows, and live in cottages in the neighbouring villages. I pay my ploughmen 32*l.* a year with a cottage rent-free, but no perquisites. I do not allow them to keep a pig.

28. *Mr. I. Adams*, factor for the Closeburn estate.—Children and women are a good deal employed on this property. There is in the spring plenty of work for them in the woods, barking. This is principally done by a contractor who hires and pays the women and children who work under his supervision, but generally in company with their parents. I am not aware of the system giving rise to any immorality. Women are paid from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and children from 6*d.* to 9*d.* There is other work for children, such as scareing crows, cutting thistles, weeding, taking up potatoes, &c., which gives them employment for six months in the year. Turnips are generally thinned by women.

The male adult labour on this estate and in this parish generally is done by young unmarried men living in farm houses, who are paid from 17*l.* to 20*l.* a year with their living. Agricultural labourers employed by the day are paid 2*s.* a day. There are some small farms on this estate, one or two at 40*l.* a year rent. Small farms, when not too numerous, are a benefit to a district, by inducing young men to save money and become small farmers. I know several who have succeeded upon a holding of 40*l.* a year, but such a farm is not large enough to give employment for a pair of horses, and the tenant adds to his means by doing jobs, such as carting, &c. They are a useful and laborious class of men.

Wages have risen 10 per cent. within the last 30 years, but I do not think the labouring class save, and many get into debt. Their diet is chiefly porridge and bread and cheese, with occasionally a slice of ham with eggs.

29. *Dr. Ranmage*, rector of the endowed school of Closeburn.—This is a free school open to all classes, who receive an entirely gratuitous education. The mortification was originally 1,600*l.* in money, but having been laid out, according to the donor's directions, in land, produces now 700*l.* a year. There are 236 pupils on the register, of from 5 to 17 years of age. I have two assistant teachers. The school is reduced in numbers by one-third for about six months in the year, owing to the demand for the labour of children above 10 years of age, and I fear that their earnings are necessary to their parents. The attendance of the children becomes very irregular after 10 years of age. I do not keep many beyond 13, but they generally leave the school able to read, write, and cipher tolerably, and with a little knowledge of Latin. Boys who remain longer are either destined for the universities or for trade, and they receive instruction in the ordinary branches of education as well as in Latin, French, German, and mathematics. Boys from other parishes are admitted on payment of 7*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. The school has sent out many boys who have been very successful in life. I believe there is not a child in the parish, of suitable age, who does not take advantage of this school.

30. *Mr. James Milligan*, Sanquhar.—I am an extensive sheep farmer, and pay rent to the amount of 2,241*l.* a year. The upper portion of Nithsdale is almost entirely pastoral, and the farms are on a large scale, many at a rent of 1,000*l.* a year. In 1836 the money wages of a first-class hill shepherd were 9*l.* a year, they are now 18*l.*, but the perquisites bring the total wages to 40*l.*, which is made up by a cottage rent-free, pasture for two cows, the profit from two pigs, and ground for planting potatoes. An agricultural labourer living in a cottage, does not, everything included, get more than 32*l.* a year. Shepherds are a superior class, well educated, thrifty in their habits, and able to save money. They pay great attention to the education of their children, and as it is almost impossible from the distance of the shepherds' cots from any school to obtain instruction in the ordinary way, they hire a schoolmaster for a portion of the year and take him into their houses, where the children of the neighbouring shepherds assemble for instruction. I know some of these masters with great teaching powers. In pastoral districts there is very little work for children, and they are chiefly employed by their parents on little matters connected with the management of the flocks, particularly in the lambing and shearing seasons. Shepherds are a thoughtful, reading class. I do not think their position has improved since the partial disuse of the system of paying them by packs. The reason generally given for this change is, that the former system caused trouble to the masters in sorting the flocks and other matters. There is no doubt, although he ran some risks, that on the whole the shepherd made more by the pack system than his present money wages. Shepherds consume more animal food than agricultural labourers, often getting a sheep or two from their masters, and perhaps a couple of lambs in the season, and as they generally keep a pig, they have always a little bacon to make up their meals, and their exposure to the weather at considerable elevations makes animal food a necessity.

Kirkcudbrightshire.

Mr. J. Henry Tremenheere.

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KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

1. *Mr. W. Barbour*, Castle Douglas.—I have no farm at present, but I have farmed extensively in this county. There is not such an amount of employment in agriculture for children that materially interferes with their education. Some are employed as young as 8, but only in scareing crows and in weeding. The majority do not work in the fields before they are 11, and only for about four months in the year. Women are much employed, but not in heavy work; they are paid 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and 2*s.* in harvest.

The practice of granting cottars a cow's grass as a portion of their wages is much less common than it was, and their position has deteriorated in consequence.

2. *Mr. Grierson*, Castle Douglas.—I rent and farm about 280 acres, chiefly arable land. Children are not much required in this district in farm work, excepting for hoeing turnips in July, and in making bands in harvest, for both of which they are paid 1*s.* a day. Women for the same work are paid from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. A cottar's wages are sometimes paid wholly in money, with a cottage rent-free. Sometimes they are paid partly in meal; but it depends much upon his own wishes. 120 stone of oatmeal is a common allowance in addition to money wages, with a cottage, equal to perhaps in all 36*l.* or 37*l.* a year.

There is a general feeling among farmers against allowing cottars to keep pigs, and the practice of allowing a cow's grass is also going out. The diet of agricultural day labourers is almost wholly farinaceous in this county. Wheaten bread is coming into use instead of oatcake, but porridge is always taken for breakfast, with perhaps a cup of tea and a slice of bread and butter after it. I allow each of my cottars one pound of butter per week at a fixed value, whatever may be the market price. Cheese is much used, and tea is the only drink. I think the labouring class were more robust when they lived entirely upon porridge and potatoes. They do not weigh so heavily as before the change in their diet. Unmarried labouring men live in the farm houses, and are paid 20*l.* a year with their food. There are very few farms in this neighbourhood that a labourer who has saved a little money could venture to take. All the adult labourers can read and write, indeed I never yet met with a native-born Scotchman who was unable to do so.

3. *Mr. J. Biggar*, Chapelton.—I farm between 500 and 600 acres, of half of which I am the proprietor. I do not think that there is anything objectionable in the employment of children in this neighbourhood, and the school holidays are so arranged that they fall at the busiest season of the year, therefore their employment does not interfere with their schooling. "Herding" or crow-scareing is the earliest work to which a child is put, and as the crows are up and busy as early as three o'clock in summer, it is necessary that the boy should also be up betimes too. Crows do infinite mischief to the young potatoes new sown oats, and young turnips. Boys and girls are employed largely in hoeing turnips in July, and are paid 1*s.* a day. Girls make the best hoers.

I have much considered the subject, but I do not see my way to any interference with the labour of children. A man with a large family may have three young children, each capable of earning 6*s.* a week, making in the whole 18*s.* a week, an important addition to the labourer's means, and it would be a great hardship to deprive him of it, particularly as a great portion of the earnings goes to feed and clothe the children. Education should be attended to, but school attendance for the whole year would be cruel and mischievous. Half-time would not do in agriculture, for the work done by children requires to be done quickly, but I see no difficulty in enforcing a certain amount of attendance during the year for children of all ages.

Every woman in this neighbourhood can obtain employment in agriculture if she desires it, and can earn from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and in harvest 2*s.* with her food; but there are many women quite able to work who prefer going on the parish.

There is a practice in some parts of this county which resembles the English agricultural gang system, but the women and children are not paid by the contractor, who merely gets double wages for his trouble in hiring and bringing them out. Children brought up on a farm make far better labourers than those brought up in a village. They learn to like and take an interest in the farm, whereas a labourer who has lived in a village from his childhood tries to do as little as possible, and his chief object is to cheat his employer. Boys and girls go out to farm service in this county when 13, but as young as 12.

4. *Mr. William Johnstone*, master of the parochial school, Castle Douglas.—I have 100 boys and girls on the register of this school. Agricultural employment does not materially interfere with their attendance, but great irregularity of attendance is caused by the indifference of parents. About 40 children receive their schooling gratuitously, but they are the most irregular of all my pupils. Those who pay something are far more to be depended on. A compulsory system is the only remedy for the negligence of parents, and is required in the interest of the children. A certificate of a certain proficiency having been attained in elementary education as a condition of employment in agriculture is very much to be desired, and I am convinced it would work well. My scholars remain generally until they are 14, but owing to the age at which some parents first send their children to school they often have not attained the proficiency which is needful for them. I have known a child of nine sent to this school to learn his A B C, and some children have left school finally at 11 unable to read Many children leave the parochial schools very imperfectly educated. There are two causes for this—1st, the poverty or indifference of parents; and 2nd, indifference on the part of the employers of labour, who generally do not care whether a boy who enters their service is educated or not. My main object is to teach children to read fluently, emphatically, and intelligently. They have poetry to learn by heart; one of my classes is now learning Gray's Elegy, two stanzas at a time. Other school work, such as geography lessons, arithemetic, and spelling with meanings, is prepared at home. It is a great saving of time, and keeps the children out of mischief.

There has been for some time a great falling off in the demand for the higher branches of education, which were formerly and are still in some measure taught in the parochial schools. Thirty years ago, I had from 40 to 50 classical scholars, now I have not one. The tendency is to seek employment in shops or mercantile houses at an early age, and the preparation for the church and learned professions, which was once carried on chiefly in the parochial schools, is now left more to private adventure schools.

5. *George McKie, Esq.*, Dunjarg, Castle Douglas, magistrate. I am of opinion that there is no necessity for any legislative interference with the labour of children in this neighbourhood. There is no demand for their employment beyond three or four months in the year, and the summer holidays occur during the busiest season, therefore, practically they might have nine months for schooling. Any pressure that may be needed to bring the children to school should be placed upon the parents, not upon the employers.

6. *Mr. James McGill*, Kirkbean.—Boys and girls are employed in agriculture in this parish from the age of 10 to 14, but only for about nine or ten weeks, the remainder of the year being left for school attendance. There are three schools, all well attended. The average attendance of boys in summer, out of 86, is 75.

Cottages have been considerably improved in this parish of late years, although there is still a deficiency, and many of the old ones are too small.

It is not the custom here to give farm labourers pasture for a cow, although there are a few exceptions, but they all get potatoes planted. The average earnings of an able-bodied cottar are from 35*l.* to 38*l.* a year, including house, garden, potatoes planted, and food during harvest.

7. *Rev. John J. Dickson*, minister, Kirkbean.—Confining my statement as regards this parish to the subject with which alone I am practically acquainted, I would say that the number in attendance at the three schools amounts in summer to about 160, and in winter to 30 more, from the age of four to 13 and 14. The means of education are ample, and the children of all classes without exception take advantage of them.

8. Master of the Parochial school, Dalbeattie.—There are 214 children on the register, and the average attendance is 116. The children are taken from school not so much for labour as to take care of the younger children while the mother goes out to work. The great cause of irregularity however is the carelessness and indifference of parents who keep their children from school for the most trifling causes, or none at all. This absenteeism has somewhat diminished since I have required a written statement from the parents of the cause of a child's non-attendance at school. I expelled one boy for systematic irregularity of attendance, and was supported by the heritors. The payments are 2*d.*, 2½*d.*, and 3½*d.* a week, according to age; and for Latin and French 5½*d.* per week. I have now only one boy learning Latin, ten French, and four algebra. Upon an average the children remain at school up to 13. The lessons they take home to prepare for the following day are reading lessons, grammar, geography, and the roots and meanings of words. They also learn poetry by heart.

9. *Mr. Hugh Kerr*, Richorn, Dalbeattie.—I farm an estate of 60 acres, all arable land. I was a ploughman for many years, and received 10*l.* a year wages and my food, and I regularly saved 5*l.* a year. I was able a few years ago to take this farm, but there are very few such small farms to be had now, and labourers although they are now paid double what I was do not save money. Farms in this district average about 150*l.* a year rent, just large enough to give employment to four horses. I do a great deal of the work of my farm myself, and I work harder than a day labourer. I keep a ploughman and pay him 20*l.* a year with his food. Farm servants live comfortably, they have for dinner broth with potatoes three days a week, and meat the other four days, oatmeal porridge for breakfast and supper, with as much oatcake as they can eat. There is no doubt that the men who live in the farm houses are better fed than cottars. The mode of living makes a great difference in their working power. Wages have risen within my remembrance 100 per cent. When I first came here I could have got any number of labourers for 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, now I pay 3*s.* The people whom you hire out of villages are the worst workers, whether men, women, or children. They take no interest in their work, and try all they can to cheat their employer, but those brought up on farms take an interest in their work.

With respect to cottages, I think every farm which employs a pair of horses ought to have a good cottage on it, and so on at the rate of a cottage for every pair of horses employed. The cottages of the labouring people are very bad, and how can a person who is obliged to live in a miserable hovel take an interest in it?

Children are well paid for their labour here, generally earning in turnip thinning and weeding as much as women, that is 1*s.* a day, and there is employment for them for seven or eight months in the year. These high wages are peculiar to this part of Kirkcudbrightshire where there are several large granite quarries. A good man will keep his children at school for six months in the year at least, although he may lose something in money by doing so.

10. *Samuel Jerdan*, ploughman.—I work on Mr. Craig's farm at Terregles, and am paid 32*l.* a year, with a cottage of two rooms and a scullery rent-free. I have 12 children; six of them at home. Three go to school, and I pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter for each. It is a good deal to come out of a poor man's wages. The three boys go regularly to school, except for about four months in the year, and they are able to earn from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day each—sufficient to clothe and partly maintain them. It would be hard to prevent my boy, not yet turned 10, from earning something. He is now herding (crow-scareing), and is employed for two months, and earns 5*s.* a week. He is in the field at 5 o'clock in the morning and leaves at 6 in the evening. His sister brings him his dinner. He can read and write and do sums. We live on porridge chiefly, and it is seldom we are able to buy a bit of butcher's meat, but manage to do so now and then to make broth on the Sabbath. 32*l.* a year is too low a wage for a man to do his work well upon; if he has a family he ought to have 40*l.* I don't think children wear out their clothes more in work than they would if they were idle, perhaps not so much. They would be playing about and tearing them, and getting into mischief. Work is the best thing for them, and the sooner they begin it the better labourers they make.

11. *Mr. Andrew McEwen*, factor to W. H. Maxwell, Esq., M.P., Munches.—We do not employ either boys or girls in agriculture under 13 years of age, and only then to a limited extent. We consider it more economical to pay higher wages for more effective labour; certainly there is nothing in the requirements of agriculture in this county that need necessarily interfere with the education of the young. There are ample means of instruction, and if they do not take advantage of them, it is their parents' fault.

From the unavoidable tendency of the rural population to congregate in villages from the want of cottages on farms, the country schools are in excess of the educational wants, and the village schools are proportionably overburthened. The aggregation of farms has contributed to bring about this state of things, but it is disadvantageous to the people and their children, for they sensibly deteriorate when collected together in villages, and do not make such good ploughmen and workwomen.

There is a gradual improvement in cottages. Landed proprietors are beginning to see the propriety, on moral as well as on economical grounds, of providing suitable accommodation for labourers who live on their estates. Tenant farmers too are a more respectable class than they were, with some capital, and better men of business. Many of them look after their servants, and do their best to keep them steady.

There is abundant employment for women in agriculture whenever they can be got, but they are not so ready to work out as formerly; they look more to domestic service or factory employment. They can earn 1*s.* 3*d.* a day almost all the year round. We have a custom of stipulating with cottars that their wives or grown-up daughters shall work in the fields when required.

The largest farms do not exceed 500*l.* a year in this parish, but there are a few as low as 40*l.* Such farms, when not too numerous, encourage young men to save money and become small farmers, and they serve as stepping stones to larger holdings; but to be profitable, no farm ought, in my opinion, to be less than 100*l.* a year rent; if smaller the tenant not only has to work very hard on his own farm but occasionally on other farms for wages.

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A ploughman's wages vary from 30*l.* to 35*l.*, according to age and qualification. Wages are paid wholly in money, with few exceptions. Unmarried labourers living in the farm houses are paid from 16*l.* to 20*l.* a year with their food. They do not save as they might, and if an aged parent falls into poverty it is not often that they are able to assist him.

The food given in farm houses is much superior to what a cottar can afford. There is always a meat dinner, but the cottar rarely tastes meat, living upon oatmeal porridge, bread and cheese, or a little butter and tea, and potatoes from their gardens, which most cottars have.

12. *Mr. J. Stewart*, Twynholm.—I farm 600 acres, all arable land with the exception of 60 acres, which are in permanent pasture. Fully two-thirds of the labour I employ consists of women and boys, but I seldom employ boys or girls under 12 years of age, and generally not under 14, and my practice corresponds with that of other farmers in this parish. I employ only two or three children under 12 in herding. During a portion of the year I hire large numbers of women, boys, and girls from Kirkcudbright. They are brought out from the town by a man who is paid double wages for his trouble in collecting them, but they are paid by myself. They are certainly rather a demoralised class, and I keep them as much as I can separate from my own workpeople, and I require the work to be carried on in silence. I see no reason to recommend that any restriction should be placed on the labour of women and children. It would be injurious to farmers and also to the parents of the children, but I should not object to the compulsory attendance of children at school for six months in the year. When the attendance of children is irregular, it generally arises from mere apathy on the part of the parents or from want of means occasioned by extravagance in house-keeping.

It is exceptional for cottars to have pasture for a cow in this parish. In general they have potato ground in addition to their gardens.

I have nine married cotmen on my farm, whose wages are 34*l.* or 35*l.* per annum. They are paid partly in money and partly in provisions and coals, and have a house and garden rent-free. Women get 1*s.* a day for 10 hours' work throughout the year, except at harvest time, when they have 2*s.* 6*d.* for 10 hours' work. Great abuses attend the hiring fairs. I have seen boys and girls of 14 and 15 years of age drunk on these occasions in the streets of Kirkcudbright before noon. There is not a labourer on my farm who is unable to read and write.

13. *Mr. John McLenan*, master of the Johnstone school, Kirkcudbright.—This is a free school for the gratuitous education of children whose parents have resided in the parish for a definite period. The endowment consisted of 7,000*l.*, and the school buildings cost 2,400*l.* I have been 22 years master. There are 230 children, boys and girls, on the rolls, and the average attendance is from 180 to 200. The attendance of the elder children begins to fall off about the end of May, and very few return until the end of September. None remain after 13 or 14, and the practice is to take children from school much younger than formerly, as I can certify from my experience of 22 years. They go earlier into service or different employments than they did, and the standard of education has been lowered. Latin is now seldom taught. Notwithstanding the advantages which a school of this character affords, there are many parents in this town and neighbourhood who neglect the education of their children, but they are not as a rule natives but immigrants from Ireland. There are some Roman Catholic children in the school. I have never experienced any religious difficulty, they all, with the approbation of their parents, are present at the religious instruction which is given, and learn the shorter catechism. One Roman Catholic boy who was educated at this school is now a priest. The time for religious instruction is from 10 till 11; the school meets at 9. Lessons are prepared at home, as is the practice of all schools. I have had boys at this school sent by their parents at nine years of age who did not know their letters.

14. *Mr. W. Gierson*, Bishop Town.—I farm 600 acres, chiefly land in permanent pasture. The children employed on the farm are those of the cottars. They are employed from the end of May until the harvest is finished, and are paid 1*s.* a day for cow-herding during July, age from 10 to 12 years; for weeding, harvesting, &c., from 13 to 16; girls are employed in weeding and harvesting from 13 to 16. Six months are left free for schooling. In the turnip season I obtain additional labour from Kirkcudbright, perhaps a dozen women and boys, who are paid by me and superintended by one of my own men.

Such of my labourers as live in cottages are paid partly in provisions and partly in money. The wages of my ploughman consist of 16*l.* in money, 120 stone of oatmeal, the profit of a pig, as much ground for planting potatoes as he can find manure for, and a cottage and garden rent-free, the whole of which I consider equivalent to 32*l.* Unmarried farm servants who live in the house are paid about 18*l.* or 20*l.* a year; they always have a meat dinner. They sleep in a loft over the stable. Within my remembrance very little butcher's meat was used in the farm houses, now it is very commonly given. All the labourers on my farm can read and write, some take in a provincial paper, and most have books in their cottages.

15. *Mr. J. Gordon*, Colraven, Borgue.—I occupy a farm of 410 acres, about one-third of which consists of arable land. I employ no boys under 13 years of age, but generally in this parish they are employed from 10 to 18 years of age in hoeing and weeding turnips until the middle of June, and in other work till harvest, when they are employed in shawing,—lifting and loading turnips until all are stored. Few girls are employed in the fields except as milkmaids or those belonging to the cottars on the farm. Women assist in spreading manure in spring, in hoeing and weeding turnips, lifting grain in harvest, taking up turnips, &c. Gangs are hired from Kirkcudbright. All the children in this parish get a fair education, and the parents, without any exception that I am aware of, all take an interest in their children's education with a view to their getting on in the world. Many leave the parish and procure employment in England as assistants in shops or clerks in mercantile houses, and do well. Some carry a pack for a few years, and thus obtain a knowledge of the world, and find the means of bettering their position. Wages are paid partly in money and partly in food, according to agreement. A pig is generally kept by a cottar, but it is stipulated that it shall not be allowed to stray. An ordinary able-bodied labourer is paid 14*l.* a year in money, 120 stone of oatmeal, 3 bushels of barley, ground to plant 2 bushels of potatoes, meat in harvest equivalent to 30*s.*, and a cottage and garden rent-free. I think the men generally prefer having part of their wages in kind, as it tends to equalise them from year to year, as meal sometimes varies in price from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* per stone. Cottages are much improved of late; the Earl of Selkirk, a large proprietor in this parish, has built some new and excellent cottages, as have also other proprietors, and the cottage accommodation here cannot be complained of. I do not know that proprietors would be prudent were they to build more houses than are needed for each farm. Some cottages on my farm are occupied by labourers who give harvest work as rent. These men work a portion of their time for my neighbours, and I consider myself bound to find work for them when it fails elsewhere, but if each farm had surplus labourers it would be difficult to find constant work for them all, though it would be a very great convenience to myself to be able always to command the labour I require.

16. *Rev. H. Morton Jack*, minister, Girthon.—No children are employed in agriculture in this parish

er 13 years of age, the farmers not thinking their ur worth their wages at an earlier age. There be exceptions in a few boys employed for perhaps uple of months in herding. About 50 women regular employment throughout the year; a conrable number are also employed in barking in pany with boys and girls; this I consider the most oralizing employment to which children are sub-. The boys and girls ought to be kept separate n the men and women from whom they hear and n nothing but evil. The language and conduct he women are particularly coarse and corrupting. e means of education in this parish are ample and y taken advantage of. I know of but one child o does not attend school regularly, and that is the gitimate child of a woman of bad character. A at improvement has taken place of late years in cottage accommodation of this parish. Mr. Murray wart, of Cally, the proprietor of almost the whole, ing built many cottages with four rooms, and others being erected as required. The wages of an agritural labourer, including house and garden, are ut 35*l.* a year. The hirings are half-yearly, and ances of money are generally made during the term.

17. *Mr. John Moule*, factor to Murray Stewart, Esq., Cally.—Mr. Stewart has done much in the way of tage improvement on his extensive property, of ich the whole of this parish forms a part, and the rk is proceeding from year to year, and there will on be no such thing as a bad cottage on the estates. ost are built with a kitchen and three bedrooms, e roofs are thatched but the walls and foundations made, perfectly dry. A pair of cottages of this aracter cost 120*l.* Gangs are much used in agriture in this neighbourhood. Those that I employ ay myself, the gangmaster receiving 3*s.* a day tra for his trouble in collecting and bringing the omen and boys from Gatehouse. They are chiefly ployed in the turnip and barking seasons. The ly labourers that I am aware of who are unable to ad and write in this district are the Irish that have ttled among us.

18. *Mr. John Wren*, grieve to Murray Stewart, sq.—I superintend the home farm of Cally, which nsists of 700 acres. It is chiefly cultivated by day bour obtained from the town of Gatehouse; wages e 13*s.* a week. The mode of living is much changed nce I came into the county 12 years ago. Oatcake now very little used, wheaten bread being in eneral use; bread and butter or cheese is the prinpal food, but Scotch labourers can live well on what her men would starve upon.

We employ a good many children, but none under 2 or 13 years of age. There is plenty of time left r their education, if they took advantage of it, but is my opinion that education may be carried too far. low can a poor man's child be better employed than learning the work by which he is to get his living after life? People should know a great deal more han they can learn at school.

19. *Mr. James Hamilton*, Anworth, Gatehouse.— Agricultural gangs are in pretty general use in this neighbourhood. I have now one at work thinning turnips; it is composed of 15 women and about the same number of boys and girls, but few of them under 14 years of age. The gangmaster agrees to do a certain quantity of work and pays the people. The women are of a low class, but as I am generally present in the field to see that the work is properly done, they are careful not to use bad language or otherwise misconduct themselves. It may be different in going to and returning from work, for the gangmaster has then no control over them. It is bad that women of loose character should mix with boys and girls, but gangs are a great convenience to a farmer who wants certain kinds of work done quickly. Kirkcudbrighshire.

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The children I employ at other times are those of the cottars on the farm, and I do not take them under 13 years of age. There is plenty of time for schooling until they go to service, and parents are generally desirous of educating their children..

My farm consists of 545 acres, of which 220 are arable land. The married cottars have 32*l.* a year, a cottage free, the profit of a pig, and the privilege of planting as much ground with potatoes as they can provide manure for. Labourers, living in the farmhouse, are paid 20*l.* a year, with food. They might save money if they pleased, but many of them are very thoughtless, and marry young. There was an instance, however, on my farm of a herd who saved money enough to take a small sheep farm of 50*l.* a year, and he is doing well. He had 20*l.* a year, a cottage rent-free, two cows, and two ewes. His principal savings were made from the profit of the cows.

20. *Rev. David Wark*, minister, Auchencairn.—Women are very generally employed in agriculture in this parish, and the effect upon their character is not good. There seems to be a general falling-off in respect to domestic training, servants are less with the farmer's family than they were wont to be, and, perhaps, the girls are more employed in the fields than is desirable. With respect to the employment of children in agriculture I would say that no child or young person should be employed who cannot read and write. Let the children be sent to school early and kept in constant attendance until they can read, write, and work accounts well, and then send them forth to labour. Let there be periodical tests of their progress, and by the time their bodies are strong enough their minds will be sufficiently prepared.

I am of opinion that it would be very beneficial to the working classes generally if all cottars could keep a cow.

Landed proprietors have been giving a good deal of attention of late to the improvement of cottage accommodation; cottages may be said to be generally good, and are being rapidly made very good.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

Wigtownshire

1. *Mr. J. McLean*, master of the parochial school, Newton Stewart.—This is a mixed school with 117 on the books, 36 girls and 81 boys. The attendance, by reason of the demand for the labour of the children in agriculture, begins to fall off about the end of March; they are first taken from school for work when about nine. In consequence of the fluctuating attendance many of the children leave school having only passed the 3rd standard. Some come again in a year or two to endeavour to learn a little more, but I generally find during their absence they have lost the power of reading and the multiplication table. Big boys when they come back to school are very difficult to manage; they won't go into a junior class, for which alone they are fitted, and if you attempt to place them there, they grumble and leave the school. By being in a class above their attainments they learn little or nothing. The work chiefly taken home by the children consists of a reading lesson, arithmetic, and about twenty lines of prose to prepare to write from dictation on the following day.

2. *Mr. J. Hewettson*, Battersen.—I farm 440 acres,

Wigtownshire.

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chiefly arable land. There is regular employment for children from 12 years of age for seven months in the year, and some children are put to work on turnip thinning, at eight years of age, but I give two of that age the wages that I would give to one of 12 years. Whether five months in the year is sufficient for a child's education is what I am not able to say; perhaps the schoolmaster would say not. The farms in the district of Newton Stewart range from 150 to 300 acres. The wages of married ploughmen amount to 32*l.* a year, everything included, that is to say, peat for firing, a free cottage and garden, and the use of as much ground for planting potatoes as they can manage to manure from the pig's dung. If the money wages are 14*l.* a year, the rest would be made up by 48 cwt. of potatoes, 80 stones of oatmeal, 2 stones of barley, 2 pints of sweet milk daily, and 1 lb. of butter weekly, and as much peat as they can consume. I think the practice of paying the labourer partly in provisions, &c., is most for his benefit; it keeps him from the village public house, and he has most of his supplies at hand without the trouble of fetching them. I don't know any cottages in this district which have less than two rooms, and most labourers think them enough.

3. *Mr. John McCarron*, Kirkolm.—I farm 200 acres of arable land. I employ children of from 10 to 12 years of age, chiefly in job work, but it is seldom, unless at a time of pressure, that I employ them under 12, when two are put to the work of one, and are paid half wages, viz., 6*d.* a day. Thinning turnips is the principal use of children, but after 12 they are serviceable in many ways, as in driving the harrow, weeding growing crops, &c. The work in this district is generally done by job, therefore children can take their own time. Women are principally employed in the same work as children. Agricultural labourers are generally married men, who receive wages partly in money and partly in kind. My ploughman has 14*l.* in money, 20 stones of oatmeal, as much land as he can find manure for for planting potatoes, and a cottage and garden free, equivalent in all to 30*l.* a year.

4. *Mr. Alexander Scott*, master of Leswalt free church school.—A great number of children are withdrawn from this school in the turnip hoeing season, but many of the elder boys leave in March for driving the harrow, and do not return to school until the end of the autumn, their employment being pretty regular for that period. As a rule I find that the children of labourers leave school at 12 years of age, but the children of farmers remain till 14. The former generally succeed in passing Standard IV. before they leave. I have a pupil who passed Standard VII. before he was 12. He is a remarkably clever child, and is going to New Zealand as a teacher. I adopt the practice of giving children work to do at home in preparing lessons for the following day, and unless I did so I do not know how it would be possible to satisfy the requirements of the Revised Code. The lessons consist of repetitions, the shorter catechism, the derivation of words, geography, and grammar, pieces of poetry from the school book are also learned by heart every Wednesday. The parents all pay for the children's books. The scale of fees is from 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a month, for the latter Latin and Greek are taught. I have two boys now learning Latin, and two Greek.

5. *Mr. John McMaster*, Glenhead, Leswalt.—Children as a rule do not work in this district before 12 years of age. There are a few half workers, and at busy seasons younger than that, but the work does not last long, and a child can have an almost uninterrupted education up to 12. There is a large Irish population in this part of Wigtownshire, the descendents chiefly of former settlers, consequently there is rather a redundant population, and wages are somewhat lower than in other parts of Wigtownshire and the neighbouring counties. The attention paid to education is not what it ought to be, the parents, generally uneducated themselves, are indifferent to it. The wages of a ploughman are 16*l.* in money, six bolls of oatmeal, one pint of sweet milk daily, peat for firing, and a house and garden free. The cottages have generally only one room, or if more than one, the second is generally unoccupied. The wages of the labourers are 2*s.* 3*d.*; and 2*s.* if employed all the year round.

6. *Mr. James Laurie*, master of Inch parochial school.—110 on the roll, 92 present at the last examination by the presbytery. The attendance of the children begins to fall off in May, and a third of the number are absent until the new year. This is not always from work, but the neglect of parents. Some children leave as young as 8 and remain absent for six months. It is my opinion that a proper attendance will never be obtained until there is a stringent law of compulsory education.

7. *Mr. Rankin*, Aird, Inch.—There is not sufficient employment in agriculture for children here to occupy them for six months. I have known them go out weeding as young as 8, but only for a few weeks, and just to get a bit of dress. We have a mixed population in this part of Wigtownshire, the Irish element is predominant, and the character of the people is within my experience changed, and the young are not properly trained.

Married ploughmen are paid from 14*l.* to 15*l.* in money, with 4 tons of coals, a house and garden rent-free, six and a quarter bolls of oatmeal, with the privilege of keeping a pig and of having three or four bushels of potatoes planted.

Cottages are being improved, and of six on my farm three have three rooms, but they are not so well kept as they ought to be. The means of education are very good, but the attendance should be better than it is. Compulsory attendance, at least for a certain portion of the year, would be desirable. I don't think the plan of not allowing children to work until they could obtain a certificate would do. We must get our work done, and backward and stupid children could not work although quite fit and old enough to do so. I use a gang from the reformatory school at Stranraer when I can get it, but when I last applied for one I found that the names of 40 farmers were down before mine.

8. *Mr. McMaster*, Culhorn, Inch.—Nine is the age at which I employ some children in thinning turnips, but they are generally over 11. If children do not get a good education in this county it is the fault of their parents, not of the farmers. I approve of a certificate of education being required before a child should be allowed to work.

We have very few native Scotch labourers in this part of Wigtownshire, but wages have risen one half within the last 20 years. The present rate of payment for a ploughman is 15*l.* in money, six and a half bolls of oatmeal, four tons of coals, five or six bushels of potatoes set, and the privilege of keeping a pig, with cottage and garden rent-free. I consider the whole equivalent to from 32*l.* to 34*l.* a year. The wives of the cottars also get 3*l.* a year for milking, and 2*s.* a day during harvest. The working men are not generally well educated, few can write; they live better than they did, but do not eat meat unless a little bacon now and then. We have a stipulation that each cottar shall supply two or three milkers, this being a great dairy country.

9. *Mr. Robert Frederick*, Drumflower, Glenluce.—I farm 450 acres of arable land. Children at 7 years old go out turnip thinning; they get 5*d.* a day or half a boy's work of 11 or 12. Boys from 16 to 18 earn from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, and are employed for several months in the year in picking stones, weeding, peat shaving, &c., &c. Women are paid for the same work 10*d.* a day. Dairy farming is the character of this district. I keep 90 cows. Cottages have been greatly improved of late years. The principal proprietors are the Earl of Stair and Sir John Hay. The cottars on my farm all keep pigs, but I stipulate that they shall not sell the meat, but consume it at home,

ch ensures them a certain amount of animal

here are many parents who do not send their dren to school. Compulsory education of some is desirable. I think it would not be a bad plan l farmers were obliged to pay for the education of r labourers' children. I pay for the education of children of my own men, and I stipulate that they ll be sent to school. I am paying 2*s.* a week ularly for this purpose.

0. *Mr. Alexander Guthrie*, factor of the Earl of r.—Much has been done on the property of the l of Stair in cottage improvements, although it is a k of time to substitute good cottages for the miser- hovels that have hitherto been alone available to agricultural population. I may mention an instance he influence of a good cottage in improving a man's racter. I placed an Irish drainer who had for rs occupied a hovel, where all was dirt and dis- afort, in a new three-room cottage. The man ame in a short time an example of cleanliness and ectability.

Children in this county do not work in the fields young, 11 to 12 being the general age, and those o work younger remain out but a very short time, t perhaps during the turnip thinning season. men in this district cannot be got to go out to d labour as they did formerly. Dairy-maids earn y high wages in this district. The employment uires special qualifications, and sometimes as much 30*l.* and 40*l.* a year is given. These women have in-door department of the dairy to attend to, the king being done by others.

11. *Mr. John Dent.*—I am a farmer of 300 acres of able land. I employ children in the turnip and eding seasons of from 10 to 12 years of age. Those t over 11 receive 8*d.* a day and the others 10*d.* ildren from 10 years of age are absent from school six months in the year. The cottages on my farm good, consisting of two bedrooms and a kitchen. consider it very much to the farmer's interest that labourers should be provided with good cottages, d I think there is the greatest disposition to change aces where the cottages are bad. A man in a mfortable cottage will think twice before he quits

12. *Mr. George Cowan*, Glenluce.—Children in is parish generally go to work at about 8 years of e, but only for five or six weeks in June and July. ey are employed in light work only, such as thinning rnips in summer and in cleaving them in winter. nmarried women get work on my farm during the hole year, when the weather is suitable for out-door bour. The women workers on this farm all live ith their parents in cottages, those living in villages nerally find sufficient employment on the neighbour- g farms. When working under the master's eye, or some responsible person, the out-door employment of women has not, in my opinion, any bad influence on their morals, it may, however, if they are employed at work the whole year round, tend to unfit them for household duties.

I am of opinion that children employed in agriculture should be compelled to attend school for two-thirds of the year from the age of 6 until 12 or 13 years of age, the remaining portion of the year being quite sufficient for work. The compulsory attendance at school would make them more valuable servants to their future employers, and I think in every way better their own condition in life.

Cottage improvement is proceeding gradually but satisfactorily in this parish. The old cottage of one apartment is gradually disappearing, and houses containing two or three rooms are taking their place.

With regard to the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114, to which my attention has been directed, and which authorises the Inclosure Commissioners to advance money for the erection of labourer's cottages, as the interest of the money advanced has generally to be paid by the tenant farmers, a reduction of the cost, which from my own knowledge I believe there is room for, would, without doubt, cause this method of obtaining money to be more generally taken advantage of.

13. *Col. James McDouall*, Logan, Kirkmarden. magistrate.—I farm 2,320 acres, of which 2,200 are arable land, and I employ a considerable number of young persons and women. I employ boys and girls at all seasons of the year, but seldom under 13 years of age. In the month of April they are put to collect weeds, in June and July to thinning turnips, in August and September to assist in making bands, and carrying water. I think any interference with the labour of these young persons and women would be injurious both to the employers and employed. It would be a great loss to labourers who have families to support in point of money, and to the employers in point of labour, which it is difficult to obtain even at present at the proper season. At the same time I think a reasonable amount of school attendance might be enforced with advantage where the parents are negligent or indifferent on the subject. The winter months afford time for sufficient education if they were taken advantage of.

I pay my ploughman 31*l.* a year in money with a cottage and garden and fuel. Some are paid partly in money and partly in meal and potatoes. We have no hiring fairs. The usual mode of hiring is for farm servants or labourers with families to apply to the employers five weeks before Whitsunday term for engagement, which is made with the head of the family at so much a year for himself with the understanding that the younger members of the family shall be paid the same rate of wages as others of the same age and qualifications in the neighbourhood. Unmarried men are generally engaged by the half-year, and board and lodge in the farm houses.

AYRSHIRE.

1. *Mr. J. W. Cunningham*, Shields.—I occupy a arm of 286 acres, chiefly arable land. I employ a ood many women for a portion of the year, but they re not so easily hired as they were formerly; their ages are 10*d.* a day. There is a large breadth of otatoes grown in this part of Ayrshire for the Glasgow nd other markets. Women are wanted to weed and hin carrots, which require more care than turnips and nore than one thinning. They do other work, both n the field and in the farm yard, but only the most obust are allowed to do work which requires much trength. I never knew any woman suffer from over- xertion; out-door employment may not improve their morals or fit them for domestic life, but it produces coarseness of manner rather than positive immorality.

I do not employ children under 12 or 13 years of age, except, perhaps, one or two for a few weeks in the spring in "herding" and turnip thinning. Boys are paid 6*d.* a day when under 12, and two do the work of one woman.

The attendance at the parochial school is good, except by the children of Irish people, and compulsion alone will have any effect upon them.

First-class ploughmen are paid 24*l.* in money, coals driven, 10 bolls of meal, or six bolls of meal and four

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of potatoes, and cottage and good garden free. The four cottages on my farm are very bad, having only one room each; in one there are a father and mother and eight children. My interests suffer from the badness of the cottage accommodation, and I have lost many excellent workmen because they would not put up with it.

Day labourers are paid 2*s.* if employed all the year round, wet or dry, and in harvest they have 8*s.* a week extra. Married labourers can rarely save money, but it depends much upon the wives. As a class they are not economical and do not make the most of the means they possess. An ignorant or thoughtless wife makes all the difference to a poor labouring man. The worst wives are those who have formerly been in domestic service, they learn there habits of waste and extravagance. I have been obliged to part with several good labourers from their wives getting them into debt. Industrial training is the one thing wanted.

Very little butchers' meat is consumed by cottars, they live chiefly on oatmeal porridge, and cakes made of oatmeal, barley meal, and pea flour; tea is generally drank. All my labourers, with one exception, an Irishman, can read and write. They are fond of reading at home; I lend them newspapers, and they can always get books from me when they wish for them.

2. *Mr. James Miller*, master of the parochial school, St. Quivox.—There are 70 children, boys and girls, on the roll, whose attendance on the whole is regular, and who as a rule remain at school till they are 13 or 14. Some of the bigger boys go out to work a little in summer before they attain that age, but these commonly return to school in winter. I do not think there is much difference in the attendance in winter and summer, if anything, it is less regular in winter, but this arises from a number of children coming from a distance, being prevented by the weather; all the children take lessons home to learn, and they get psalms by heart, also the shorter catechism which is repeated daily, and they have occasional repetitions. The branches taught are English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, linear drawing, and book-keeping. Some of the better class of children add to these Latin and French, and occasionally geometry and algebra. The scriptures are read daily.

3. *Rev. Jas. Wilson*, minister, St. Quivox.—All the children in this parish obtain a sufficient education before they leave the parochial school, being able to read and write well, and being fairly advanced in arithmetic. The desire for the higher branches of education in the parochial schools has much diminished owing to the increased opportunities of going out into the world as shop boys and clerks. The only education I received before I went to the university was at a parochial school, and I could not have received a better at any school in Scotland.

4. *Mr. W. Kilpatrick*, Dalmellington.—I am a sheep farmer, but rent some portion of arable land, the whole amounting to 1,200 acres; I employ three shepherds. The pack system of payment is scarcely known in Ayrshire, shepherds being paid partly in money and partly in food. My shepherds have from 16*l.* to 18*l.* a year in money, pasture for two cows, 10 bolls of oatmeal, cottage and a good garden free, a cartload of potatoes, and coal or peat carted free. A ploughman generally gets from 20*l.* to 24*l.* in money, 10 bolls of oatmeal, and a cottage and garden rent-free. The state of cottages influences labourers very much; a good comfortable cottage will keep a man in a place for years, and if he has a bad one he will always be looking out for another place with a better. There is a great want of good cottages in Ayrshire.

Women are much employed in this neighbourhood, but not to the extent they once were, and their wages have risen. For ordinary work they are paid 1*s.* a day, in the hay harvest 1*s.* 6*d.*, and corn harvest 2*s.* 6*d.* There was a time when they were much employed in gangs with boys, but the practice has died out. Being chiefly a sheep farmer I employ no boys, but I can say that it is not the practice to employ them before 13 years of age. The labour of children is the most expensive that a farmer can have, although the wages are low.

5. *Mr. Andrew Young*, Kilhenzie, Maybole.—Women are employed on my farm for several months in the year, and are paid 1*s.* a day. Morals have not improved within the last 30 years. I think it is a great deal owing to the wretched cottage accommodation; and I cannot say that there is any landed proprietor in the county who takes any particular interest in its improvement. When children are employed they earn 6*d.* a day, but it is not usual to employ them before 11 years of age, and only for two or three months in the year, including the summer holidays. I pay my cotmen from 21*l.* to 24*l.* a year, with 10 bolls of meal, and as much potatoes as they can consume; I do not permit them to keep pigs,—they present great temptation to dishonesty.

The education of cotters' children in this part of Ayrshire is very fairly provided for, and the school attendance is good. I pay for the education of all my labourers' children between the ages of 7 and 12. The labouring people are not so well educated as formerly, but they can nearly all read and write. Although hiring fairs are still held half-yearly they are gradually falling into disuse; good labourers do not offer themselves at such places, nor do farmers look for them. Register offices are becoming more common, and the best men go to the farm-houses in search of places instead of to the fairs.

6. *Mr. Robert Wallis*, Braerhead.—I farm 170 acres near Ayr, all arable land, and I have other farms in the county. Within my experience wages have risen 100 per cent., but I doubt whether cottars are better off than when they received half the amount. I attribute this to the difference of living. Formerly meal and potatoes constituted their only food; now wheaten bread and tea are in common use, and the men have deteriorated in consequence. They spend much more than they did in food, and it is not half so nourishing, and much more expensive than the simple diet of former times. If the cottars would now be content with that, they might save half their wages, and be better and stronger men. They too often select girls for wives who prove anything but helpmates, ignorant of the simplest matter of housekeeping, not making things go so far as they might, and generally thoughtless and extravagant. Girls brought up on a farm make the best wives.

I pay my servants a part of their wages weekly, leaving the remainder for the end of each term. Every Saturday a labourer receives 6*s.*, out of which he can make any little purchases he requires, and it keeps him from getting into debt. He gets the wages that he is paid in provisions in such proportions as he wants from time to time. I do not allow pigs to be kept, for it is my conviction that they cannot be made profitable without pilfering food for them. I know some cottars who voluntarily gave up the practice rather than subject themselves even to the suspicion of dishonesty. For the same reason I object to hens being kept, for it is not to be supposed that a cottar will buy corn for them. My cottars are all intelligent and educated, and take an interest in what is going on in the world. I lend them newspapers and books.

7. *Rev. James Farlie*, minister, Mauchline.—This parish consists chiefly of small farms, and the children employed in agriculture are those of the farmers. There are not any that I am aware of who work for hire. The labour required of children does not exceed more than four months of the year at the utmost, and they are seldom put to work before they are 13; the school attendance is therefore pretty regular up to that age, and all the children in this parish get a fair education; and I do not know of any who do not attend one or other of the schools.

A great deal of the out-door work of farms is done by women and grown-up girls. The farms being small, labourers are generally lodged in the farm-houses, indeed there is but one cottage in the parish—a double one, which is occupied by two ploughmen,

:o have each a room. In one, a man, his wife, and ven children are lodged, and occupy three beds. here is a great want of cottage accommodation in rshire generally, and although the rate of illegiti- acy is moderate compared with adjoining counties, ch as there is I attribute chiefly to the mode of ing. The smaller class of farm-houses are almost bad as the cottages, and the kitchen often opens to the byre. There are two evening schools in e village, but they are scarcely available for lads ing in the country.

8. *Mr. J. Miller*, Mauchline.— I rent and farm 50 acres of arable land, and I employ three men and vo girls. Two of my labourers live in cottages, e other in the farm-house. The girls do out- oor work when required. There is always a pply of women for extra work to be got from the eighbouring village; they are paid 1*s.* a day; in arvest 2*s.* 6*d.*, and for haymaking 1*s.* 6*d.* The nmarried labourer who lives in the house is paid 22*l.* year, with his food and washing; he might save alf his wages, but I doubt if he saves anything.)ne of my married labourers is paid 22*l.* a year, the ther, who is my foreman, 25*l.*; both have 10 bolls of eal in addition to their money wages, with a cottage nd garden, and ground for planting potatoes, and oth are allowed to keep a pig and hens. It is a lecided advantage to married labourers that they hould be paid their wages partly in food, for any rise n the price of meal has the effect of a rise in wages while it lasts, and the possession of a store of provi- ions always at hand checks expenditure, which is the uin of many labourers who are paid only in money, especially if they have wives. The practice of drink- ing tea and smoking runs away with a great deal of a labourer's money, and does him no good. I am sure that my labourers spend quite 2*l.* a year upon tobacco, the pipe is never out of their mouths, even when they are at work. Tea also costs a good deal of money which might be better spent or saved. As a rule the labourer does not make the most of his wages, and I have known many who were ruined by the extravagance of their wives.

The labouring men are generally well educated, unless they are Irishmen, or of Irish extraction. I lend a daily paper to my workpeople, which they seem to take an interest in.

9. *G. Bowden*, labourer, Mauchline.—I work for Mr. Miller, and am his foreman. I am paid 25*l.* a year in money, and 10 bolls of meal. I and my wife and seven children are obliged to live in a one-roomed cottage, because there is no other on the farm or in the parish. I should be glad of one with two rooms, for then the bairns could be put to sleep in it. I live on oatmeal porridge with milk and potatoes, but occa- sionally I buy a bit of meat to make broth with. My dinner is generally potatoes and milk. I send my children regularly to school until they are 13 or 14, when they can do for themselves.

10. *Mr. G. Reid*, assistant master, Mauchline parochial school.—The number of children on the roll is 120; the attendance is most affected in the spring and autumn for about four months, when the children of small farmers are wanted at home to assist. There are very few married labourers in this parish, from the want of cottages. The work of farms is chiefly done by the farmers and their families, and by hired unmarried servants living with their em- ployers. Except during the periods I have stated the attendance of the children is tolerably regular, and few leave the school before 14 or 15, after having passed Standard VI. The children of mechanics leave younger, but the regularity of their attendance not being interrupted by field labour, they are as far advanced as the elder ones before they leave the school. The lessons taken home to be prepared are grammar, geography, and arithmetic; and the senior class is practised from time to time in compo- sition by being required to write short essays on some familiar subject. There is less demand for the higher branches of education than formerly. I have six boys learning Latin, and two French. There are two other schools in the parish.

11. *Mr. W. Gough*, master of the parochial school, Beith.—There are 140 children on the register, and the greater part of them leave when they are 8 years of age to be employed in the thread manufactory of this place. Many, in my opinion, are taken even before that age in contravention of the Factory Act. They do not get beyond Standard III. before leaving the school, and I do not believe that they get any further education. The Act enforcing half-time is a dead letter here. The greater proportion of the children are town children, and there are only few belonging to the agricultural class. The school fees are 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter for reading, 3*s.* 6*d.* for reading and writing, and 5*s.* for reading, writing, and arithmetic. Latin is taught, but even the most advanced children leave so young that they get no hold of the language. French is more in request, but I have now only one boy learning it. The poorer class take very little inte- rest in the education of their children. When their means are not sufficient to enable them to pay for the school books they are given gratuitously, and there is a fund for the purpose. It is of great im- portance to children to have a good supply of books.

12. *Mr. W. Orr*, seed merchant, Beith.—I am well acquainted with the state of this parish and district; the farms are small, none exceeding 100 acres; dairy farming is the principal occupation. The work is almost entirely done by unmarried farm servants living in the farm-houses. There are scarcely any married labourers or cottars. There are some farms as small as 30 or 40 acres, but from the character of the farming there is little employment for children, except in harvest time, and they attend school on the whole very regularly.

Farm servants are paid from 20*l.* to 24*l.* a year. They live well in the farm-houses, generally getting beef, or broth with potatoes, for dinner, and oatmeal porridge for breakfast and supper. Meat for dinner is an innovation in Scotch habits as they prevailed a few years ago, but now servants will not be satisfied without it. The accommodation for servants in the farm-houses is fair, the men sleeping in lofts or garrets, and the girls in the kitchen or in separate rooms, but it was not always so.

13. *Mr. William Logan*, master of the parochial school, Dalry.—There are 433 children on the regis- ter, and the average attendance is 329. About one- half of the school are children of small farmers and ploughmen, and their attendance is more regular than that of the town children. The farmers being gene- rally well off, their children are not so much employed in agriculture as to affect their education materially. There are only a few cottars in this parish, the work being done by unmarried men who live in the farm-houses, but the children of the few married ploughmen are regular in their school attendance. There is a good deal of mining in the parish, and the children of miners seldom stay at school later than 10: a boy of 10 or 11 years can earn 1*s.* a day at the iron furnaces, or at the iron and coal mines.

About one-third of the children only pass Standard III. before leaving school for good. Children of small farmers, ploughmen, and tradesmen remain until they are 13 or 14, and pass Standards V. or VI., and there are a few who remain until 15 and pass Standard VII.; 51 of my pupils learn French, and 39 Latin. Formerly Latin was much more taught than French, but now the desire is to acquire modern languages; even German would be gladly learned if there was time to teach it.

I have five pupil-teachers, but we could not get through the work unless the children prepared their lessons at home, which is the practice of every class. The more advanced children write short essays on descriptive or moral subjects; these exercises are liked by the children, and are of much use in teaching them to think.

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14. *Mr. G. Henry*, Kilwinning.—I rent and farm 150 acres of arable land. Kilwinning is in a considerable mining district, and the rate of wages for agricultural labourers is affected accordingly. Women are much employed in agriculture, and their wages have risen considerably within the last 10 years. They are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and at harvest 2*s.* 6*d.*; many of the women who work out are the wives of miners in the receipt of 4*s.* a day, but the extravagance of their living makes the wife's earnings necessary, and she neglects her children, leaving often four or six little ones at home to take care of themselves.

No children are employed in agriculture in this parish under 12 years of age; they are useful at that age in weeding carrots, of which there is a large breadth grown in this neighbourhood, and they are paid from 10*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

The farms, which range from 60 to 300 acres, are chiefly dairy farms. I pay my foreman 30*l.* a year, with his board, lodging, and washing; ordinary farm servants are paid from 20*l.* to 24*l.* a year with food; day labourers from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* Cottars, who are generally married men, 14*s.* a week, or 35*l.* a year, with cottage and garden free, and land for planting potatoes, equivalent to 38*l.* a year. The cottages never have more than two rooms, and the greater number have only one. They are generally in a bad state of repair, and there is no disposition on the part of landlords to improve them. I think a two-roomed cottage sufficient for a married labourer and his family, and if there was another room it would not be furnished, but made a store or lumber room of. The practice of placing beds in the kitchen is universal.

Labourers ought to be very well off in consequence of the rise of wages, but they spend all they get, and only a small proportion save money. If they lived in the simple manner that their forefathers did, and did not spend so much of their money on tea and tobacco, they might save half their wages, but they prefer to live up to their earnings, and to look to the poor rate as a final resource. The character of the Scotch ploughmen has deteriorated within my experience.

15. *Mr. John Copeland*, master of the parochial school, Kilwinning.—The number of scholars at the present time on the register is 314, and the average attendance is 260. The great majority leave school at 13, and they do not get beyond Standard IV. I have at present 15 boys over 14 years of age, four over 15, and two over 16. The demand for classical education has greatly fallen off, and I have not at the present time a single boy learning Latin, but 10 are learning French. There is a general desire to get employment in shops, banks, or mercantile houses. Boys intended for the medical profession, the law, or the church, now generally go to a private academy. I am of opinion that the effect of the Revised Code has been to lower the standard of education in Scotland, and the schoolmaster in order to fulfil its requirements is unable to devote the time formerly given to the higher branches of education. Before the Code came into operation I had from 40 to 50 boys who were receiving a classical education.

Most of the children pass Standard IV. before they leave the school. At the last inspection six passed Standard VI., and two Standard VII. All the lessons are prepared at home. There is one kind of lesson from which I think great advantage is derived, the substitution of words, or the practice of synonyms in passages of prose given out as an exercise; it gives a command of language and teaches children the meaning of terms. It is much to be desired that compulsion should be employed to make parents do their duty to their children; they are prepared for it, and I believe would acquiesce in it.

16. *Mr. C. Caldwell*, Brydstone, Ardrossan.—I rent two farms amounting together to 450 acres, chiefly arable land. A great breadth of land is grown with potatoes, and large numbers of women are employed in weeding and taking them up; boys and girls are also employed in squads or gangs with women; a man is paid 3*s.* a day extra for superintending them. The crops of potatoes are bought by Glasgow potato merchants in the field, at so much per acre, and they have to take them up. The gangs employed by these dealers, come some from Glasgow and some from the village of West Kilbride, where there is a considerable Irish population. These gangs are very demoralising to the young people employed in them. I would suggest that gangs of females should work by themselves, and of boys by themselves, and that no females should be employed under 13 years of age. Women are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, boys and girls over 13, 1*s.* a day, and the younger ones, 9*d.*

There are very few cottages hereabouts. I have none on either of my farms, and I am consequently obliged to employ unmarried men as farm servants. The wages of this class are from 20*l.* to 24*l.* a year.

17. *Mr. David Cunningham*, Chappleton.—I rent a farm of 250 acres under the Earl of Eglinton; all arable land. I employ very few children under 13 years of age, and only during the turnip thinning season, when two children of from 9 to 12 years of age do the work of one woman or of a boy of 14. This work, not lasting long, does not interfere with education. The greater part of the farm work in this parish is done by women in gangs, which are much employed in weeding and taking up potatoes, of which a large breadth is grown here. The women and children are brought to the farm in "squads," and are chiefly collected in West Kirkbridge by a man who hires and superintends them. He is paid 1*s.* a day extra in addition to his regular wages for his trouble. There are three men in Kirkbridge who follow this calling; they are elderly men who are no longer fitted for ploughmen's work. They are respectable men, so far as I know, but it is impossible when so many women and young persons are collected together but that bad language will be used. It is a bad school for children; farmers derive great assistance from these gangs, but they do not allow their own people to work with them.

There is a great deficiency of cottage accommodation in Ayrshire generally. There are four on my farm: one a double cottage, once a small farm-house, but converted into two one-roomed cottages. The want of cottages is a great drawback to farmers, for they cannot get married men, who are preferable to unmarried, and they would be very glad if the system of lodging and boarding farm servants in their houses could be put an end to. The men, too, would much prefer living in cottages, as they would then be enabled to marry. Wages have risen within the last 15 years; when I first came here I could get a good ploughman for 15*l.* a year with board, now I have to give 25*l.* Wages in Ayrshire generally are affected by mines, foundries, collieries, and railways. They are higher, perhaps, than in any Scotch county, excepting Renfrewshire. Well off as the men are, saving is, I fear, the exception. I had a ploughman, however, who accumulated during the seven years he was with me, 500*l.*, but he speculated in the grain trade in a small way; he was a clear-headed man and knew how to take advantage of the markets. He had a small store at Kilbride. Farm servants live very well, and ordinary day labourers can earn 3*s.* a day; at harvest time they can earn 8*s.* a day with their food.

18. *Mr. J. Drennan*, Holmeston.—My farms consist of 400 acres, all arable land. I employ no boys or girls under 14 years of age. A great deal of the work on my farm is done by women, who are paid 1*s.* a day, and in harvest 3*s.* The demand for women's labour is on the increase, and as far as this neighbourhood is concerned the supply keeps pace with the demand. Wages in general have increased within the last 20 years; an ordinary day labourer now gets his 15*s.* a week, when formerly he got only 9*s.* A cottar's wages, if a good man, are 24*l.* a

ar, with cottage and garden free, 10 bolls of meal, d milk and butter at something less than the market ice. There is a great want of cottages in Ayrshire; most farms labourers are lodged and boarded in the use, but the farmers would very much prefer their ring in cottages. Married men are most desirable, at from the scarcity of cottages young ploughmen e unable to marry. A cottage with two rooms is fficient accommodation for a labouring man and his mily, considering his means, a third room would not a rule be furnished.

19. *Mr. W. Sloan*, Monkton.—My farm consists of 50 acres, all arable land. There is very constant mployment in agriculture for women in this parish om March until the end of December. They receive s. a day, and in harvest 2*s.* 6*d.* Children are also rgely employed from 10 to 12 years of age; at 14 ey enter farm service. Some children are employed s young as 7, and from that to 10 years of age, in erding, an occupation which I think very injurious to em, as it tends to form habits of idleness. Children mployed so young seldom come to any good, and heir education is greatly neglected. I think no child ught to be permitted to labour before 10 years of age, nd should first produce a certificate of a certain mount of education; farmers generally would approve f this. There is a feeling in favour of compulsion of ome kind in education. If children were kept regularly at school up to 10 years of age, and were obliged o attend afterwards during the winter months until hey are 13 or 14, they would be very sufficiently ducated.

The cottages available for agricultural labourers n this neighbourhood seldom have more than one oom.

No class of men have such bad wives as ploughmen, which I attribute to their total ignorance of domestic economy. Working in the fields, they learn nothing of cooking, and they are unable to sew a button on a shirt. They think when they are married they have done with work, and have only to please themselves and spend as much of their husband's money as they can get, often selling the meal that forms part of his wages to buy dress or delicacies.

Cotmen are paid from 20*l.* to 24*l.* in money, with 10 bolls of oatmeal, coals led, cottage and small garden free, and ground for planting a drill of potatoes, but this is generally given as a favour to deserving men rather than of right. The wages of a day labourer are 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a day and in harvest 4*s.*

There is a great want of cottages everywhere in Ayrshire, which is a great grievance as all farmers prefer married men. There are many small farms of from 40 to 50 acres in this parish, of which all the work is done by the tenants and their families. There is, however, a tendency to throw small farms into larger ones, and it is only checked by landlords not wishing to diminish the number of voters they can command at elections.

Less oatmeal is consumed now then formerly by the labouring class; they buy wheaten bread instead, and drink a great deal of tea. Their physical state is not improved by the change. As wheaten bread cannot be made at home, the labouring man or his wife has to go to the village or town to buy it. I have known a ploughman having to walk three miles after a long day's work to bring home bread for his supper. It does not put so much stamina into a man as oatmeal.

All the agricultural labourers in this parish can read and write. They are fond of reading the local newspapers, but have not much time for book reading. To prove that a cottar, even with a family, can save money, I may state that one of my married labourers with three children, and who was with me for only two years, left with 14*l.* in his pocket.

20. *R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq.*, Woodside, Beith, magistrate.—The farms in this parish are principally dairy farms, averaging from 80 to 300 acres each. About one-third of each farm is in tillage. Farm labour is performed chiefly by the tenant and his family, with occasional help at seed time and harvest. On my property, and in this parish generally, very few boys under 13 are employed. Owing to the smallness of the farms, it is not usual to employ girls for field labour. The tenant's wife and daughters generally do the dairy work. When hired dairy-maids are employed, their age is generally from 18 to 30; almost the whole in-door dairy work is done by women. There are several excellent schools in the parish which are taken advantage of by the children of the agricultural classes. I am not aware of any child of the age of 13 who is unable to read, write, and cypher. As a general rule in this district the children of farmers are sent to school early, and kept there until they are well grounded in the rudiments of education.

Cottage accommodation for farm labourers is not wanted here; the few farm servants required are lodged and boarded in the farm-houses.

21. *Mr. Hugh Wilson*, Tarbolton.—The farms in this neighbourhood are small, some not over 50 acres, and the largest 150 acres; I rent one of 130 acres, all arable land. There are no cottages in the parish; all the labour is done by unmarried men who live in the farm-houses. The small farms are diminishing in number, landlords wishing to save the cost of keeping up small farm-houses. These houses, when no longer let with the farm, are generally allowed to tumble down. They are not formed into cottages as they might be. My ploughman is paid 24*l.* and his food. I have also a dairy-maid to whom I pay 12*l.* a year; and a girl who assists, 6*l.* We depend chiefly on dairy produce. Farm servants live well, they get meat every day and sometimes twice a day, with oatmeal porridge and scones made of oatmeal and flour, with milk and cheese.

I employ no children under 12 years of age, and not many over that age; at 14 boys go to farm service. The principal work in the field, except ploughing and harrowing, is done by women, who are hired from the neighbouring village and are paid 1*s.* a day.

22. *Mr. Robert Caldwell*, Knockshoggle.—Boys are seldom employed in this parish under 11 years of age; in spring in harrowing and weeding, in summer in weeding potatoes and thinning turnips, and in haymaking, in harvesting, and potato raising. Girls are similarly employed, harrowing or horse-leading excepted, and at or about 11 years of age and upwards. Women are employed to a considerable extent in all out-door work, weeding, harvesting, and potato raising. My farm being near a populous mining village, workers are near at hand, but in some parts of the parish they have to travel three or four miles. I am of opinion that the employment of females in agriculture does not lower the scale of morality, and so far as my opinion and observation go, women so employed are as well qualified for domestic duties as others.

It would be very disadvantageous both to labourers and farmers were any restriction placed upon the employment of women or children, as in many cases the wife of the labourer and some of the family help considerably the income. If there are not many workers to be got in the district, and there is a want of cottage accommodation, it is important that the farmer should be able to reckon upon his labourers' wives and families.

It would certainly be very desirable if more cotatges were provided in this neighbourhood, but I do not see that any progress is being made in that direction; a few farms have good cottages, but the greater number none at all. I am of opinion that landlords ought to be compelled to provide a certain amount of cottage accommodation for farms in proportion to their rental.

Cotmen or married men are generally engaged by the year; wages vary from 21*l.* to 24*l.* per annum, according to qualifications and locality, with free cottage, 10 bolls of meal, and sometimes a small garden. Unmarried men are engaged by the half-year, with wages from 20*l.* to 22*l.* a year and board.

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23. *Gilbert McClure*, labourer, Bellsbank, Dalmellington.—I am paid 18*l.* a year in money, and 12 bolls of oatmeal, and have a cottage with one room and a wee garden rent-free. There is very little tillage in this parish, the land being chiefly pasture. Women and boys are only employed in hay-making. There are very few two-room cottages in this part of Ayrshire. I have no children, and I find one room enough for myself and my wife, but with others who have families it is different.

My wages are sufficient to enable me and my wife to live comfortably. We sell some of our meal and buy other things with the money. We use more wheat bread than meal, and it is getting to be the custom of the country.

24. *Mr. William Galloway*, master of the parochial school, Dalmellington.—The number of children on the register is 70, and the average attendance 50. None remain beyond 13, as they can get at that age profitable employment at the mines and iron works. If the attendance was regular they would get a very fair education by that age, but it is not. There is no labour which takes the child away from school, but it is entirely the negligence and indifference of parents. There are several children whose schooling is paid for, and their attendance is the worst. Two-thirds of the population of this parish are Irish, and as regards the education of their children they are very neglectful, and the example they set is very bad and apt to be imitated. There has certainly been a change for the worse in the character of the population of this parish since the Irish settled among them.

The cottages in the district are very bad, most of the old ones are only fit to be pulled down, and the small farmsteadings are not much better. A man with only a one-roomed cottage will frequently take in lodgers, giving up his own bed or the bed of his children, and sleeping on a truckle bed placed out of sight in the day time, or on the ground.

25. *Mr. C. McCracken*, Dailly.—Boys are employed in agriculture in the parish from 11 to 16 from the middle of May till the middle or end of July in weeding potatoes, and singling turnips, and the strongest at hay-making; a few are employed throughout the year, but they are generally from 14 to 16 years of age. Girls are also employed in agriculture, for about the same period, from the ages of 12 to 16. On my farm there is only one girl employed of the age of 12, the others are from 14 to 16. The elder girls in harvest lift grain and put it in sheaf after the machine, and in potato raising they gather up the potatoes. The time that young children are of any use in a farm is limited to six weeks. Some farmers employ a few for a fortnight in harvest, making bands, &c., but I do not employ any under 12 or 13, as they only hinder the other workers, and this I believe is the general feeling of farmers.

There are four schools in the parish, and a fund is provided for the education of the children of such persons who are unable to pay it for themselves, and who apply for assistance. Irish families who have recently come to this country keep their children at home even when not at work.

The cottages in this parish are not sufficient for the demand, and landlords are not disposed to increase the number.

26. *Mr. W. McConchie*, master of the parochial school, West Kilbride.—There 150 children on the register of this school, and the average attendance is about 100, in summer and in winter about 120. One-third of the children are taken from school in the months of May, June, July, September, and October, August being the holidays. They are employed in weeding, planting and taking up potatoes, in herding, and assisting in harvest. Their earnings are from 9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and a stout lad can make his 2*s.* 3*d.* a day during harvest and potato digging. Children are not employed in turnip thinning before 13, in which work they can earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. Generally speaking those earnings are of importance to the parents, many of whom are very poor.

There are a great many children in this parish of school age who have never attended any school, and never will until their parents are compelled by law to send them. This indifference to education is yearly increasing, and the parents will not send them to school, although they are too young to work and they would, if very poor, be taught gratuitously. There is a large Irish population, and the example they set in neglect in the education of their children is producing a bad effect upon the Scotch.

If parents are tolerably well off they keep their children at school until they are 13, but many leave finally at 10 or 12, but they have generally been able prior to pass Standard IV. At the last government inspection seven of my scholars passed Standard VII., and eight Standard VIII. There is a night school in the village, which is attended by some lads of from 14 to 20 years of age, but they do not belong generally speaking to the agricultural class.

I think a system of prizes would have a good effect, not only in stimulating education, but of lengthening the average duration of school attendance.

The agricultural gang system is in operation in this parish, and some of my scholars are employed in the gangs. They are very demoralising, from the language habitually made use of by the women, most of whom are Irish, and many of whom do not live in the place, but work here during summer and harvest. Illegitimacy I believe to be one of the results of this system.

The great scarcity of cottages has a bad effect on the morals of the population. Young agricultural labourers who would be glad to marry are unable to do so for want of a house, unless they settle in some village at a considerable distance from their work. Many farm labourers have to walk every day three or more miles to and from their work. There are hardly any cot-houses in this parish, only six farms having cottages attached to them. This great deficiency of cottage accommodation compels the farmers to employ young unmarried men in place of married men, the result is a great and alarming increase of bastardy in this parish.

27. *Mr. John Rankin*, Brioch, Maybole.—My farm consists of 200 acres of arable land. Much of the work is done by women, who are paid 1*s.* a day, and 2*s.* for four weeks in harvest. I pay my dairy-maid 18*l.* a year with her food, and 12*l.* a year to her assistant. The heaviest work which women have to perform on farms is tending cattle and cleaning out byres, but they do not object to it, on the contrary, they prefer it to domestic work. Women who do outdoor work may be a little rougher in their manners than domestic servants, but I do not think that they are especially immoral.

Children under 12 years of age are only employed in agriculture for two months in the year, and the light work, such as weeding and singling turnips, does them no harm and is of benefit to their parents. It would not, I think, be felt by farmers if children under 11 years of age were prohibited from working, but how it would affect the parents is another question.

A great deterioration has taken place within my time in the Scotch agricultural population. They live more expensively than formerly, and seldom save. A cottar, if his management is good, can live comfortably and educate his children, but all depends on management. The cottages in this part are almost all bad, and are badly kept. There is no tidiness or thrift, which is owing in a great measure to the wives working out, and few of them know how to make the most of what their husbands have. Potatoes are less consumed than they were, and the cottars have generally adopted the English mode of living, and buy bread and drink tea, selling their meal to buy flour or bread, and what I call superfluities, such as tea and tobacco.

A married ploughman's wages are 24*l.* in money,

bolls of meal, coals carted free, potatoes for the
l of a pig, and a one-roomed cottage and small
den. Very few cots have more than one room.
e Earl of Stair and the late Marquis of Ailsa have
ne something to improve the cottage accommodation,
there is a great deal more required to be done.

28. *Mr. J. Smith*, Barnford, Maybole.—I am a dealer and a large grower of, potatoes, for which the soil the coast of Ayrshire is particularly suited. The ing up potatoes gives employment to a large num- of women and boys, and has given rise to some- ng like the gang system. I give 18*s.* or 1*l.* eek to a man who undertakes to superintend the ing of potatoes and supply the labour required. e work is done by diggers and gatherers, the former ing men and the latter women or boys, each digger ving to provide a gatherer. The diggers are chiefly sh men or women. There are sometimes three ngs of 30 each employed in one field. The whole e superintended by one of my own men, and I never ar of any misconduct on the part of the gangs while work. No boys under 12 are employed.

I pay my foreman 40*l.* a year, but he provides his rn food. He has a cottage free in the village, and als carted. A second man is paid 22*l.* a year, ith 10 bolls of meal. There are no cottages on my rm, and very few in the parish, and most of those e very bad. The landlords have pulled many down, id have not built others. I am of opinion that much of is want of cottage accommodation arises from the esire to protect game.

29. *Mr. Charles Stewart*, Trenew, Kirkmichael.—employ a few boys from 7 to 12 years of age in eeding and singling turnips, but only for two months the year; girls are employed for the same pur- ose. Boys generally go to farm service at 12, and et for the first year 2*l.*, their wages rising gra- ually until they have those of an able-bodied labourer. Girls go to farm service at from 12 to 15. I do ot think that it would answer to require a certain mount of education to be proved by a certificate reparatory to a child being permitted to labour. It would work hardship in many cases, and farmers would e much inconvenienced by it. I should prefer a com- ulsory attendance at school for six months in the ear, which would be sufficient to give a child a air education. I never had a servant who was unable o read and write, but notwithstanding improved education, farm servants have deteriroated. There is more disobedience, drunkenness, and bastardy now than there was in former days. Bad principles are taught from cheap publications, which find their way into cottages. Agricultural labourers do not live in the simple manner that they did formerly, now one- third and sometimes two-thirds of their wages are spent in what I call luxuries, such as wheaten bread, tea, and tobacco. If they lived as they did formerly it would be better for their health, and they could save money.

The cottages in the greater part of Ayrshire are very bad, and there are not nearly enough. Many have been pulled down, so that farmers cannot get married labourers. It would be a good law that should oblige landlords of arable farms to have a cer- tain number of good cottages on every farm in pro- portion to the acreage. The late Marquis of Ailsa has done something to improve the cottages on his property, but I do not know of any other landed pro- prietor who has given any attention to the subject. Many of the farm steadings are very bad.

30. *Mr. John Bone*, Thornbury Lodge, Kirkoswald. —It is rarely that I employ boys under 12 years of age. A few under that age may be engaged for turnip thinning, but that only lasts a short time, and a few boys are employed in herding. There are not so many children to be got for light work on the farm as we could employ; I wish there were more. I am obliged to engage men to do work which could just as well be done by boys. The Irish population do a great deal of the work of farms, but they are not generally approved as ploughmen. There are good drainers and for general hard work. A married ploughman is paid 22*l.* a year, with 10 bolls of oatmeal and a cottage free. Formerly part of the wages was paid in potatoes, but since the disease appeared meal is preferred. There is a great want of cottages, and it is difficult in consequence to get married labourers.

31. *Mr. Bryce Wright*, Dowhill.—I rent and farm 500 acres of arable land belonging to the Marquis of Ailsa. I employ no boys under 13 years of age. The labourers are chiefly Irish, who live in cottages on the farm, and who are paid from 18*l.* to 22*l.* a year, with 10½ bolls of meal, coals led, and cottage and garden rent-free. I object to their keeping pigs; it is a great inducement to dishonesty, for the men, though good workers, will steal behind my back. I have even had oil cake stolen and boiled down to feed the pig.

I have 30 cottages on my farm, but they are in a most wretched condition, mere hovels, unfit for the habita- tion of human beings. I feel ashamed when I hire a fresh labourer to show him the place he is to live in. The cots are all thatched and have only one room in which a man and his wife and family, however nume- rous, must take their meals and sleep. The roofs of most of the cottages are in so dilapidated a state that I have used guano bags hung over the rafters to form a kind of ceiling to prevent the rain from coming in and the thatch from dropping on the floors. I have laid out quite 200*l.* in doing my best to make these cottages habitable.

A large breadth of potatoes is grown in this parish. They are sold in the field to dealers from Glasgow, who send a foreman with labourers, men and women, chiefly Irish, to take them up. They work in gangs, but I have nothing to do with them, they are paid and superintended by the purchaser or his foreman. Very few boys or girls are employed in this work, which would generally be too heavy for them.

The cottars on my farm can live comfortably on their wages and send their children to school. I take care that they do so, and whenever the family is large I pay the school fees. Cotmen are generally quite able to pay for the education of their children if they choose, but they require some persuasion to do it. If they were more generally looked after there would be less indifference shown. A cottar has some peculiar advantages in this district. He can make, according to the number of his family, from 2*l.* to 5*l.* a year in collecting sea-weed, which is a valuable manure, and farmers are glad to buy it at 6*d.* the load.

The rise of wages has been considerable since I entered on this farm in 1857. I then paid 14*l.* a year to a first-rate ploughman, now I pay 24*l.* A married cotman cannot save money at his present mode of living. I have 30 on my farm, and I do not think that one of them is worth 5*l.* They consume less oatmeal and more bread or scones, with tea or coffee two or three times a day, and they smoke at all hours, even during their work. I have had to knock the pipe out of the mouths of men who were tending the thrashing machine, and of others who were employed in thatching ricks or outhouses.

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1. Remarks on Mr. Hope Johnstone's system of cottage tenure and small holdings for agricultural labourers, by the Rev. Peter Hope, late minister of Johnstone and Wamphray Free Church, Dumfries-shire.

The results of Mr. Hope Johnstone's system of cottage tenure and small holdings are not matter of theory and speculation, but of actual experience—an experience embracing a sufficiently wide district, and extending over a period of nearly fifty years. And we may say at once that these results are most gratify- ing and satisfactory. What we chiefly value in the

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system is its marked effect in producing and perpetuating an orderly, respectable, well-conditioned peasantry. The problem which is generally looked upon as so difficult of solution, has here been solved with eminent success. It has been shown to be quite practicable to elevate the labouring man, not only without burdening the farmer or the landlord, but to the manifest benefit of both; to foster small holdings without depressing agriculture or retarding improvement, and to combine permanence with progress. It will, of course, be understood that we are not now dealing either with small farmers, or with mere labourers on the farm—whether cottars holding of the tenant, or hired servants, but with an intermediate order bordering upon both of these classes, and occupying the space between them. In the frequent discussions which are taking place, as to the improvement of the working portion of our rural population, we usually notice only *three* leading orders referred to, as constituting the agricultural community—viz., landowners, farmers, and labourers or farm servants. It is often lost sight of, that there is a *fourth* class, having its own distinct place in a well-ordered rural economy, attached to the soil, and taking a higher position than the mere hired labourer, but not having yet advanced to the platform of the small farmer. And it is of all the more importance that this class should be duly recognised, that, from the general adoption of the large-farm system, there now yawns, in many districts, a wide gulf, and, we fear, an ever widening one, between the farmer and the labourer. Let us glance at some of the prominent results of the plan of cottage holdings on the Annandale estates. And as being the primary object aimed at in the arrangements, and that to which we wish to draw special attention, we notice,—

I. *The advantages to the cottars.*—These are both *moral* and *financial;* but while not disparaging the latter, it is to the former that we attach the greatest value.

1. The principle of granting such leases only to persons of respectable character and orderly conduct operates as a bounty upon good behaviour, and does much to secure the permanent respectability of the class; while the power of resumption which is retained in the hands of the proprietor, and which it is well known will only be exercised in the case of flagrant misconduct, affords an additional safeguard.

2. The outlay required in erecting the house, implies the previous exercise of industry and frugality, and the prospect of having this expenditure to incur furnishes a strong incentive to the practice of these virtues. Young men are aware that good conduct on their part will not be overlooked or forgotten, and they are encouraged to cultivate saving habits, which will prove invaluable to them in their future life. And it is always found that the plan of attaching a few acres of ground to the house tends to foster habits of industry and management, both in the man himself, and also in his wife and children. The labour which the cottager expends upon his little holding does not materially interfere with his ordinary occupation, whatever that may be; it is supplementary to, not a substitute for, his usual means of livelihood; a "staff," not a "crutch." And then, no one can fail to see how very different a woman his wife is—with her cow to attend to, her milk for her household, her butter and eggs to take to market, her calf and pig to care for—from what she would have been, had her husband been only a poor labourer, renting the bare walls of a house from a farmer, and removable at every term; how *managing* and thoughtful she becomes, how provident and fertile in resources, how much of the better sort of feeling of importance and self-respect is engendered; she sees how much will now be expected of her, and how much she can really do for the support of the family, and she is put to her mettle to do her best. And the children come at an early age to take part in the lighter labours connected with the pendicle; they aid in the various kinds of field-work as they are able; they lend a hand in feeding and tending the cow, and such like; and in this way they get acquainted as they grow up with processes which they may afterwards have to practise, and are trained to habits which will stand them in good stead when they go out into the world.

3. It is needless to say that the system of cottage tenure and small holdings here advocated differs in every essential particular from that which has wrought such mischief and wretchedness in Ireland, and is different, or rather opposite in its results. Here there is no grasping class of middle-men—here there is security of possession combined with moderate rent—here regard is had to the character and conduct of the applicant for a lease—and here care is taken that a full supply of labour shall be within reach, and that the population shall not be increased beyond the means of employment—all which elements were absent in the Irish system; so that there is here every motive to diligence, frugality, and good behaviour, and a counteractive provided, instead of a temptation afforded, to indolent and reckless thriftlessness in all the members of the family.

4. It may not be very easy to explain, but every one acquainted with our rural population will understand, how it raises the status of a labouring man when he becomes the possessor of a cottage built by himself upon a long lease, and still more when he obtains a few acres of land in connexion with it. He is now attached to the soil and has an interest in it; and let mere utilitarians talk as they please, there is something, yea much, in this, especially to our countrymen north of the Solway, who certainly have the taste and tendency to which Sir Walter Scott gave humorous and pithy expression, when he observed, that "whenever a Scotchman gets his head above water, he invariably *makes for land.*" The cottager is now differently looked upon by his neighbours, he is differently looked upon by himself. He is no longer a waif drifting hither and thither as accident or whim may determine, but a man with a fixed residence of his own, his garden, his field, his cow and calf, his sheep or two, his pig or two, security in his holding, permanency in his neighbourhood, a distinct and recognised member of a settled community. And as the attaining to this position implies good character, so in such a community there is fostered the desire and the effort to maintain the measure of credit and respectability to which they owe their place and privilege. It becomes a point of honour as well as of principle to make good the understood condition of their acquiring and retaining their holding. There is thus generated not a spirit of rivalry or strife, but a wholesome public opinion, which operates not merely in leading to the keeping of the house and garden in good order, and the improvement of the pendicle, but also in the way of a stimulus to a creditable style of living, and the general good management of the family. This is one of the influences which cannot be accurately gauged or defined in words, but it is not the less real and operative on that account. One of these cottars being guilty of any disreputable conduct, or suffering his premises to fall into disorder or disrepair, or his land to be ill cultivated, or falling behind in his rent, would feel that he was in a manner *losing caste*, and that his neighbours and those of his own rank and class were "looking down" upon him, and had a right to do so.

5. One of the most distinctive and pleasing features of the system, and productive both of comfort in point of feeling and of solid advantage, is the *security* of possession, both as respects the house and land. Indeed, the happy remark of the late minister of Eskdalemuir regarding the tenure of the Duke of Buccleuch's farms, that "the security is all the charm," is equally applicable to these smaller holdings and this humbler class. There is the utmost confidence felt by the occupants of these cottages that they will end their days in them; that during the currency of the existing leases no power of resumption will ever be exercised; and when they expire, that they will be renewed upon easy terms—in short, that their little

lings will descend like an inheritance from father n, and that all their plans and arrangements may rmed upon this understanding.

One of the palpable advantages resulting from permanency of residence, in addition to the com- ble feeling of security, is the privilege of having young continuing from year to year under the e teacher, and both young and old continuing year to year under the ministrations of the same or. Every one knows how much children lose by uent changes of schools and schoolmasters, and injurious this proves to the families of a shifting ulation. Besides, it is found that, partly from this anency of abode in the same locality, and partly, loubt, from the more comfortable circumstances of parents, there spring out of these cottage homes much larger proportion of men who rise in the ld far above their original starting point than n the floating families referred to, where the chil- n are subjected to frequent changes in the mode of ching, generally accompanied, in their case, with additional evil of irregular attendance at school.

And with regard to the other point noticed above, annot be doubted that there is a great advantage a family in remaining for a lengthened period under pastoral superintendence of a minister who has ome intimately acquainted both with parents and ldren, who takes a deep interest in their welfare, ows their several characters and circumstances, l is enabled to act as the friend and counsellor of . In like manner we might refer to the effect of this tled residence in producing and strengthening the ial feelings of neighbourly attachment and friendly mpathy, which either scarcely spring up, or are dely repressed when there are frequent removals d separations.

7. Of the direct *pecuniary* advantage of this system the cottars much might be said, though it may not easy to give the precise figures, as in each case so ch depends upon the management of the land and the cow, &c. But it may be safely affirmed that, general, the money value of the privilege is consi- rable. This is proved by the eagerness with which ch leases are sought for, and by the general opinion those who note the various items of produce of the lding in the shape of milk, butter, calf, pig, and ch like. It is not unusual to hear from the mother a large family that "the cow" has greatly helped "bring up" the children.

8. Finally, where small farms are retained—that is, here, as in this district, there are still a considerable mber of farms of one plough, or from 80 to 100 res, interspersed among the larger—the Annandale stem of cottage tenure paves the way and furnishes stepping-stone to the possession of a farm. The ttar sometimes himself makes this advance in his wn day, and in many cases some member of his family chieves it in the next generation. And we regard it s most important that there should be these points f contact and connexion established and maintained etween the different classes of society, and that such venues should be kept open, through which indus- rious and enterprising men may make their way from he lower to the higher grades of the agricultural ommunity. But while thus incidentally dropping a ord in favour of the retention of at least *some* small rms, believing it to be for the true interest both of he country and the proprietor, we are carefully to bserve that the system of leases and small holdings of which we are speaking is quite independent of the existence of small farms, and might be brought into peration and made to fit in where the large-farm ystem prevails.

II. *Advantages to the proprietor*—1. It must be obvious to every one that it is at once a high gratifica- ion and a solid benefit to a landowner to have a respectable, sober, well-behaved set of cottagers upon his property; who, having resided there for many years — perhaps for successive generations — have become in every sense attached to the estate; whose welfare he has promoted, whose respect he has secured, and whose trustworthy service he can obtain whenever he requires it. One cannot, of course, put a precise money value upon such a consideration as this; but we are persuaded that few proprietors will deem it to be unsubstantial and delusive. And it would be difficult to point out any mode by which such a desirable state of things may be so certainly and easily attained as by the plan pursued upon the estate of Annandale. It will be far more surely and far more cheaply secured *thus* than by the expenditure of large sums of money in building cottages for labourers who are drifting about among the farmers from year to year, however important it may be that these latter should be comfortably accommodated.

2. But how stands the case with respect to the *pecuniary* aspect of the matter? Is the landlord required, in this instance, to be liberal and lavish of money in promoting the comfort of the peasantry at a considerable sacrifice to himself, content with the recompense of an approving conscience, the gratitude of the class whom he has benefited, and the applause of the general community? By no means, though, even if it were so, it might not after all be a bad return; and the thing itself might be right and proper to be done, with or without such a recompense. And we are well assured that an ever-increasing number of landowners are so sincerely anxious to promote the comfort of the working classes, that they would not make the adoption of any measure which promised to be beneficial hinge upon the question of expense or remunerative return. But at the same time it is extremely satisfactory to be able to say that the system of cottage leases and small holdings to which we refer does not involve a pecuniary sacrifice to the proprietor, but, on the contrary, is demonstrably profitable.

Under this system, as has been explained, the landlord expends 20*l*., including home timber, in the erection of each cottage, the cottar himself doing all the rest, and when, at the expiry of the lease, the house falls into his hands, he gets possession of it for 45*l*. or 50*l*., including interest and compound interest upon the original outlay—which, taking into account the rent it will then bring, must be considered a good bargain. But, besides this, where a *pendicle* or small holding has been attached—and this has come more and more to be regarded as an essential accompaniment—the ground has, in almost every case, been greatly increased in value by careful cultivation, and a higher, though still very moderate, rent is willingly paid, than would have been received for the land as part of the farm to which it originally belonged. Without entering into minute details, we may confidently affirm that, in the district referred to, the rent drawn from pendicles is at present greater than the land would have otherwise yielded; and that there are, in addition, prospective profits which will gradually accrue as leases expire, and houses and holdings fall into the proprietor's hands, supposing even the rents still kept moderate as hitherto. But there are other advantges of a pecuniary kind resulting to the landlord, not less real, though less direct than that just mentioned. One of these is the effect of the system in *keeping in check and reducing the poor-rate.* Of course the chief benefit here is the high moral and social one, resulting to the cottagers themselves, in being kept above the level of pauperism. But with the growing and well-founded dread of an advancing assessment, it will not be deemed a trifling recommendation of the system under review, that it is extremely rare to find one of this class upon the poor-roll, and that in this way a permanent supply of labourers may be located upon an estate, without the drawback or the risk of multiplying paupers.

And in this connexion we may allude—though we need not do more than allude—to the advantage of possessing a class of labourers who, together with their families, are by the circumstances of their position put upon their good behaviour. Few of those waifs of society, and torment of landlords—poachers

Ayrshire.

Mr. J. Henry Tremenheere.

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and the like—are found, we fancy, among the inmates of these cottages houses.

III. *Advantages to the general community.*—Upon these we cannot, at present, afford room to dwell. But really it is not necessary. It is too obvious to require illustration, how much better it is for society at large that the numerous class of labourers should be orderly, moral, and *well-to-do*, than if they were poor, ignorant, and ill-behaved. Among the class of cottagers of which we have been treating, education is universally diffused; intelligence advances apace; habitual regard is had to moral character and social progress; general good order and industry and sobriety widely prevail; and surely all this is good in itself, and good in its influence upon others, and in its effects upon the general community.

Such, then, are some of the beneficial results of the system above described. If we were asked to name any counterbalancing evils which experience has shown to attach to the plan, we must say that we should not well know what to specify. Indeed we are not aware of any social arrangement to which so few objections apply, in which so few drawbacks are to be found, and which produces such general, substantial, and unqualified benefits to all concerned. It is, we think, in every point of view, advantageous to the proprietor—it is in every point of view advantageous to the rest of the community; and especially, it is in every point of view advantageous to the cottars themselves. It is advantageous as regards its pecuniary results; as regards the standing and credit of the cottagers; as regards their respectability of character and conduct; as regards the spread of intelligence, and the practice of industry and economy among them; as regards the elevation of the tone of morality; and as regards the disposition to try to rise in the world, infused into the young, and the facilities for rising thus afforded. Possibly it might be thought, that under this system too much power is retained in the landlord's hand, and that, in consequence, the class of cottars referred to must be kept in a state of undue subservience to the superior. We believe that there is no real ground for this apprehension. On the contrary, we do not know any portion of the agricultural population more ready to think for themselves, and to act upon their own convictions, than the holders of these leases. We are fully persuaded, and experience has shown, that they are just as likely to act an independent part as the class of farmers, whether large or small.

In a word, we look upon this as a most important and valuable portion of a rural community, and we regard the system which fosters it as worthy of careful consideration, and, we venture to add, of extensive adoption. Such a class of people are well worth cherishing. We do not plead that they should be coaxed and coddled. They need nothing of the kind. On fair and reasonable terms, they are able and willing "to do their own turn," as they express it; and it will be found that they render an ample equivalent for any encouragement and assistance that may be afforded to them. The best interests of our country would be promoted by the wide adoption of such a system. The class of people thus formed and perpetuated are among the choicest of our Scottish peasantry. Indeed, it has been affirmed by one who weighs his statements well, and than whom few in any rank of life are better entitled to pronounce an opinion, that the cottars of this class, together with small working farmers, are more thoroughly and distinctively Scotch than any other portion of the population; that in them we have still preserved to us some of the best and most peculiar features of our national character; that, while in many cases the tenant-farmers of considerable capital have been dropping one after another of the old characteristic qualities and habits of Scotchmen, they have been retained in freshness and vigour in such households as those of which we have been speaking; and that, if we would conserve those moral lineaments and practices of old Scotland, "which make her loved at home, revered abroad," we would do well to foster the class of cottars, each of whom dwells in a house built in whole or in part by himself, and, in addition, possesses a small holding to exercise his industry and thrift, and aid in the decent and comfortable support of his family.

We shall only add, that we have reason to believe that the system under review has given entire satisfaction to the extensive proprietor, on whose estate it has been maintained in operation for well-nigh half a century.

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2. Letter from Mr. W. G. Strachan, master of the parochial school, Langholm, Dumfries-shire.

DEAR SIR, Langholm, 20th May, 1870.

IN reply to yours of the 14th, which absence from home has prevented me from answering sooner, I am glad to say that all the things mentioned by you are and have long been practised in our school, and in every other good school in the district, and with most satisfactory results.

All the children prepare their lessons at home. This gives the parents an opportunity of taking an interest in their children's education, and helps to teach the child, among other things, self-reliance, industry, and the habit of reading. Only the children in the higher classes use dictionaries. In our school the reading books used are those published by the Scottish School Book Association. If you can procure a copy of the "*Progressive Reader*," the book used in Standard 4, you will see that in it each lesson has a number of words with the meanings, &c. prefixed. These have always to be committed to memory. The "*Advanced Reader*," the text book for Standards 5 and 6, requires to be supplemented by the use of a dictionary. I much regret that the labour required under the Revised Code does not permit us to give so much attention to examination and explanation as formerly.

The committing to memory of suitable pieces of poetry and prose is of much importance and is daily practised with us. The poetry learned is chiefly the pieces in the Text Books, and in our school the prose is chiefly, indeed I may say entirely, taken from Holy Scripture. I am anxious to store the mind with truth, and especially with the inimitable teaching of our Lord. In addition to much of the old testament the upper class learn during the school year the parables, &c.

The advantages to be derived from preparation of lessons at home, and from committing to memory passages from the best authors, are very many and very obvious, and I feel persuaded you will find this done in most of our best schools in Scotland.

I hope you will be able to recommend that no child shall be continuously employed until he is 13 years of age, for, although we may be, in elementary education, in advance of England, we have still much to do.

I am, &c.

J. H. Tremenheere, Esq. W. G. STRACHAN.

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. BOYLE'S REPORT.

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LANARKSHIRE.

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Lanarkshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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LANARKSHIRE.

APPENDIX I.

(I.)—MINING DISTRICT.

1. *William Hozier, Esq.*, Tannochside, Bellshill (parish of Bothwell; acreage, 13,263·792, excluding water, roads, and railways. Cultivation, mostly arable).

Boys are "rarely employed at all, sometimes a boy "may be employed to keep off crows and wood-"pigeons in seed-time;" girls, "never." Women are employed "to a very considerable extent, and do "not consider such employment injurious in either way "(to morals or domestic duties). The women gene-"rally work by themselves, with one steady married "man to superintend them. They make good wives "when married, and I hear no complaints of their "being untrained in domestic duties."

They go to work "about a mile at farthest; some "live in the farms." The hours of work are "from "7 a.m. to 8 p.m., resting an hour in the middle of "the day, and leaving off work at dark in winter." No ill-treatment, or necessity for restriction.

"The cottages are good, plentiful, and comfortable, though often containing not more than one or two rooms. They are not overcrowded, nor are they distant from the farms, as a rule. My labourers living on the place, have gardens; this is not invariably the law in this district; many live in villages, where gardens are exceptional. I am not aware of public money being applied for in regard to cottage building and improving. The cheaper, however, it is to be obtained, the more will the Act be taken advantage of.

"Hiring fairs exist for unmarried men and women. Married ploughmen are hired by the year; payments are made in money. Privileges are occasionally given, but they are not usual. I give 15*s.* a week, a house, and six tons of coals. This, I should say, is rather above the average for men employed all the year round. Labourers employed for short jobs get fully higher wages, and during harvest, wages are considerably higher. To women, I give 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and for women working regularly I give an addition of 1*l.* in harvest time. Women occasionally hired in harvest time get about 3*s.* a day. Men at the same season from 6*s.* to 4*s.* a day.

2. *Stewart Souter Robertson, Esq.*, Chamberlain at Hamilton Palace.—In this district boys and girls are employed at "12 and 13; seed-time and harvest. "Women chiefly in the dairy, and during seed-time "and harvest. There are exceptional cases, but few. "They generally live on the farm, with the excep-"tional cases above referred to, and these no great "distance to come." Hours of work, "10 hours." No restrictions necessary.

"Numerous schools in the different districts, all well attended. Holidays given in harvest."

Cottages, "few in number, but in fair order, with "plenty of water and ventilation, and not over-"crowded. Servants generally live in farm houses, "and above stables, except day-labourers, who live "in adjoining villages. Morality as a rule good."

All have gardens.

3. *Robert Jack*, factor for J. G. C. Hamilton, Esq., M.P. (Dalzell, Motherwell, population, 5438; cultivation, a mixture of arable and dairy).—"There are "few boys employed at all, these being generally "employed in the mines. Girls are employed at and "above 15 years; principally spreading manure, "hoeing, and other field labour. There is no great "employment for women at all here, the extent of "green crops being small. They are generally to be "had quite close to the farms, when employed; not "more than a mile or so." Hours of work, 10 hours. "Females (field workers), being only employed "partially in this way, and the rest of their time at "home, the effect of their being so employed has not "much effect on morals, &c."

The farms here are not large, and the farmers not so high a class of men as in the Lothians, in fact about here they are little better educated than the labourers. There are one or two large farms, Mr. Drew's for instance must be 500 acres, but the ordinary farm varies from 100 to 200 acres; they are mostly dairy. The six-course system is pursued, one-third being always in grass, and one-sixth in green crops or summer fallow; this heavy clay soil is not very well adapted for green crops. Nearly all the men employed live in the farm houses; they live in the kitchen, and have a separate table, when the farmer has his meals; they sleep in a building generally attached to the stable, and the female farm-servants in the house. But they get about together in the barns and outhouses, and it leads to a good deal of immorality, so that though the bothy system is unknown here, there is probably as much immorality as where it prevails. The farmers' own sons will work just like labourers occasionally; the "fore-man," principal servant, is a married man, and has a cottage, but he is the only one. Many of the servants will put by money, and start a farm of their own; a farmer's son often starts as a ploughman. When extra hands are wanted to pull weeds, hoe, spread manure, &c., women are nearly always employed. It is impossible to get extra men, they naturally prefer the high wages of the mines, and boys too, as soon as they are old enough are taken to work in the mines too. Women and girls both come to work in the summer, have two girls feeding the thrashing machine now; they have only come to-day for an afternoon, but in the summer they will be out a good deal. There is no gang system; but a good many women will work together in the green crops; generally one man with them, as, if alone, they do little work. We have a boy of 14 employed; he is the youngest on the farm, and you will scarcely find any employed younger than that. Boys, however, nearly all go to the mines as soon as they have passed the limited age. It is a purely mining parish; the minister can recollect when there were not 1,000 in the parish, now there are believed to be upwards of 7,000; chiefly strangers come in, a good many English and Irish too.

Boys are not taken young to scare birds, birds do not do enough damage to be worth while, if they do they are shot; a good many sparrows are shot. There are several works in the parish employing a large number of hands. Our malleable ironworks employ nearly 1,000 hands, and there are besides boiler making, engineering, and founding works, and others employing in the aggregate 300 or 400 hands.

4. *Rev. Joseph Loudoun*, minister, Dalzell.—We are very well off for schools here, there being schools attached to the iron-works besides the parish schools. The iron-masters stop 2*d.* weekly for the doctor, and 2*d.* weekly for the school off each hand, married or not, and as the money is paid, there is a certain amount of regularity ensured; is not quite so sure about the children of the agricultural labourers, but generally the people appreciate the advantages of education. Has evening classes at the school, to which boys of from 12 to 18, who wish to keep up what they know, come. It is a mining parish; in many instances the iron-masters have taken the farms to prevent disputes about their rights, and generally their farms are very well managed—the carts take coal to Glasgow, and come out with manure.

The girls general begin by tambouring very young, and very few will go out to work in the field before

years of age. They evidently prefer out-door ork to tambouring, for when summer comes, all who e old enough turn out to work; they certainly get tter wages in the fields than they get tambouring. is not only labourers' wives and daughters who ork out—a good many daughters of colliers will— e fact is there is little else for women to do.

As for cottages, there really are none—perhaps the "oreman" lives in a cottage, if he is married, but one else; any who do live in the village, and have ttages like the colliers, and the distance being all, not far to go to work. There is no staying out work, as in some parts—no bothy system; they all me home after work.

5. *Thomas McIntosh*, overseer to J. Hozier, Esq., auldslie Castle.—Mr. H. would have 500 acres; 0 Scotch acres in pasture; all rest arable and ntations; 300 Scotch acres arable. The 100-acre m worked 5 rotation; 5 pretty near equal parts; acres, sometimes less and sometimes more, green op. Chiefly oats, wheat, and beans; great county for ans; don't want much sun; 13 acres turnip to two potatoe; about an acre of mangold; not enough lt; few farmers grow mangold.

Three men at the horses; three men at the wood; ur labouring men besides, and a boy of 14, and my- lf. Give all cottages except two, all married except e young man, who lives in my own house, aged 18. ist a room and a kitchen; two beds in the kitchen. ive 15*s.* a week, and a cottage, or 16*s.* without a ttage; one at 17*s.*; all paid in money. Cart coals.

Six women during the winter, and about 13 in mmer. Our own labourers' daughters, and some lliers' daughters, and one seaman's daughter, one a adman's. All single but one. Two women about e cows, clean out and milk, &c. Have 10 milk ws; some have about 50 cows; Mr. Hozier has 80. he rest rake leaves, thrash, &c., all winter; spread- g; don't work horses. Gives them 1*s.* a day summer id winter. Don't live on the farm; some with thers; only one lives on the farm.

Six acres of gooseberries. Women weed them, and en along with them. Then singling turnips; 13 omen; with the hoe all; do it as quick again. Very d work doing it with the hands. Use the long hoe, id stand straight. Most is with the hoe about here. ork in a row. Go out myself, and keep a man ho goes along with them, and gives time. Learn ery quick; in about two days. Have no woman less an 20 at that; if have younger, at 14 or 15 keep em cleaning roads, and light work. Youngest I ever w in this neighbourhood 12 years of age; herding r that sort of thing. Youngest we ever had picking eeds down roads, 14.

Hay-making then; then harvest. Cut the full rop with the hook, and the lighter crop with the cythe. Employ men to do it. Pay so much an acre; ur own men would be putting up stooks. The omen do some work with the hook; both do it. A ood woman with a hook does as much as a man. ay 15*s.* a Scotch acre up to 17*s.* according to he bulk of the crop. If corn strong will mow an cre in 9 hours. Employs out of it; a man to bind, t 4*s.*; a woman to lift 3*s.* 6*d.*; a boy to make bands, *s.* a day; a laddie to rake at 1*s.* A family can make a great deal in harvest.

After harvest, lift and stow potatoes; women nd men both. We set the digging; a man gets about 3*l.* an acre; then lifting turnips, and storing.

Like labourers family better than miners.

6. *T. McAllister, overseer to Wm. Hozier, Esq.*, Tarnochside, Bothwell.—If there is a boy employed on the farm, very likely farmer's own boy. Many begin at 12 or 14; drive horses, thrash, &c. at odd time, just before school, and in holidays. Most go to the pits; get higher wages. Ploughmen generally married in the district; under the benefit system, a house and money. On this farm we give 15*s.* a week, a house, and firing. All coal, about 5*s.* a ton on average, and carting. A lot of the children go into business; some in an engineering business here. Don't go so much to agricultural work. A lot of Highlanders come, and Irish. The latter do spade work, drain, &c. Very few brought up to plough, and unless learnt young difficult to acquire. Farmers who have sons employ them. Mixed, dairy and arable. Rather backward in farming. No regular rotation. Sell straw in Glasgow; not so much grass. Send milk; some send butter; not much cheese. Average size of dairy, 20 to 30 cows.

Girls employed here in summer turnip hoeing, but in the district weed with the hand generally. We were the first to introduce the hoe; they learn pretty quick, but better when young. Come at about 15 or 16. Mostly girls employed. Mostly miners' daughters; generally Irish; rarely a Scotchwoman in this place; but find them capital workers with whatever they turn their hands to. Find them very biddable and quiet. Like them almost better than our own countrymen. Home people, such as ploughmen's daughters, prefer gentle service in Glasgow. One of our own ploughmen's daughters began to work for us at 15 last year, but as soon as gets older will go to service. Our farm-servants come a good deal from Lanark and the neighbourhood. Have one in Mr. Hozer's kitchen now, who began working out for us. Have had 10 or 12 out in turnip season; average 8. Employ two all year, about farm all year; girls of 20 or 22. In dairy have just one dairy-woman to the dairy, who cleans out the cowhouse too. Usual thing in a dairy to keep two, or a girl and a boy of 15, and a mistress will assist in the dairy. Not above an acre of potato; not a good potato district; land not light enough; more potatoes towards Glasgow and Hamilton. Uncertain crop.

About Holytown a potato dealer, generally a local man in the villages, buys a few acres of potatoes. Sometimes an Irishman. Have stores, and sell them by bag to works and shops. Get together their own gang. Will get a lot of women out of Bellshill or some other village. Gives a woman generally 1*s.* 6*d.*, rather better than farmer. Have counted as many as 60; generally about 20. Mostly Irish. Chiefly married women. Children not much use; have seen an odd one now and then. A woman lifting them out, and a little one gathering; but woman will generally lift and gather herself. Don't think them any worse than others. In all my dealings have found them quiet and peaceable.

Women work much alone; not with men much. But in busy times would lay every hand on, if turnips wanting, men and boys and all. Happens just at an odd time. A good many women employed on pits, and some who work in pits, would come out in harvest, and come and help her husband to drain, taking top sod, or filling behind him.

In harvest almost general to let; not on this farm. Mostly scythe and hook, but machine coming into rather more use. Shearing done mostly by Irish men and women. Generally let to a local man. Taken by the acre, and paid by the day. Take about four or five hands to shear an acre in a day. One man will bind and stook about six shearers. Boys not much use to bind. Sometimes the whole gang will shear all day, and begin to stook later. Wages about 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* For shearing a woman as good as a man. Binder has a little more. With scythe a man better than a woman. Only with a heavy crop it is sheared. More women cut than men. Generally miners' wives, but the men drainers in winter; just Irish labourers, who go about the district. A large gang will often come from Ireland.

7. ———, *bailiff to Col. D. C. Buchanan*, Drumpellier, Coatbridge.—Generally need six women to keep the thrashing going on. Two getting up sheaves and handing them to the man feeding, and about three or four making and tying up the bundles of straw. The only winter work for women is looking after the farm.

In spring women are employed spreading dung on fields after a man has put it in small heaps; for pota-

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toes women are required, four spreading and three planting; gathering stones in the field off the young grass, or breaking clods if the land is rough.

In summer hoeing potatoes, singling turnips with the hoe, lifting and binding sheaves in harvest.

In autumn potato digging; every one gathers up for themselves; ploughing up not usual. Yellow turnips and swede pulling comes last; there are four rows, and the same hand pulls and cuts. All done by women.

In harvest would have about 20 out; paid 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; for potato time would have 12 or 14, and for turnips about the same, all at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; but the regular hands employed get 1*s.*, but they are close at home. Some go out as far as 2½ miles or 3 miles, and get a little more wages. Mr. Steel pays 1*s.* 3*d.* at about 2½ miles distant.

We put them in a line, and the best worker leads, and if there are some not so good as others they do not get so much money. The regular thing is to take two drills, but sometimes two girls take three between them, and a young beginner will take one. As a rule girls are not fit for regular work before 18. Some come as young as 14 or 15, and are paid less for some time. Would have about two young ones out of 12 in all. For stone gathering the youngest are perhaps the best; we keep one of them along with an older one at the machine. Some are miners' daughters, some labourers' children; but the latter are very scarce.

The regular men of the farm are only four, who live in the bothy. Some other men come by the day, and do a bit of mowing, and road-making at other times. We employ no boys at all.

8. *J. Henry, Esq.*, coalmaster, Kirkwood, Old Monklands.—Takes the farm under which he mines. Has two ploughmen married, and the cattle-man is married also. The junior ploughman is not married, and lives with his father, the cattle-man. In the spring takes on one or two more men, who do odd jobs, and would work at other times about the works, mostly above ground.

Very few boys are employed about here; some of 12 or 13 years of age work. Come out in harvest, and gather heads behind the shearers, but they are not of much use to us so young.

Some of the men who work about the mines would come out for a few days in harvest; they like change. Boys of course prefer the mines to field-work; they are so much better paid. The smallest boy in a mine only 12 years of age would get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for opening and shutting a door.

Colliers' wives will come out and work in harvest, and in other summer work; they are glad to get out. There is no other work for them, unless they come out; some sew, but more are so improvident they do not think of it. After potato planting there begins a succession of work that employs women till after harvest, and a few are required again in autumn. The wife of a collier making 3*l.* a week will often come out. Some colliers, through want of management and drinking, will be worse off with 30*s.* than some with 18*s.* Their daughters come too; they are not much use till 16 or 18 years of age. We give 1*s.* a day, and to some of the better hands 1*s.* 2*d.* Have no dairy, but stall-feed a little, principally for making manure, and have one woman always with the cattle-man. Manure is so dear at present, dearer than coals.

Some women lead horses better than men. In potato planting they spread manure, and fill carts at odd times, but generally men do it.

The cottages are not lathed; you will always see a lot of nails put up round. They prefer a single apartment, unless the family is very large. They generally have a kitchen and bed-room, and perhaps two beds in the kitchen for children. They take in lodgers if they have more room. Half of them are Irish, who are not generally so particular about their rooms as the Scotch.

FARMERS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF GLASGOW
(parishes of Barony, Old Monklands, &c.)

9. *John Wilson*, Glendufhill.—Four crop rotation. Oats; (2) potatoes or turnips; wheat (3); hay (4). Bound to leave the farm at the end of lease in a five crop rotation. No dairy. About half the farms have dairies. This farm comprises 115 Scotch acres (five English take four Scotch). Pays 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre, because so near Glasgow and the manure, principally horse and cow manure. Can sell straw.

Divide into four equal portions as near as possible: 33 acres of wheat, 48 of green crop, 31 oats. Green crop chiefly potatoes. No cattle, so no want of turnips. Call it a cropping farm.

Keep three ploughmen, all married; becoming more customary. Have cottages on farm, 200 yards distant, and on the farm. Keep them in repair, and do not pay the landlord for them, but they are a consideration in making the offer for the farm. Was among the first who began with married men. Those who live in the house get quarrelsome about diet. Give a free cottage, and coals driven, and no perquisites, except first man 1*l.* extra each six months. They pay no taxes. First man 18*s.*, second 17*s.*, next 16*s.* One boiler boy, 13 years of age, 7*s.* a week; no diet or nothing. Has been two years with me.

Labourers 16*s.* without free house. Have one all the year in constant employ, and sometimes two; sometimes three in harvest.

Ploughmen's wives, if no young family, do out-door work regularly. 1*s.* 4*d.* all the year except harvest; 1*s.* 3*d.* usual thing; some give only 1*s.* 2*d.* Those near the villages don't pay so much as we. In winter may come a single day, thrashing. In spring would come hoeing and weeding potatoes and turnips; generally 18 to 20 in number. Have eight who come whenever wanted, and take a portion from every village. One brings others, chiefly wives of labourers and colliers. Colliers' wives best workers, but will not come unless husbands not well employed. Not more than four in every 20 are Scotch. Would just as soon have Irish as Scotch. Turn away one or two every year for an example. They are chiefly married. Formerly had seven or eight unmarried; not more than four unmarried now. Come at 16, not under. Never like them unless thoroughly learned. Others get them at 10*d.*, and take an interest in teaching them. Some can learn in two or three days; generally take a week.

Singling mostly done with the hand; go on their knees mostly; some however hoe. In a great turnip country see them stand up and hoe. They try all ways of working, when the back gets tired with stooping. Not hard work, but sometimes one hand down, sometimes both, sometimes stooping. Hoeing nearly as bad with short hoes. Had a foreman once who wanted to use short hoes, but they threatened to go. A young woman can use a long hoe at 15 or 16, and never be oppressed.

They get in harvest 2*s.* 6*d.*; in potato digging 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*; depends on the quantity. They dig the potatoes with the grape, and put them in the basket with the hand, and a man puts the basket into the cart.

All work in a row; send a man with them, generally the foreman, who has a favourite generally, whom he puts to lead them on. Generally put three or four of the best workers with them, and then mixed up the others. They get disheartened if fall behind, and have to cheer them. The foreman hardest worker of all, and helps those who fall behind. A great deal depends upon having a good foreman who can humour them.

The foreman is a separate man; has 20*s.* a week and a free house, and coals carried; is the chief man. Come to being much the same as the baillie.

All have got machines now. Have had one two years. Was against them at first, have got plenty of workers. Women used to do it all.

In the potato planting make three drills; the cart goes down the two outside ones. The man puts the manure into the centre drill, and one woman divides

into the three drills, and three other women break out with the grapes; then three more come behind th the seed. General system in the country. Some-es send a woman with the cart; a good strong girl 25 or so. A young woman will lead a horse as well a lad. Put two women combined to fill the manure rt, instead of one man. Most people employ a man to clean out the byre where the bullocks are pt, but it is hard work for them, and I do not.

10. *Thomas Scott*, Rhindmuir.—Have only five ws. Don't depend on dairy. Two women regularly the house, who work in the dairy and the house, and ean out the dairy. Dairy chiefly stall fed.

Four-course rotation near Glasgow, higher up untry six-course, whenever you get six or seven iles distant. Four course: (1.) Oats; (2.) Potatoes turnips; (3.) Wheat; (4.) Hay; grass seed, &c. wn in April. Divide into four pretty equal portions; eneral system within this distance of Glasgow. Great eal of potatoes.

Women begin potato planting; generally beginning f April; would have out for that about 20 to 25 omen. They cut the potatoes first for seed; five or ix would do that; if wet weather would all be doing r a day or two. Can come and go when they like. Men generally fill manure carts; sometimes if men carce, women do it. But seem to like it; not such onstant work as spreading; have seen them get ack to the yard in preference to being in the field. Sometimes will lead cart; only a few special girls do hat; they like to go with horses.

A man generally takes the cart, and the foreman empties it.

Next work gathering stones from fields, and planting turnips. Generally send a cart and baskets for stones; keep a cart before them; if field soft have a cart at the side, and two between them carry the basket. Generally weeding rough land follows for two or three weeks; such as gathering weeds from the potato drills, &c.

Hoeing potatoes begins when they are through about the end of May. Would take from 25 to 30; use the long hoe. Put them to work in a row, a steady hand leading, and a man with them; the foreman helps up a bad drill or some one who falls back. As a rule the hoeing is easy work, and never let one go too fast in front, so as to get it well done.

Singling turnips is done with the hand; they prefer it, and so do we, the hoe is apt to bring up the manure. Use the same number as for the hoeing potatoes. Some go down on their knees, some don't.

Chiefly miners' wives; more than half married; would not say half unmarried in my district. Don't like youngsters; take few before 18. Sometimes a few come out to do a half-day's work, and learn; paid in proportion to the work they do.

Pay 1*s.* 3*d.* from spring up to haymaking; 3*d.* an hour, sometimes 3½*d.* in harvest; 3*s.* is the highest I've ever paid for 10 hours work. Work generally 7 to 12, and 1 to 6. Very often if damp don't begin till 9 or 10. Don't use the machine regularly; have one; but have women shearers, have capital shearers; never have a man. Farm not well adapted for machines; and nearly as cheap to do it by hand, but an exceptional case as no place in the county is better supplied with labour. All reap with the hook; generally learn at so much a stook. Sometimes let a field only to women; let out to four or five different folks, but not general practice. Pay so much an acre, and she brings others; only for outlying fields though. A man generally binds and stooks to four or five women shearing. Sometimes have 50 or 60 shearers out, all women; plenty of them, except perhaps for one week when all learners are cutting. In mineral districts get best class of women for working; more work they get the stronger they are. Like it very much, and even tradesmen's wives will come out in harvest.

Potato digging; women dig all the potatoes, and sometimes lead horses; sometimes men lead the horse. Work in a row the same way as singling. Work with the grape; same woman digs, and picks up; each has a basket. Sometimes a few children will come out to gather for diversion after school. Would have perhaps about 80 women out; have had near 100. Last year had often to send off some, more came than I could employ. Had 55 imperial acres last year in potatoes. Have only two or three acres of turnips; the women pull turnips, and fill the carts; the same woman who does the *tawing* and *shawing* with a hook; they go up two drills and down the next two; but would only be two days at it. No mangolds, soil not good enough.

The rent 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* a Scotch acre, 2*l.* 10*s.* imperial; all forcing; costs in manure more than a rent and a half; manures more than most men. Gets it mostly from Glasgow; all bone manure; contract with a man in Glasgow. Use a little guano, just to start, but it is dear.

Four ploughmen all unmarried; pay 15*l.* the half year; the best man; and board and lodging. All live in a bothy over the stable. Feed in the kitchen. The foreman gets a 1*l.* a week, a married man, and free cottage; has a two-roomed cottage. I pay 3*l.* 10*s.* for him; about the usual rent.

A ploughman married lately, and went down to my Renfrewshire farm; have no cottages; would like to. No boy. Two women servants live in house, and sit in kitchen too. Never have any harm happen, too many; much more danger if there is only one man. If you have a bothy for to eat and live in, often harm happens. As a rule females servants sleep in house, and men servants out in a bothy.

Expect to get some houses before next year; if could get a feu would build them myself. Prefer single men, but they shift oftener; they are more attentive to the horses. Married men will hurry on their work.

After turnip lifting wheat sowing comes on. The women spread the manure; all the green crops land gets some, 15 tons an acre. A man does the sowing. 15 or 16 women employed in this, and in covering up potato pits; after that, cart out manure to stubble for next years green crop and spread it; put out and ploughed in. A man takes the manure out of the cart in heaps and the women spread it.

In winter thrashing comes in. Women cut sheaves and put near the feeder. Do most of the work except feeding, and carry sacks and barley straw. In winter they fill potatoes for market, and clean hedges; we keep on those that are most needful: have had one employed 19 years, another 15, another 11, another 22 years, have had five or six nine years, or my brother has who was here before. One who has been here 22 years, unmarried, kept her mother a long time. Father was a labourer. In winter which is scarcest time, would have eight all the time, between thrashing and pulling potatoes. More Irish than Scotch employed; cannot tell which are the best workers. Scotch have generally been farm servants a while; some go to further back farms for a time at 13 or 14 years of age; rather prefer Scotch.

11. *Mr. Anderson*, New Monklands parish.—Four-course system, except when pasture, only pasture about four acres. 106 acres divided into about four pretty equal portions: (1.) Oats; (2.) Potatoes; (3.) Wheat; (4.) Hay.

One ploughman married, and two not, and have a bothy for other two. No boy except now and then. ploughman married gets 17*s.* a week, and a free house. Take house for him, 5*l.*; 2*s.* a week. A kitchen and one room. Man living in the house, meated in the house, gets, 15*l.* the half year, board and lodging. Another meats himself, and does not live in house; finds lodgings, and gets 15*s.* a week; he is above 20 years of age.

Have one girl; just a few cows; girl pulls and weeds turnips; and cleans out cow-house; my sister milks. Not much dairy about here. No other woman regularly employed all year round; just send for a few when wanted; very easy to get them. Mostly wives and daughters of colliers who come.

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Give 1*s.* 3*d.* a day except in harvest, when a little more. Use the machine for reaping; but that employs a lot of extra hands. About 16 altogether out, women and men; of whom four would be men; two go with the machine and two stook (the regular men). The women bind and stook. When no machine, would have perhaps 50 or 60 women out; but mostly machines these last two years.

Would have 30 to 40 women out potato digging; very easy to get here. Mostly men fill manure carts, but whiles women too; and spread manure. For singling turnips would have 15 to 20 out; do it mostly with the hands. Hoe speediest, but never tried it; only two acres though, only for our own use. Have 20 to 24 acres of potatoes. Sell them in Glasgow; sometimes get dealers to buy them on the ground; a good many go to England; some for seed. Some dig and pick up potatoes.

12. *Mr. Baird*, Burnt Broom. — Employs two ploughmen who live in the bothy, and board in the kitchen; give 14*l.* the half year; have one married, but meat him like the others. No boys. Two women servants, 17 cows, and the women servants clean out the byre and milk. One gets 7*l.*, and the other 6*l.* the half year. Men and women often change in the six months; some bide longer; like to look about them. Hire them at the hiring market in Glasgow; go in every half year to get them if need them. Even those who stay commonly get a day to themselves.

Would have about 15 or 16 acres green crop every year; need extra hands; mostly women; some married, some single; mostly single; would begin to come under 20; some will come at 14, but few, and pay them what they are worth. Pay 15*d.* or 16*d.* the day; very young ones would perhaps get 10*d.* Sometimes have 12 or 14 out singling turnips; only four or five acres in turnips; some go on hands and knees, but generally stoop. Clothes not very good whiles. Don't like hoe as well as hands; we just accustomed to it, custom of the place. Hoe quicker, but apt to injure root. They get tired stooping, say it wearies them more than any other work.

Don't reap with machine; not got one yet. Do it mostly with hook. Would have 30 hands out in harvest; about half of them men; just come about, Irishmen generally off the roads. Women do most of the shearing; men do the binding and stooking; cannot stook it like the men. Give them commonly about 3*s.*; men about the same; women do about as much as the men. Great art in shearing; learn it when young; get less when learning; would come at about 14; get perhaps 1*s.* a day. Women, chiefly colliers' wives and daughters.

13. *Letter from Mr. John Wallace*, Ruthergien, to Mr. Scott, Rhindmuir, accompanying schedule :—

"Dear Sir,

"I have filled up the schedule you gave me as accurately as I could estimate.

"Being so near Rutherglen we generally employ a large number of workers at the busy seasons; but the estimate I have given would extend the number for about four weeks each season. As the workers come and go very much; I have not been able to give a correct estimate of the number married and unmarried, but I would consider not more than one-fifth are *un*-married, the younger ones being employed in the manufactories. All the men I employ over 18 years are married. I do not board any of my men.

"I am, &c.

"John Wallace."

Evidence of Farmers in New Monklands and Shotts Parishes.

14. *Mr. Steel*, New Monklands.—Has two farms; his two sons work for him; one manages on each farm; has two ploughmen on one, three on the other. Would say half are married, half not; in the district generally there are fewer married than unmarried. Men used to live in the kitchen very much, but now have a bit of a bothy to live in; but that is not the general rule, most of them live in the kitchen. They prefer, however, living in the bothy; they get away more to themselves. One of the female servants keeps it in order.

Keep two women servants, who milk and mind the cattle, farmyard, &c.; they live in the house. In summer require extra hands, nearly all women, at 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* a day. They come very young some of them; must take all; some come at 14 or 15 years of age. A great many of them cannot do work at first; they come to learn, and are willing to take what I give them. They want a man with them; sometimes therefore have to hire an extra man to look after them. They do not work unless looked after. They work in a row. They come out from Coatbridge (women and girls), and go back in the evening.

Regular dairy and six-course farming.

15. *Mr. Bullock*, Bellstane, New Monksland.—Self and brother and two sisters, and a small boy to herd manage the farm. The boy is 8 or 9 years of age. Sisters work well; do milking and that. Have extra hands in harvest; have sometimes six or seven out.

16. *Farmer from Shotts Parish* (elevated land).—Farm perhaps 100 acres; about a quarter tillage; a good part of the farm rough pasture, herbage, &c. Mostly dairy stock; farm not large enough for sheep. Keep 9 to 15 cows, and feed in the house a good deal even in summer. Of the tillage about a quarter oats, no wheat, five to eight acres turnip and potato; not much potato; turnip for cows in winter season.

Have always two men and a boy; have no sons and daughters like other farmers; and they live with me, have meals with me, and boarded in the house; generally done in our locality. Boy about 13; looking after cows, tenting, helping women fetching water, &c. Three women servants about dairy. Clean out the cow-house with the help of the boy, and board in the house. All girls. Just children of parties round about; girls hire themselves out for six months. Stay occasionally, but many go away when six months over. Youngest 17; range up to 30.

In summer employ extra hands by the day; just women or men, whichever we can get. For singling turnips, weeding thistles, reaping. Close to iron works, and can get women readily, sometimes for 8 or 10 days; when pushing hard would employ 8 or 10. They use the hoe or single with their hands, whichever way they can work best; if can hoe well would let them hoe, if not use hands. Sometimes have to go down on the knees to ease their back, but it is light work in a dry season. A black mossy soil does not grow potatoes well; only grown for seed. Very high up; too high for wheat; tried it twice, but did not do very well.

Ploughman gets 12*l.* 10*s.* the half year, second from 6*l.* to 8*l.* Boy from 35*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* Girls, the lowest 4*l.*, and the highest 7*l.*

Difficult to get extra hands among men lately. Would let draining by the rood. Singling is very seldom let; most farmers like looking after it. Generally go self or send some one with them; like to be there self if possible.

Women would spread manure sometimes; if leading a horse in the case, a man would do it, but for the spreading out would often employ a woman, whichever is handiest. Women clean out the cow houses.

No reaping machine; some few farmers have, but I have not. Reap with the scythe mostly; do a little with the hooks still. Men mow and two women binders are put together in general, and others tie. Women need to reap with hooks. Depends on what the vettle is like, whether hook or scythe is best. On rough ground the hook is best; where the surface lies pretty smooth prefer the scythe. With the hooks a woman will reap, and often a man bind for several women.

Farmers in the Hamilton District.

17. *J. Clark Forrest*, Allanton Farm (Hamilton).—Cultivation of parish mixed, principally dairy farms.

Extract from Circular filled up.—"A few boys about 10 or 12 years to scare crows at seed time and wheat in autumn, others about 12 or 15 years. Girls are not employed unless they can hoe or single turnips, at about 15 years of age. Women do nearly all the working of potatoes and turnips, lead horses in harvest, work at thrashing mills. Men are too expensive except for horse work." Women come to work "from towns and villages, say two miles, often three miles." Hours of work for men, women, and children, "from 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m to 6 p.m., 10 hours; in winter until it is dark. It does them good as to health. There are a great many Irish of a low class in the parish, and respectable Scotch girls are not very fond of mixing with them. I do not believe in outdoor work *training* girls for *domestic duties*." No need for restriction. "Those who work in the fields are better off than the lazy ones."

"Children should go to school till they are 15, and even then they are only wanted for field work from April to October, except as regularly hired servants. There are schools without number in the parish, with very moderate fees, which most take advantage of; but parents who are not well educated do not see the necessity of sending their children to school, except for a short time. Early labour has nothing to do with it here." About per cent. of the children are neither at school nor at work.

"Cottages good, but there are not enough of them. There is no overcrowding amongst the Scotch, but lots of it in Hamilton amongst the Irish."

Additional evidence:—

You should not take my farm or Mr. Drews as specimens of the farms of the country; we have been getting more under corn, and the general stamp of farm is dairy farming. A dairy farm would be worked by men living in the house generally. The farmer generally prefers married men living out, but if he has no cottages he has to put up with farm servants who are all single men. The wages for one of them would be 20*l.* to 30*l.* a year and victuals.

A farmer would generally employ one foreman and perhaps three ploughmen, as all the others are called; there is no system of hinds here. The wages for a ploughman living out are 16*s.* generally. I give my first 17*s.*, the other 16*s.*, free houses, and drive coals. Being so near town these would be the only regular hands employed; all other work has to be done by extra hands, and these are generally women, as the mines take off the men, and it is almost impossible to get them.

Have myself a great deal more green crop than most men, and each crop employs a great number of extra hands, nearly all women and girls, who come out from the town; a good many of them are colliers' wives and daughters. A labourer's daughter when she marries a collier will generally go on working out, but a colliers' daughter when she marries will not work out in the fields. A large proportion of the women who work out here are Irish; they are not such good workers as the Scotch; do not seem to have the same conscience about it. Always send a man with the women, and a trustworthy man, generally the foreman. For turnip singling and hoeing, and again for topping and tailing, women are employed; it is too expensive to employ men, and you cannot even get women under 1*s.* 3*d.* each. For hoeing, singling, topping, and tailing, women work in a row, one end being taken by the man, the other by a woman known to be a good worker, and the others work between; two rows are allotted to each, and then there is a break of two rows to give elbow-room. Of course some of the women are not such good workers as others; at first they find a difficulty in it, and some have to go away to work for other people who are not so particular. They pull up the turnip with left hand, then hold it, and cut off the tail with one blow, and the turnip with another, and it falls into a line. No very young girls would come out; they begin generally at about 15 or later.

There is a difficulty about keeping good men in the farms even when you have got them; for they can get their 1*l.* a week about the pit-head or as enginemen or firemen; consequently farmers often have to be contented with the older men. Married servants are hired annually, single men and women generally by the half year, and when changes are made new engagements generally take place at hiring fairs. Of course it is very degrading to the women; one does not think of asking for a character, only looking if she is a good working girl. If 100 come to the fair probably no more than 60 really want places; the rest when hired stipulate for this yearly outing.

A grieve or foreman may have a cow kept for him, but very seldom; sometimes in addition to garden, servants have a privilege of planting a few potatoes with the contents of their ash-pits.

18. *Mr. Drew*, Merryton farm, Hamilton.—Farm lies on the heavy clay land. Pasture two or three years, then plough up and plant beans (2), oats (3), and then pasture again (4).

On the lighter soil five-course. Such lots of manure that often break through the rotation. In many cases four-course about here, oats, potatoes, wheat, hay, pasture. Potatoes, as a rule, best paying crop. Not adapted for turnips. Milk about 25 cows; used to have 70 or 80.

Employs a foreman, a shepherd, two ploughmen living in cottages, another married man from Larkhall, and one almost regular from Hamilton. Six married in all; unmarried, four. Youngest would be 20. Married men are generally the best; married men are cheaper. The unmarried live in the kitchen. We give them tea; in mowing time porridge and sweet milk. Give butter or cheese, or ham or bacon, home-made wheaten bread, and tea for breakfast; always breakfast before 6.

They come in to dinner at 12; get broth and butcher meat, mostly beef, and potatoes. At night porridge and milk at 7 o'clock, and tea and bread. Have meals in the kitchen. Women come in after the men. In smaller places masters and all would feed together. Often only one servant in the small farms, and family work together with the servants. Average wages 25*l.* a year for unmarried men; too high in proportion to the married.

Employs two married ploughmen at 18*s.* a week, and free house and coals carted. There are three mines on the land, and we get a good deal of small coal in payment of damages. They get besides half a ton of potatoes. Do not often get butcher's meat. Married men more regular in habits, but glad to get away home. The young men are fond of the work. Foreman has 20*s.* a week and some perquisites. Unmarried men change more, but not change often with me. Sleep in a bothy. Not enough attention in the farms generally to the comfort of the ploughmen.

Three women servants live in the house, of whom one is an assistant in the dairy. Youngest 17. They clean out the cow-house and do the milking; carry out the manure. Live in the house and feed here. Dairymaid has been here 18 years; wages 20*l.* a year. Has a good deal of responsibility; she sells all the milk.

Here the farms not very large, and generally some of the family are about with the servants. Is not so much immorality as men suppose. The bedding is cleaned out when the men are at work. The father of the dairymaid is the foreman. The housekeeper is the daughter of a smith in Larkhall.

Field workers all unmarried. In winter married women do not come out much; not suit them. Go home every day. Just have four now, all unmarried. One comes from Hamilton, three miles; the rest Larkhall. One is daughter of one of the ploughmen; two are Irish. Don't inquire about parentage. Prefer Scotch; more faithful. If kind to Irish hurt them by it; take advantage of you. These four have all been employed some time. Have to speak to the Irish in

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quite a different way from the Scotch, who are more independent.

Most of the hands employed in summer are women. Last year had 70 acres of potatoes and 18 of turnips. Planting potatoes in April. Would have one woman throwing out manure, the next three spreading, and then next three planting. A man follows with the guano and throws it over. Younger girls plant, and the best women spread the manure. Those under 17 or 18 are not of much use. Have to pay all the same. Sometimes a woman leads the horse; generally a man. Men generally fill the cart; a woman may assist.

Turnip sowing about the middle of May. Not so many required, but odd work comes on, and we keep the women on all the same, picking stones, &c., till potato hoeing begins.

Hoeing potatoes end of May. Would have out about 20. All do it with the hoe. A man goes with the horses with the grubber first between the drill to loosen it, and women follow. The turnip singling is done with the hand in this county; go down on their knees. The soil is so very cloddy, if you hoe you may take the plant you want to leave out with the other. The hoe does best in light turnip soil. A great many who come out do not know how to work well, and it is hard to learn to single. Of themselves, one who can use a hoe prefers it. All work in a row, each in her own drill. The foreman goes behind to see they do it properly, and helps those who are not so able. A great many learn on the farm; but give all the same wages. If anxious to learn can learn in a few days.

A good many of the field workers are married; principally miners' wives and daughters. Some are Irish; not as many as used to be. New pits about here, where Scotch are employed. Find the colliers' wives are as good workers. Many of them are labourers' daughters, who make capital shearers. Some of them, weavers from Larkshall, come, and capital shearers they are.

Have four machines, but some heavy crop is let to a man at 25*s.* an acre; he used to be a farm servant, now a collier. His wife came out, and the rest he employed were weavers' wives and daughters, all Scotch; he binding. He paid them 3*s.* 6*d.* a day. He made a bad job of it. Himself and another man at 5*s.* bound. Took five men a day to cut a Scotch acre.

Have a potato digging machine, but sold most of them last year in the ground. It would take 18 people to dig a Scotch acre of potatoes in a day. They dig and gather too. Sometimes down here a man digs with the grape, and a woman gathers. Turnip pulling comes next; done mostly by women. No great employment. Have had eight out; but by that time weather is getting cold, and they are not inclined to come out. Go up the drill when they cut turnips. Two women in one drill. Cart comes up between, and men fill; generally women assist.

Generally employ a man with a gun to scare birds. Have a little boy and girl, children of people on the farm, this year to frighten wild pigeons from the place. Would take it turn about, and go to school at other times.

Women's wages 1*s.* 3*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* in harvest; shearers 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.*; and potato digging 2*s.* Two regular women get 1*s.* 6*d.*, not much worse pay than men.

Till lately a one-roomed cottage was thought enough. My labourers have only two rooms each, but they don't make use of more. But boys and girls, when come to 12 and 14, generally go away to trades, and girls to service to small farms, at perhaps 30*s.* the half year; where they get pay servants become cheaper. Some go to towns. The district is not purely agricultural; so much other work, dress-making, &c.

At dinner only give water, and buttermilk in summer; they don't care for beer. Give whiskey in harvest time. They don't drink much.

19. *Mr. Frame*, Hamilton parish.—Would put as general wages 16*s.* or 17*s.* a week and free house, coal driven, and a bit of a garden. A very extra man gets 1*s.* or 2*s.* extra; have given up to 20*s.* Some of their wives work.

It is principally miners' wives and daughters who do the hoeing; give 14*d.* a day. It is women who do most of the hoeing, and they work in the hay, cut docks and thistles on the lea; and the best hands are employed in the house. Lets his dairy, so only wants one female servant. Has three men in the house; they have their victuals in the house, and sleep in the harness room; the harness room is fit for any one to live in. Have had one married man this last two years; he lives in a double cottage free. He has the whole of it; it is worth 5*l.* or 6*l.* a year. He did not get the whole 1*l.* wages in money; perhaps a load of meal, but it was worth it in money.

Considers married men as far the best; they are steadier, and stay in a place.

20. *James Holmes*, Cornsilloch, Dalserf.—A mixed farm of about 250 acres. Employs six women in summer hoeing potatoes and turnips, weeding, &c. They begin in March and stay till after harvest. All are young, 15 to 30, and some married women whose families are grown up. They are generally children of labourers. Do not like miners' children; they are never contented, and always changing places. Pay 7*s.* a week.

Have one dairymaid and two others working out with the extra hands, doing field work. They spread manure, but very seldom fill cart.

Employ five farm servants and a boy of 15. Two married men share a cottage near at hand. The unmarried men live in the house, and sleep in a small room off the stables. Women live in the house. Both men and women get their board. Men living in the house get 10*l.* to 13*l.* the half year. The married men 14*l.* and their food, and pay 3*l.* for their cottage. Give women 2*s.* a day in harvest; in some places they get 2*s.* 6*d.*

21. *Mr. Robert Forrest*, Dalserf.—Employs about 15 to 20 women in busy times; chiefly labourers' daughters. Easy to get from Rosebank and about here. Does not like miners' wives and daughters; always bad workers. Their husbands get high wages, but they are such bad economists, and that is why they wish to come out. Four-course system on this field, 50 Scotch acres. Potatoes this year, wheat, hay, oats, and divide it pretty well into four equal portions. More tares than turnips.

22. *Mr. Allen*, Cambusnethan parish.—Employs four ploughmen. Only the foreman is married. The ploughmen have meals in the kitchen and sleep in a big room attached to the stable, just a bothy; it contains two double beds, and is cleaned out by a farm servant. Has only one female farm servant; wants no more, as has no dairy. All other hands are taken on extra; sometimes has as many as 25 or 30 employed. If wants extra hands sends up to the pits, and can get lots. They are mostly girls, daughters of miners; but do not like having them too young, not under 16; they are of no use younger. Some young married women come. Some of them also are wives and daughters of holders of two or three acres of orchard along the Clyde, poor people who are very badly off when a bad season comes, and are glad to make it up by a little field-work. Give field-workers 1*s.* 3*d.* a day; often in potato digging 2*s.* There is no want of them; they like to come out in summer, and it is nice healthy work. Can get four for every one one wants.

Have no cottages. Is now obliged to have unmarried men. When a man marries he will often leave field work altogether and take to the mines; he must do so. Lost a man the other day because he married and there was no cottage to give him. It is only on the gentlemen's farms about here that you find any cottages. Do not mind having no cottages. Married men certainly are steadier; but have been very lucky with my unmarried. Give them 30*l.* a year and board and lodging. They can put by 20*l.* in year comfortably. They are much better off than

rried men. It is when they first marry that the ficulties come. Employ no children at all.

23. *R. Dobie*, Garionhaugh, Cambusnethan.—Farms out 85 Scotch acres and orchard besides, 100 imrial acres altogether. Four acres gooseberries, ree apples. Dealers take gooseberries and apples auction. All except these four acres are arable. our-course, as near as we can have it. Would crop acres. Twelve of potatoes, three of turnips; usual is side of the Clyde.

Keep 10 cows. Have 10 acres that I never break on the side of the hill.

Employ two men and a boy for the 12 months, ne married and the other two single. Single men oard in the house, sit in kitchen, and sleep in harness om. Boy gets half a man's wage. Married man *l.* a year, cottage included; 15*s.* a week and a cotge. Man in house 12*l.* 10*s.*, and boy 5*l.* 10*s.* the alf year. When men marry will seldom follow the lough; go off very often to the pits.

Three girls in the house; attend on cows, clean out ow-house, and milk. Live in house. Sleep in house nd live in kitchen.

For six months would employ about six women esides these three. Very seldom extra men; perhaps man now and then. Women miners' wives and aughters, generally about the village. A mixture, ot more married than single. Come from 16 upwards. arely get a miner's son to be an agricultural labourer.

Give women 1*s.* 3*d.* Country people's daughters orth two or three of these people here; cannot be ure of these. Can count on them for a year or two; ut on these people not for any time at all.

For planting the turnips, singling turnips, and hay mploy 12 to 20 women. Like singling with hand etter than hoe, but not so speedy. This sort of rubish here cannot handle the hoe, and by the time you earn them they go. They like the hand best, but would never recommend it for those who can use the oe.

24. *William Muir*, Tannochside, Bothwell parish.—Generally 10 acres of green crop. Dig potatoes ourselves; sometimes let them, but did not do that last season. Do it with plough; quicker, but can only do in dry weather. Employ girls to gather. Some below 14, and some about 20, but at a smaller wage. Give 1*s.* 6*d.* in potato digging, and in other work 1*s.* 3*d.* They come from any public works near; are not particular. Miners' wives and daughters. Employ two women about the dairy with about 15 cows. Two women enough for that, some being dry. They clean out the byres also. The men sleep in the house; in some farms they sleep in a bothy, in some in the stable; it is different in different places.

25. *William Crosse*, Bothwell parish.—Farms 70 acres. Twenty in pasture, which is unusual; rest arable. 12 cows. Keeps one man and one woman; man ploughs; woman manages dairy, and she and the mistress milk. Lets harvest, haymaking, and most such work.

(II.)—AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

I.—Biggar District.

26. Meeting at Biggar:—Present, J. E. Chancellor, Esq., J. Paull, Esq., Biggar, Messrs. Murray, J. Waugh, junior, &c.:

Boys begin farm-work at from 8 to 10 years of age. Begin regular farm-work at about 12; younger boys only during vacation, which is given in harvest time. Does not interfere with school work; go in holidays; would have a few under 10.

There might be girls of 10 or 11 herding cattle; by the Clyde. Girls older than that from 14 upwards, and plenty of them, do field-work.

Women are found in every department of field-work. They work more than men, and in any kind of field-work. Live in the house, and are engaged half-yearly. 1*s.* 3*d.* a day is the wage for women, without food. Near villages, a number get only 1*s.* a day; never get less than 1*s.* Efficient hands living in the house get 4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* Dairymaid 7*l.* or 8*l.* Sorry to say have hiring fairs. They change places as a rule. In harvest wages 2*s.* a day and meat. Reaping, nearly all mowing, no shearing.

Most live in farms. Mr. Murray employs day-workers, but his is a larger farm than most; they come out a mile and a half to work.

In summer the hours of work are 10, and 8 in winter. Those who live in the house, a deal more; their work is never done. From 20 to 50 cows is usual number in a dairy in this district. Mr. Murray has 66. Mixed dairy and arable. Permanent pasture scarce, but a great part of the upper part all pasture.

In the country parishes there are very few who do not read and write; it is not so good in villages. Not above three or four miles to come. Some are kept at home who would come if parents could afford it. The fees are not above 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter; and three children go for the same money as two. When there is a large family the fees come to be pressing.

Would give to married ploughman 24*l.* a year, free cottage, three loads and half a boll of meal, two carts of potatoes, coal driven free, good garden, pint of milk daily, meat in harvest. Single men 22*l.*, and meat, and no tea; butcher meat. Generally sleep in the stable-loft.

Would say generally most labourers are single; Mr. Murray thinks all should be married.

Most cottages have one room and a pantry; the new ones have rather more. Some have a sleeping place, but rare. Worth 2*l.* to 3*l.* a year; a good garden worth 1*l.*, half a rood. The old-fashioned ones have one room only. Some new are being built at Lamington and Culter. The married men have increased a good deal in number. In all new leases cottages have been put up. About 120*l.* is the price of a good cottage. The great expense, Mr. Chancellor says, is the mason's wages; we give 5*s.* a day.

Female servants generally sleep in the kitchen, and sometimes have or have not a sleeping apartment; never in the outhouses.

27. *J. E. Chancellor, Esq.*, Shieldhill, Biggar.—Boys are employed "from 14 years upwards, and "through the whole year. Girls from 14 years or so, "and upwards, partly assisting in dairy, partly in "working in the fields, but they do not consist of above "one-fifth of the female workers." The married women are the principal labourers.

Hours of work "from 7 to 12 and from 1 to 6 in "summer. Fully two hours shorter in winter, except "those employed in dairy-work. There is no ne-"cessity for any restriction either for women or "children."

There are two schools in the parish (Liberton), one at Liberton, and the other at Quothquan. The people take advantage of them, except when hindered by want of means.

"The cottages are thatched, old, and rather small; "not as a rule overcrowded. There is a great deal of "immorality, but not in consequence of overcrowding. "Almost every cottage has a small garden attached "from half rood to a rood in size; no other land."

28. Saturday, Feb. 19:—In the morning Mr. Chancellor took me about the estate. Visited first his married ploughman's cottage; stone and slate. Has two rooms, the kitchen, which in fact is the only room used, and contains two box beds opposite the fire-place; the other room is only a small strip, called the pantry, and used as a store-room. The roof is very high and the kitchen roofed in with board, the pantry open to the roof, and there is a sort of loft over the kitchen, but only under the sloping roof, and with no light except from below. The kitchen floor is of a composition, smooth and clean. The door opens into a square porch or vestibule, the pantry door being opposite, and the kitchen door on the right-hand side Mr. Chancellor said that this is the usual custom, and has one disadvantage in the great want of air, for the window never opens, and the only air in the house is the draft between these two doors and the chimney. The

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people do not appreciate good cottages; though they have such good wages, they will not give more than 2*l.* or 3*l.* for a cottage, and it requires to be a very rich man to afford to build cottages that do not pay. The farmer keeps in repair the cottages that are let to him with his farm; the landlord of course keeps up those that he has in hand. A cottage such as the above cost Mr. Chancellor 40*l.*, but then he has his own stone and timber, and only has to buy his slate and lime, and pay for labour. The slate comes, some from the north, some from Wales. The great expense is the mason's wages; they require 5*s.* or 5*s.* 6*s.* a day. If you have to buy stone and timber the cottage will probably cost twice as much, 120*l.* a pair say. In this stone cottage the ploughman has only two young children; will probable build him another room when the family increases. Most of the new cottages put up now, and let with the new leases, have a third room, a bed-room. It is very necessary, for though most of the children, boys and girls, go out to service soon after 12, they are at home a good deal, say when out of a place or between going from one place to another, and it is no uncommon thing for a boy or girl, when home in that way, to sleep in the room with her parents. When there are two or three boys at home they will often put a bed in the loft, but there is seldom any light there, except what comes up from the pantry. The back of the box bed is often the partition that cuts off the pantry from the kitchen. Most cottages have no privy; if they have it is just a wooden box, but most have to manage as they can, and it is the same even with some of the farm houses. Of course it is very dirty.

Visited next two thatched cottages, built together. Each of these has only one room, besides a byre; the dung heap and ashpit stands within a few yards of the doors. In each of these families were living.

Lastly a cottage attached to one of the farms, and inhabited by a ploughman, his wife and daughter. Went into a vestibule nearly square, the kitchen being to the right. A good sized room with two box beds that shut off with shutters by day. The floor is of stone, much broken, and of course hard to keep clean; the windows do not open. There are rafters across the top, and matting or cloth ceiling, which the present occupant put in himself. They live entirely in this room; there is a strip of a pantry open to the roof, but seems only used as a store room; bits of wood and such things are stored away over the top of the kitchen.

Visited two farms also to see the men's accommodation. Mr. Chancellor's farms are generally about 120 to 130 acres, and each farmer employs two pair of horses and two ploughmen, of whom usually one is married and one is not; but that rule is not often kept to, some preferring them married, some single; and in cases where a man has a family, he will employ his sons and daughters, the former to plough, the latter in the dairy, and use little hired labour at all, except perhaps one girl. They depend for their profits almost entirely on their stock; they will sell the young calves, buy cattle and sheep and fat them, and sell them. They sell milk and cheese, not much butter. All their turnips are consumed on the farm, as well as a good deal of the oats and barley; but they sell a good deal of the oatmeal, and all their potatoes to contractors. Most of the cottagers keep a pig, but they will often sell him, and do not live much on bacon.

Mr. Ritchie has but one unmarried ploughman, who lives in a room over the stable. It is boarded off from the loft, and ascended by a ladder from the stable. There is room for a second bed if necessary. Stuffy, but then the window was kept shut. In the next farm the man employs his sons, but there is a place for ploughmen if necessary, though fallen to ruin. It is a steading much out of order, and just going to be repaired. This sleeping place was made with boards placed along the rafters, under the open thatched roof, and quite open to the stable below. It would be ascended by a ladder, but that was removed now.

29. *John L. Murray, Esq.*, owner and occupier. Heavyside, Biggar.—"The cultivation is almost entirely arable, with a large proportion lying in grass, being wrought mostly under a six years rotation. Large dairies are kept, varying from 20 to 40 cows in each. Boys are not generally employed in farm work under 10 years of age, and more in summer than in winter. Girls are not employed except at corn-weeding and harvest time, and then never under 10 years of age. Women in various ways upon the farm, dairy-maids, byre-women, and out-door workers, and are extensively employed. They seldom travel far, as they are mostly employed on the farms they live on. I would say a mile at most.

"I do not think there is need for any restriction.

"There are three schools in the parish (Biggar), viz., a parish school, a subscription school, and female industrial school, which are all well attended by the agricultural classes, and with few exceptions regularly.

"The cottages are generally good, and sufficient for the labourers required. They are not overcrowded, and I have not seen any evil effects from that cause, the principal source of immorality being the practice of keeping unmarried ploughmen. Gardens are attached to all the cottages, and are generally well kept."

Farms 700 acres in two farms. Average size of farms about here would be about 250 acres. The smallest would be 70 or 80 acres; just enough for a pair of horses.

Would have in summer 70 or 80 hands at work. About 18 now. Of these 11 would be men, all married. Have cottages for all on my farm. All live in cottages.

All the farm is arable except perhaps 30 acres of meadow. All outlying parishes have a good deal of uncultivated land.

Employ three boys; one would be 16, the youngest. Have a girl in the house; would be about 17; and three day workers, who live in the place. One a ploughman's daughter; another his sister-in-law. Paid 1½*d.* an hour; harvest 2½*d.* and meat. Dairy all let to a cowman, a custom gaining ground very quickly; was the first to introduce it. Employs his own hands; two women of his own, who live in his house, and two day's-wagers for milking. Has a house for himself, four apartments, and pays a rent to me. Have cottages for all the 11 men.

All the rest are day's-wage labourers, employed through the summer, women and girls and boys. Weeding corn the first thing, done with the hand. Would have on about 30, the foreman attending; they work in a row. Have seen them come out too young, but sent them home. They come at 10; have had them at 9.

All green crop consist of turnips: about 100 acres. Never so many in thinning. All done with the hoe. None under 16. Potato lifting let generally to a man. Glasgow merchants buy them. They hire a good many of the people I employ, and a good many Irish, and a very bad set of hands; at least Gibson's lot are a bad lot. Half and half, men and women; one gathers, another scrapes. Gibson is one of the largest potato-merchants. Has a decent kind of man as foreman. All the workers are grown up; none are under 15. There would be many young girls. Have seen 60 out. Would be two days with me, and go on to my neighbours. Lasts about a month or six weeks.

30. *John Waugh, Esq.*, occupier and owner, St. John's Kirk, Biggar.—"The cultivation (chiefly arable) "is conducted under a six years' course." Boys are employed "under half-yearly engagements from 14 "years and upwards; during harvest and school va- "cation boys from 10 years upwards." The same remark applies to girls. Usually half the hands employed are women. They are half-yearly servants and board in the farm-house.

They go to work "sometimes a mile, but rarely "half that distance." Their hours of work are

during summer ten hours, and winter eight," same for men. As for children "being engaged in band-making only during harvest, the hours of work depend very much upon the state of the weather being dry or otherwise. Seven hours may be a fair average."

"Their work generally is light, and as a class they are unusually healthy. I am not aware that the employment of females, as practised in this district, is prejudicial to morals. Field work is not a good preparation for the proper discharge of household duties, but on attaining the age of 20 or 21, and sometimes earlier, they are generally transferred to the farm-kitchen, where they acquire a knowledge of household management." Should not recommend any restriction. "Females are well remunerated, boarded in the farm-kitchen, and their work is not oppressive. Deprived of this kind of employment, females would find it necessary to remove to manufacturing districts."

There is a "parochial school (Lymington). Attendance almost universal up to 12 or 14 years of age. When taken from school before this they generally return to their parents and attend school from Martinmas to Whitsunday. I would suggest that children should be educated before going to service; that is, they should be able to read, write, and do some arithmetic. At 6 years they are generally put to school."

The cottages are "partly good and partly indifferent. The new are commodious, the old not so. I am not aware of any case of immorality arising from over-crowding, but there exists inconvenience and discomfort." There is no bothy system, or other system of lodging servants injurious to education or morals. "If unmarried the males board in the farm-kitchen and sleep in a room adjoining the stable; if married they board in their own cottages. Only two rooms and a pantry are used by servants, the additional room, if there is one, remaining unoccupied."

Average value of man's wages, 36*l*. They are paid "yearly, females half-yearly. Males partly in money, and partly in kind; females in money. No cow is allowed; a pig is usually allowed to be kept, and land given, upon which to lay the pig's manure for potatoes, and in addition one or two carts of potatoes are given, and frequently an allowance of milk." Able-bodied labourers extra, paid by the day, receive 2*s*. 6*d*. a day.

A great part of the population of this parish consists of hand-loom weavers, men who support their families by such work, and it can hardly be called an agricultural district.

In this part it is not much the custom to hire women as day workers; but in the spring six months farmers will hire one or two more farm-servants, who will not be re-engaged for the six winter months; and they and the regular hands, dairymaids and all, with the help of a few women from the cottages, labourers' wives, &c., will be sufficient for all the work. Only takes one extra girl in summer himself. Has only one unmarried man, and he a big boy. Employs at busy times two other men besides his ploughmen, at 2*s*. a day, and they work on the roads, &c. at other times. Has four regular female servants; 40 cows.

31. *J. Waugh, jun.*, St. John's Kirk.—Perhaps in this neighbourhood nearly one-half the labourers are married; our own are all married, but that is the exception. Prefer them for this reason, because the unmarried men have their food in the house, and are not so staid. Cottages pretty handy, very often just in connexion with the steading. New houses generally put 200 yards or so distant, and nearly all built with two apartments.

Unmarried men live in the kitchen, and sleep in a room in the stable, and generally a bit fenced off. Not very well provided for in this neighbourhood. The women and men have meals together. We have a room for them, but three times out of four the women live in the kitchen. At 10 the house is cleared and the men go out. Government rather lax in some kitchens, but in best regulated generally cleared then. Just as bad in large farms as small; where a number of young men and women get together of course it is bad; they go out together; but not so bad as bothy system. No real control. No putting out lights. Have made a rule in my farm to clear men servants out at 10. Investigate sometimes, but not often.

Five girls and perhaps as many men milk, but all men assist. One is enough to milk five cows. The girls clean out the cow-house.

The women are not unhealthy; the most robust class you'll find. Girls have a deal of work to do, but are a shorter time in the field. A good deal of extra work which men don't do, such as milking in summer, falls to them, but they have less to do in summer on the whole. Would have perhaps three or four girls employed in a farm of 250 acres, in regular outdoor work. Out-workers and all go to milk at certain hours.

Would only have day's-wagers for two or three weeks now and again. This is mostly the rule of the district. Perhaps widows or cotters' wives where the families are grown up; people who are not wanted at home. Girls always engaged in families, and much better off. Only odd people who come. Don't go to service till 12 in the house; then to farm work at 14. Would not milk before 12; could not do much before 14.

In a farm of 250 acres all would be arable; some have a bit of rough land attached. Six-course system; two white crops, one green, and three pasture; one of the three hay. Potato lifting a new system, but very generally adopted. The usual farm labourers often do it.

Have five cottages ourselves, and get as many as we want from there to single and pull. Let almost wholly to men employed on the place, but not hired servants; do hired work for us, at about 2*s*. 6*d*. wages; usual thing 2*s*. 6*d*. Ploughmen's wives and daughters come out, and are near a village, and get plenty. Weavers' families come out; there are a few handloom weavers and a few sisters, young widows, &c. of the weavers. When we let a cottage, bind the head of the family to do a month's work in harvest, worth 3*l*.; pays no rent. Common thing in agricultural district.

32. *Archibald Stodart*, occupier, Hillhead, Biggar.—Rears stock largely. Only milks seven or eight cows. It is not much good having a dairy unless the farmer's wife or sister is able to superintend it, and that you cannot expect where the farmer is a man who can pay a large rent. There is a good deal of grazing in this parish generally, but it is rather exceptional. Keeps two married men and one single, and a small boy to herd, about 12 years of age. But little herding is done now. Son acts as shepherd. Is very well off for cottages; has more than he wants, and they are let to weavers. Prefers married men to unmarried; they do not charge so much. The unmarried men are very fond of change, and the hiring fairs facilitate it. They are a very bad thing for the country; even his women, who do not change, want to take a holiday at the time of the fair. It does a deal of harm; then only want to meet their young men. Some come home by train, but many stay later, and walk. The farmer cannot ask for character; very often will only get a rude answer if he does. Son went to the fair this time, and hired a girl for the six summer months; generally takes one or two extra women then. The youngest girl employed on the farm is 16. Employs five. A few girls about 10 years of age are employed, tending a few cows.

"Cottages not good; mostly low walls with thatched roofs; sufficient for the labour; conveniently situated. Sometimes rather over-crowded, when children are young; often indifferently ventilated; generally well supplied with water. All have gardens, some very nicely cultivated."

33. *Hugh Lindsay*, occupier, Covington Mains.—Would have 450 Scotch acres, enclosed lands, about 100 acres of heather, just for a run for the young cattle. Six years rotation; the sixth in green crop,

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nearly, and two-sixths white crop. About one-twelfth cut for hay, and the remainder pasture. By the banks of the Clyde; rises from side of river.

Have four ploughmen regularly, all married, live in cottages which belong to the farm. Wages from 22*l.* to 25*l.* in money, and a cottage and garden, 65 stone of meal, and three loads of potatoes, and ashes laid for potatoes, and a month's food in harvest; have two grieves, one married and one single. The married man has the same perquisites, but wages 30*l.*, the one in the house gets 25*l.* and his board. Formerly all used, married and unmarried, to feed in house, but it is altered now —they prefer dining at home. Get butcher meat with us, at home seldom see it. Drink tea three times a day; quiet agricultural district, and no publichouse. The youth is about 18, grooms horses, and works about, carts turnips to cattle, and so on.

Have two dairies, keep one in hand, 15 cows, let the other to a woman; we have a dairymaid at home, and three out-door women who assist in the milking, and have the charge of the whole dairy in winter; in summer dairy-woman would clean it out. Ages from 18 to 24; after that prefer to get into a house or kitchen; get higher wages, the others are all beginners.

At the other farm would have three more girls; have a lot of cottages, and tenants are all bound down to come themselves, or send a member of the family in busy times. The Caledonian railway comes through, and the workpeople are very glad to send a son or daughter to come and work. The regular wages 1*s.* 2*d.*, 2*s.* 3*d.* in harvest without food in either case.

In the green cropping would not have any more; only four or five Scotch acres of turnips, light land, and no facilities for getting manure, as near Glasgow. The odd people, the grieves, boys, &c. help in the singling, have another boy about 14 not mentioned above, works with the cattle feeding, turnips, &c. It would be about five daily-wage women who come out all the summer, one the daughter of a shoe-maker, &c.; it would make eight women altogether; no extra boys except in harvest; use the machine; in some other farms where land irregular the scythe is used; before we got machines, we had to let a good deal of cutting; only two people in our parish have machines; never employ women under 16 or 17. No young boys are of any use unless they can bind to the machine.

No bird-keeping, few plantations; sometimes crows are troublesome, but send out a man with a gun.

Most cottages have just one bedroom and a pantry. When there is a family they would have a bed in the pantry, all box beds. All new cottages put up with an extra room. Ours is an old place.

34. ———, occupier, parish of Liberton.—It is a very bad thing for the country the extinction of the small farmers; an excellent source of labour is being taken away. These men with small holdings, who ploughed themselves, and whose wives managed the few cows, would come out in busy times, and do a day's work for their richer neighbours. There is a great difficulty too in getting servants from country districts, have to get miners' daughters very much now. If you go to the hiring fair at Carnwath on Friday you will find most of the women to be hired from the mining districts; some Irish but mostly Scotch; they are quite useless at first, and have to be taught everything by their employers. A new kind of farmer that comes from the west side of the county is ousting very much the old farmer; an inferior set of men, who live with their labourers, and will pay much higher rents than the ordinary farmer of this country, because they care less for conveniences of life. They will live very cheaply, probably in the kitchen, and not filling half the house, and their families do most of the work, so that little labour is required. They will take farms up to 250 acres. Mr. —— prefers married men; he considers it almost necessary where there are daughters. In this Mr. R—— dissented, and Mr. —— told him to wait till his family grew up and see. Has the five-course system, grows few potatoes, and the gang comes to lift them; they will send down a man from Liverpool, or any place in England where the contractor lives, and get up the hands on the spot, many coming for a few days from the mining district and working at 1*s.* a day. They will lodge in outhouses on the farm, some of them, while the work is being done, but the quantity of potatoes in the district is small, and a day or two generally is sufficient to lift all on each farm. A number of Irishmen will come over from Donegal for the potato lifting and harvest, and live very poorly while here, will put by 5*l.* or 6*l.* to pay their rent, and go home with it in the autumn; the women do not come.

35. *George Patterson*, occupier, Drumaben, Carmichael.—Area of farm 460 acres Scotch, all arable except about 80 acres of heather. Six course rotations, oats twice; 40 acres between turnip and potato, and not five of that potato; too high for mangold; more grazing than cropping. All cattle bred; keep about 30 cows and 20 calves; not a great many dairies in the district as large.

Three married men live in the cottages on the farm, one single young man about 18, and a boy 12 or 13, a herd-boy. Men live in cottages on farm; very bad, and men don't like to come into them, just a kitchen and pantry. Want new; stone and thatched; were all farmhouses once upon a time; farm made out of a good many others, just 60 years ago.

Married men's wages 24*l.* in money, and a cottage and garden, six loads and a half of meal, two carts of potatoes at lifting time; pint of milk a day; money paid half-yearly; young men 7*l.* the half-year and meat, boy 2*l.*; young man and boy both sleep in the stable.

Would have four women employed in winter, and six in summer, all board in the house; all young women from 18 to 30. Milk and keep cow-house clean; dairy-maid makes cheese; two dairy-maids, and a women and a girl in the house. In summer takes two extra women, who milk cows night and morning and work out.

Not many extra hands in summer, perhaps one or two; difficult to get, the folks are all residenters, none bound to provide work. Employs men's wives, if they can get out, often kept at home with children.

Dairy-maid gets 8*l.* in summer, 7*l.* in winter; day workers 5*l.* the half-year; just paid by day 1*s.* 2*d.*; men will thin the turnips and dig potatoes and all that. Can pull turnips fine with eight or nine hands, will do very near two acres a day; light soil some of it,—of all kinds.

If potato field far from home sometimes get a boy of eight or nine to crow-herd.

Reap partly with a machine and partly let, done with scythe; just let it to any labouring man of the place, so much an acre, 10*s.* or 12*s.* an acre; would employ two scythers, and each require a man, a woman, and a boy; cut far more than your own servants; would cut at least an acre a day. The man gives the woman 2*s.* 3*d.*, some perhaps a little more; never let it yet but it was always well done.

36. *Robert Cadzow*, occupier, Thornyhills, Drumaben, Carmichael.—Farms 230 acres Scotch, all arable; 40 acres of white crop, and 30 acres of green crop, 8 to 10 potatoes. Five and twenty milk cows, and about 30 in winter; lately began a few sheep, and dairy reduced.

Employ two men and a boy, and my son over and above, just works as much as any of them. Men, all unmarried, live in house, badly accommodated for that; I prefer married men, but have no conveniences for married men; marriage keeps men at home at night, and they cannot complain of the meat. Keep on a day's-wager or two, would rather have all day's-wagers; get always best days work for a day's wages. Give a day's-wager 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; boy of 16 lives in house; all three, two men and the boy, sleep in the stable loft.

Three women and a lassie employed, all in the house; two women and girl work outside and in the dairy. Lassie would be 15; all unmarried, better if married, if had accommodation; one of them daughter of a carrier, owner of a road waggon; another has neither father nor mother. Would rather have the daughter of an agricultural labourer than of a miner.

mploy extra women in summer, but badly off for , one is a widow, just lives in the neighbourhood. e a woman of 50 working for us, the best we ever on our grounds; have had them up to 60 and 70. e 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, would have three and four out in summer, but cannot get as many as we want; e women would do a Scotch acre in a day. low with scythe, no machine; let out the cutting, 12*s.* the acre Scotch.

7. *Andrew Fleming*, occupier, Calla Farm, Carnh.—Farms about 1,500 acres, breaks about 30 s of lea a year, about 90 acres of crop, three or acres of meadow, the rest pasture and sheepk.

Shepherd receives 16*l.* in money, keep of two cows 10 sheep, free cottage and garden, 10 bolls of meal (grows his own potatoes), coals driven; worth a year at least. Shepherd's place rather the best; e so much responsibility.

Ploughmen, one 26*l.*, other 27*l.*, 6½ bolls of meal, olls of potatoes; coals driven, free cottage (two ms and a pantry or closet) and garden. Both rried, pay 5 per cent. on the cottages; prefer rried men; women sleep in the kitchen; the young sleeps in a closet in a dwelling-house.

In harvest let some reaping to Irish at 8*s.* to 10*s.* acre; all men; they go back home; come here from rwick or Peeblesshire, became harvest is rather later e.

Prefer married servants as steadier and more ready the ground; and where young girls, harm arises m having unmarried servants. Could not be master my own house; but most farmers have young men. erage size of farms, perhaps 200 acres; two oughs, and 25 cows. The smallest in this part would about 135 acres.

Mr. Fleming can recollect a time 25 years ago, en there was no hiring fair. Thought that the mers generally would be in favour of their being ne away with. It is impossible under the present stem to know the character of the servant engaged, d you have to engage irrespective of that.

38. *James Allen*, farmer's son (Carstairs) aged 13.—Lives with his brother, a farmer. Goes out in rvest to make bands; gathers potatoes; works with s hands, picks them up; they are ploughed up st; pulls turnips, works with a hook and cuts them; ts potatoes and weeds turnips. Thinning turnips the hardest work, it is done with a hoe; herds attle sometimes, sometimes helps fill manure cart.

Brother has three men employed; has two ploughs, nd two of the men are ploughmen. Two married, nd live in cottages. Two women servants, neither narried; work in the byre; clean it out, and milk. isters would not do anything about the farm but nilk. In busy times have to get extra hands.

Did not do any farm work till last year.

39. *Samuel Forest*, farmer's son, aged 11 past.—Mother keeps one man and a boy, who live in the house; and two women servants and a girl; have 7 cows in milk. I go and make bands in harvest; have holidays in harvest. Men have dinner at the same time as the family—at a different table. Dairymaids also dine at the same time. Men sleep in the table in a loft over it, and girls in the kitchen.

40. *John Wilson* (age 12), farmer's son.—Father farms 100 acres; I do some work, make bands in harvest. Hoe turnips; set potatoes; help spread manure; pull turnips. Father sometimes lets the potato digging. An older brother, aged about 16, drives the cows; have one brother older, and two younger, and four sisters, all younger.

Father kept one man, but big brother works instead of him now. He can plough; father ploughs himself sometimes; has one pair of horses. Father keeps two women servants, who milk and clean out the byre; has 12 cows in milk.

Father has about four acres of potatoes, about three of turnips. In busy times gets two or three women from Lanark, two or three miles distant. The biggest of us come out too, but would not before 12 years of age.

41. *Thomas Swann*, Colporteur, Biggar.—Potato digging, employs just the riff-raff of the village, just a mixture, men and women, boys and girls. All work together. Would come from 10 years upwards in great numbers, 20 and 30 and 40 up. Foreman just comes in and picks up the people he can, about the end of harvest picks up a few Irish and brings them all round with him. Perhaps 10 will stay in one lodging house; brings a lot of lodgers into the town. Some parents bring out their children, a number of girls amongst them. All work together, men and women, and boys and girls.

Unmarried servants live in the kitchen, and just a bit bed in the stable, just in the loft, two or three slabs laid across, beds there. When fall off bed just fall down into the stable; it is very dangerous. The women servants live in the kitchen, have meals with men, and sleep in kitchen. The men should be out at 10, but at a number of farms they are not particular, as long as they get the work done. Some never go out of the room, bad things go on, have seen employers come and turn men out. Where a godly master and mistress, they keep more to rules. There's no bothies.

Have seen some little girls about 8 sent away to herd cows, mostly at 10 or 12 will go to herd cows, go to live in the house. Saw by Clyde a woman who kept a little girl of 8 belonging to Biggar; her father is a nailer. Nailers are bad for drink, and that is the cause. Drink is the ruin of town labourers. Not out in the country so much, except at a fair. A great deal of tea drunk, can't get milk now, all is sent to large cities. Ploughmen get porridge in the house, and bread and milk. Dinner, broth and butcher meat and milk. Supper, porridge and bread and milk, three meals. Married men poorly fed; far worse off than single, poor creatures. Very little butcher meat. Breakfast, porridge, milk, and perhaps a wee bit cheese. Dinner, butter and cheese, and cake mostly, but more loaves ate now; and supper the same; if they have any potatoes, often make a supper of potatoes and salt.

Cottages chiefly only one room. House really only one piece, the back of the bed makes a wall to the bit pantry, where meal stands. Some very crowded, some have to make a shake-down for the wee children. Children not at home much after 12, except might be unwell, or out of service.

They all change places about every six months, very bad scenes go on at hiring fairs. Oh it's bad! Bad! A great deal of drinking. They quite forget they are servants on Sunday, and go off for the day, ranging about anywhere. Get about with the girls. Don't save much. All money spent, they spend it in clothes; and the girls too, many of them get into debt, and have to spend it in paying debt when the wages comes in. They are better off than any that I know, they get all their meat well, too high fed some of them.

Could not see any abuse in hard work, none of them as hard worked as I was when I was a farm-servant. Used to go off at night to fetch lime, and coals, but railways have stopped all that.

Some of the married ploughmen are hard put to it, those who have children at school. Nearly all do that, but are glad to get them away to work as soon as can read the Bible, and write, and do a little counting. Scarcely ever fell in with a ploughman who had not sent his children to school. The last one, boy or girl, often kept longer at school than others; people are well off then. It was the way in our family, I was the eldest; some send them away to be tailors or shoemakers, but those get some schooling. Would go earliest to a farm-house, perhaps to do messages, some go to call the kine, very little work to do in that.

If there could be anything done with the young men and the girls, that would be the thing, some will have two or three children before they married. Don't marry when child coming. Have to pay or else run off. As soon as woman falls wrong, goes

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II.

home to her parents, leaves child with parents or puts out to nurse, does not go back to same place, but some other. Some farmers inquire into character, others don't. Not much drinking, no public house in country, and can't get easy to the town.

42. *George Brown* (Carstairs), farm servant, aged 15.—Went to service for the first time last May: took care of the pony, and drove milk to the junction. Bound in harvest, hoed turnips, planted potatoes with the hand, spread manure and helped to fill the manure cart. Gathered potatoes, after they were ploughed up. One other boy is employed, aged about 2 or 3 years younger than me. There would be about eight or nine girls employed besides. Setting potatoes is the hardest work, put them down with the hand. Pull turnips. Live at home, and go to work every morning. Come to work at 6, and go home at 7. Meals at farm house, and 3*l.* 10*s.* wages. Breakfast, porridge and milk. Dinner, meat, and sweet milk, and potatoes, and broth. Supper, porridge and milk. No whiskey given. Going to be a tradesman, like that better than farm work.

Father works at the junction. Have two brothers and seven sisters, and one dead. Have one room in the cottage, but are not all at home; only three. Most sisters gone to service; but two are at home. One works in the fields at the same kind of work as me. Don't know how old she is; older than me; about 20. Gets 14*d.* or 15*d.* a day.

43. *Ann Donald*, farm servant.—Went to service first when about 12. Went to an old lady; went to a farm after that; liked the old lady best; had less work, lived in the village.

Lives in the farm house; nurses bairns. Did some work in dairy, not much. Five servants employed besides me, of whom two were girls. I was youngest; went to work in the fields in busy times; just in harvest time; potato setting and potato gathering. Potatoes are ploughed up. Like the outdoor work best, better than indoors. Get 1*l.* 12*s.* the half year, and all food. Never herded cows. Going to stay at school this year, like it better.

Have two brothers, and one sister, younger than me. Father is just a labourer; a ploughman on Mr. W.'s farm; I was in service on Mr. W.'s farm.

44. *Janet Newbigging* (age 11, past), shepherd's child.—Go out sometimes to help father keep sheep; like it; take care of 50. Was at home last year taking care of the sheep for six weeks in the summer. Have two sisters and one brother. Sister aged about 15; is away at service in a farm house.

45. *Shepherd's boy* (age 11, past).—Father is shepherd to Mr. L. Gets 40*l.* a year and a cottage. Have three brothers and three sisters; one brother and one sister older than self; all live in a three roomed cottage; a kitchen and two bedrooms; all the rooms are on the ground-floor. Self and two brothers sleep in one room. Have to come 3½ miles to school.

Have porridge for breakfast. Dinner, potatoes and broth; and meat, beef or mutton. Milk to drink. Supper, porridge, and milk, and tea.

46. *Extract from Circular filled up by Rev. Alex. McLean*, Minister of Carnwath parish (population 3,584; acreage 30,565, cultivation chiefly pastoral, green crops and oats).

I.

"Boys are employed generally in summer in herding, and making bands; for binding up the oats in harvest, on arriving at the age of 12 to 14 years; also many girls are employed in herding, and during harvest. Women employed in outdoor operations, in work such as planting and hoeing potatoes, and singling and hoeing turnips."

"The greatest distance about a mile, generally from the neighbouring villages, and from the homes of labourers on farm, from farm steadings."

Hours of work "from 7 a.m. till noon, when they "generally rest from 1½ to 2 hours." Of men and women the same, "of children their time at work "varies from an hour or two to half a day generally, "except in harvest, when, on account of the variable "climate, it is but seldom that a full day's work is "obtained, and it is a matter of great importance to "them to be so employed, in so far as health is "concerned, as they are well fed, and amply re-"munerated for their services."

Subject to neither "ill-treatment nor physical "injury, but on the contrary their work is most bene-"ficial to their health, and the greater part of them, "with few exceptions, return to their own homes after "their work is done, and those who are a mile or so "distant from home are allowed to leave their work "somewhat earlier, in order to have supper at the farm "house, before leaving for home, as most of them get "their food at the farm house when so employed."

I am not prepared to recommend restrictions so far as hitherto employed in my parish.

II.

This part of schedule does not apply, properly speaking, to such a parish as Carnwath.

"Until children arrive at the age of 12 or 14, they are unfit for agricultural work, and hence no necessity for taking them from school. Ample and convenient means of education are provided in every locality within the parish, for all classes; and for the most part, parents avail themselves of these advantages for their children. What is much wanted is some Government or other aid in the shape of salaries for the teachers in supplement of school fees. Notwithstanding this want, however, all the teachers in parish, numbering nine altogether, with two exceptions, are certificated, of course under Government inspection."

"It is most desirable that children generally should attend school until they arrive at 12 years of age at *least*, keeping in mind there are no manufactories and very little indoor employment for the young in this parish. Sometimes the little boys and girls go out to herd in summer and return to school in winter. Children go to school, where the school is near, at 5, and remain until 12; when the school, however, is distant, they go there at 8 and remain until they are 12 or upwards."

III.

Condition of Cottages, &c.

"Generally speaking the labouring agricultural population reside in the villages, with exception of a few cottages situated on some of the farms. The cottages upon the whole are comfortable, and yearly improving; not overcrowded, and no evil results as far as known to me. No bothy system in Carnwath parish. Unmarried servants are generally fed, and live in the farm houses, the females sleeping in the kitchen, and the males in the stable loft; married farm-servants excepted, who occupy cottages for themselves and families. All have gardens attached to their cottages. Cottage accommodation increasing and improving every year."

17. In some cases the married farm servants are allowed a cow grazed and fed during winter by the farmer, in addition to their garden.

IV.

22. Agricultural labouring classes for the most part send their children to school, and put them to work as soon as they are able for it.

23. Occasionally some of the teachers of schools in the parish have evening classes, which are taken advantage of.

25. Please to state the mode of hiring, &c.—Mode of hiring is at hiring fairs generally, and is very objectionable in a moral point of view, as the labourers (of both sexes) get drunk and dance after the fair is over up to a late hour, and generally a male accompanies a female home to the farmhouse, and spend most of the night in one of the outhouses of the farm steading together. The attention of the Legislature should be especially directed to this, and in my humble opinion all hiring fairs for servants should be abolished,

l in lieu thereof a regular register for the hiring of vants of the agricultural classes should be esta-shed in every parish, or at any rate in some conve-nt and central district. Mode of payment generally money; but in many cases partly in money and tly in kind for men servants, women invariably ng paid in money.

20. A male farm-labourer being unmarried gets m 20*l.* to 24*l.* sterling yearly, with board and lodg-g in the farm house. A female farm-servant gets m 10*l.* to 12*l.* sterling yearly, with board and lodg-gs in ditto. Superior dairymaids get 14*l.* with ditto to in ditto. A married man with his cottage and rden, including all allowances, gets from 40*l.* to *l.* sterling, and in some cases 50*l.* sterling yearly, here they have a charge. I may add that the fami-rities which so often take place between the un-arried servants at the farm houses, and the system flirting and courting pursued by them are morally ost objectionable, and lead to a very considerable nount of illegitimacy; and whatever would tend to unteract the evils thence resulting is most desirable, d would prove most advantageous in every point of ew to the servants themselves, and also to all in-rested in their welfare.

ALEX. H. MCLEAN,
Minister of the
Parish of Carnwath,
Lanarkshire.

Carnwath Mauseley,
Lanark,
4th March, 1870.

47. *Extract from Return filled up by the Rev. Alex. Hunter, M.A.*, acting with the minister of Covington arish by Biggar (population 532, acreage 3,500 in ultivation, 2,000 pasturage, and about 80 in wood. ultivation mixed, but more arable than pastoral; ntelligently carried on, advanced systems being enerally understood and put in practice).—"At about 12 or 14 boys go to farm service, such as herding and working about farms all *throughout the year*. Girls much the same as boys, their employ-ment being more domestic. Women rarely more than during harvest, except hired farm servants. All reside quite near to their work.

5. "Farm out-door work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The only exception is that women are not freed from more domestic farm-work, such as milking and attending to cows, till after 8 p.m.

12. "There is one good school, the parish, afford-ing ample accommodation. The children almost universally are sent to school about the age of 6, and attend very regularly all the year till reaching the age of from 10 to 12. Every parent seems to have the laudable desire to educate his children to the limit of his abilities and circumstances. Children are therefore uniformly kept at school until they begin to work about farms, which unfortunately circumstances cause to be at too early an age. The parish school being under Government inspection, and the children coming now under the provisions of the 'Revised Code,' which (the writer of this has been converted to the earnest belief) is calcu-lated to prove an inestimable boon to the children of country parishes. Any child now remaining steadily at school from the age of 6 till 12 is certain of being trained in after life at least to be able to make good practical use of reading and spelling, writing and arithmetic."

II.—PARISH OF LESMAHAGOW.

48. *James Duff*, factor, to William E. Hope Vere, Esq., Blackwood. (Population of parish, 9,266; acreage, 41,533; cultivation, mixed; one-third of the parish is rough pasture and moorland, in the rest of the parish the dairy produce and rearing of cattle are the main objects of husbandry, and the farmers generally have only one-third of their farms under crop to leave as much grazing land for their cattle as possible.)

1. "Boys are usually hired out to assist about the farms at ages from 12 to 14. There is not much out-door labour in this parish, and except in busy times, such as harvest, &c., boys are seldom employed.

2. "Every farmer hires two or three female ser-vants (whose ages will range from 13 to 25), to attend to the dairy stock and the making of cheese, which is the main source of revenue. They are employed in out-door labour on the farm when required, but not to any great extent.

3. "There is not a great extent of land under cultivation in this parish, and women are only em-ployed at certain seasons of the year, such as the planting and lifting of potatoes, thinning turnips, and harvest time.

4. "There are a good many small villages spread over the parish, and from one to two miles is the greatest distance which any person employed in agri-culture would have to walk.

5. "Ten hours a day in summer, commencing at 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and in winter from daylight till dark.

6. "I think it desirable that boys should not be allowed to work in outdoor labour below 12 years of age.

7. "I do not think it desirable to place any restric-tion on the employment of females in agriculture, except that they should not be allowed to work under 13 years of age.

8. "Schools are very plentiful in this parish, and are well attended by the children of the labouring classes. The fees charged are very moderate.

9. "Generally the cottages in this parish are in pretty good condition, and in sufficient number for the demand. The cottages and villages are conveniently situated in proportion to the work, and are very well kept. They are not overcrowded, and are well sup-plied with water by means of wells, but I cannot say they are well ventilated.

10. "Nearly every occupier of part of a house or cottage has a small piece of land attached for his own use for the growth of kitchen vegetables, &c."

49. *Thomas Murray*, grieve to J. G. M'Kirdy, Esq., Birkwood.—Boys begin work at 12 to 14 years, at herding cattle, gathering stones, cleaning byres. Go to live in farms. A good many labourer's children go to mines, but most part to agriculture; each farm generally takes a small boy. Ploughmen generally unmarried; young men generally about 20 to 24. When marry get labouring work, like draining; a good deal of draining going on now. Some go away to mines; generally those who do not like confinement; get more liberty and higher wages.

Principally dairy district; generally about 100 to 180 acre farms; some smaller, where just a pair of horses kept; some so small two will take a plough between them. In a 100 acre farm would have perhaps one ploughman and a small boy; farmer sometimes takes the plough himself; they work hard the general part of them. A good deal of meadow in this parish, mown every year; depend much more on dairy than on crop, but sell potatoes and oatmeal. A farm of 100 acres would have 16 to 20 cows. The mistress generally takes an active part in cheese making, and has a girl to assist her; a stout woman about 20 and a young girl to attend to the family. Would keep two more for out-door work, unmarried women, who assist in milking, night and morning; the mistress milks, and plenty of the farmers themselves, and if there are daughters they milk.

The out-door women at this season (March) would be gathering stones, and, a little later, filling dung-carts and spreading manure for the sowing; is a great joke with them; then hoeing comes on; always hoe turnips here. Have extra hands out for this and harvest—they would be married women—for a month or two, wives of labourers, miners' wives sometimes, but do not recollect any at present. Daughters of labourers quite ready to come out at 15 or 16 if not got a place. Most go to service however. Day's wage to a woman 14*d.* for 10 hours work. Would be about six or seven out, including two regular women and perhaps the boy; sometimes an extra boy. Would require to be 14 years of age before commencing.

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Harvest generally done by getting in a man, who provides a woman to lift and a girl to bind; man would get 3*s.* 6*d.* per day, woman 2*s.* 6*d.* Machine not much used here; ground not even enough for it. Mostly done by the scythe; very little shearing; some let their harvest. People put more value on potatoes than turnips; they are generally sold in the ground, often to English dealers. For lifting the potatoes will get a hand in the neighbourhood, generally a labourer, whom they pay, and who provides other hands just about the neighbourhood. Have seen in fields where they are extensive 30 or 40, women, boys, and men also; principally women; they get 2*s.* a day for lifting potatoes. Boys will come at 12 years, and little girls of the same age, and are paid in proportion to their work. They can do it as well except as far as lifting the basket is concerned. Just the same as come at other times. Generally plough up the furrow, and a man follows with the grape, and two women or a woman and a boy pick up; they carry their baskets to the cart. Turnip pulling done by day wagers; would be about six out, and the regular out-door women are generally amongst them. One woman pulls turnip, and another cuts it. You would be astonished how quickly they do it; it is a neat piece of work. Four women will do an acre in a day. Work in a row; farmer will come now and then to see how getting on. Few Irish about here work out; mostly Scotch.

A ploughman gets 20*l.* to 24*l.*, food and lodging and washing. Getting more comfortable now, and sleeping in stable going out; sleep now more in a room in the house. Few married, but one at Stockbrigge has 26*l.* and house, and coals carted. Some of the boys are paid 10*s.* to 15*s.* or 1*l.* the half year at starting, just according as of age. Dairymaids get 14*l.*, if can make cheese; out-door 10*l.* a year. They are fond of changing, but some stay two or three years; go to hiring fair. Terrible usages go on at fair; country lads who never see spirits at any other time, and soon get fighting and dragging the young women about. Get milk to drink at home.

I would think field labour not so very nice for women. They get about with the men, and the talking not good; better to work indoors. Generally a better class.

Farm-servants generally thrifty; a wise class of people; fools amongst them of course, but they put by money. Some turn to farmers. A very well-doing man will be able to borrow money of his friends. They will get clear of the debt generally, unless things go against them. A farmer's son who has commenced with his father will often go out as ploughman for another. Some of the farmers are well enough to do, but some badly off. Many of the labourers' wives are ladies to the farmers' wives, who work at all hours to save a woman's wage, if possible. So if a farmer has sons they will generally take the plough and save a ploughman. Have seen a farmer's daughters out at field work, but the better class would not go out. A farmer with sons and daughters will have no hands hired except in a busy time.

50. *Archibald Murdock*, Wellshiels, Lesmahagow.—Farms 270 acres imperial; all arable. From 40 to 50 acres oats, and 30 green crop; depends on size of field much; 10 potatoes, and rest turnips. Sell the potatoes in the ground to a Glasgow man. We plough them up, and he provides hands to lift them. Employs all the people he can get, Irish, and so on. Brings down the same set of people; picks them up just about Lanark and all round. If people of one place please him will bring them all round. Just stay at night where they please; always can get back; generally within four or five miles of home. Mostly women and boys in their teens, some of them less; two for one, what they call; some of them little things of 8 or 9, doing the work of one. Weakens their body and mind; ought to wait till a bit older; would come from 10 to 12. Require to be gay and mischievous to crow-herd; have to keep a boy for it. Came young, but is getting over big for it. Get them at first for their meat and a pair of trousers. Giving now 30*s.* the half-year, but is doing other things now—singling. Above 40 hands came down to the potatoes; cleared nine acres in two days. Mostly Irish.

Keep three women in summer and two in winter, and keep crow-herd on in winter. Have three day-wage women in summer; labourers' wives; all married. Never grudges a week's wage to get work done in season. For singling only use the number I have stated. Done with the hoe; better for plant and ground, and people too.

Reap with own men; an extra hand or two. Done with the scythe; they don't ken how to work with the hook.

Ploughmen live in house; unmarried. The best man has 22*l.* and board; the other 15*l.*, a boy of 18. Live just in the stable, and get away to see the lassies when they like. Have had married men, but just as well served with the young ones. Twenty-five cows. Men come in and have meals in house, with the women and all. Have cottages and let them. Two of the women work for me who live in them. I take them and leave them as I find them, workers or not.

51. *James Greenshields*, West Town, Lesmahagow.—Two men as above, and a young man works on farm in summer, and takes care of farm in winter. Would put 200 acres under rotation. Only 15 acres corn this year, and nine of green crop. Seldom exceed 20 or 22 in corn. Herd-boy attends to cattle; nearly 14. Could not say how much sheep-walk I have—a country side.

One woman works in house, and out in summer. No dairy at all, only a few cows for use of house. Only exception; nearly all dairies. The daughter of one of my men works out in summer. Don't know a single instance of a miner's wife working in our neighbourhood, and am surrounded by them. Not generally good servants.

Not many in parish has same system as Mr. Gillespie and me. System going out very much. They seldom move; get attached to place and master. Have a shepherd aged 80, who never got a day's wage from any but us, and another been with us 45 years.

52. *James Torrens*, farms 125 acres, all of which he breaks up. Five-course system: (1) oats, (2) green crop, (3) oats, (4) hay, (5) pasture. Has about 20 cows in calf. Employs one ploughman, quite enough, and a boy. They sleep in the back-kitchen (seemed very comfortable quarters) in a box bed. Keeps two girls, one about the dairy and one for out-door work. The mistress makes the cheese, and she and two servants milk; are quite enough for it. Does as much of the mowing and harvest as he can with his own people, and lets the rest. For turnip singling and hoeing gets out women from the village at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day; often as many as 8 or 10.

53. *Mr. B.'s* (occupier) ploughman lives over the stable, a bed and sheet being put for him on a few boards laid across to make a floor on the rafters, and it is open to the stable all round. It is ascended by a ladder.

54. *Mr. H.* farms his own land. Has seen at the ploughing to-day 55 ploughs. One farmer is letting his boy only 12 years of age plough. It is only where turnips have been, not lea, and is easier. Father is with him; boy likes doing it. Never saw such a lot of boys all ploughing together.

[N.B. When a new tenant comes all the neighbours assemble, and give him a day's ploughing, locally called "giving a day."]

III.—Parishes of Avondale and Stonehouse.

55. *Thomas Tennent, Esq.*, banker and proprietor, Strathavon.—The parish is chiefly dairy, but there are in it sheep farms up to 3,000 acres higher up. The dairy farms vary from 50 to 150 acres, and are nearly all grass. No wheat grows; some farmers buy corn. The grass will last seven or eight years, and then is ploughed up; a crop of oats is taken off it; then green crop; then oats again. The mistress will make

heese in a small farm. A good dairymaid will 7*l.* or 8*l.* the half-year, and there is generally a lassie of about 12 years of age to assist in the e with the children, &c. All south of Strathavon se is made; north of it butter is carted into gow.

here are a good many Irish drainers here, whose s will work with them. The wife will cut the sod; then the husband digs the pit; the wife ls to him the pipe, which he adjusts, and then she in behind. It is work a woman can do as easy man.

5. *Robert Kyle*, inspector of poor, Strathavon.—re are about 14 or 15 children in the parish put into farm-houses. Clothes are given for some , till the children's wages are good enough to pay. not pay country people to take them. Often at they only go for six months, and come back to be rded out again. People are quite as willing to e pauper children as servants, but generally do not to take them till pretty well fit for some work; go under 12.

7. *Andrew Wilson*, Udston, Stonehouse, occupier. Have five hired servants; youngest about 15, a ; the man above 20. Have another in summer; h married. Don't care much which. Men come m Stonehouse; about one mile distant. Men sleep he kitchen, and go home on Saturday night; not al custom. Most sleep in stable loft. Give .. 12*s.*, board and lodging. Eat at the same table; them cheaper on that account. Boy gets 5*l.* 10*s.* Have two women servants; one in byre and one in ry. The mistress and I milk, and the boy milks, l the man if needed. Have 30 cows. I expect h hand to milk six; some expect them to milk ten. ke cheese; the mistress makes it. We have much re to do than servants. Were servants ourselves. t by money. It is a rare occurrence. My brother t me into the farm and gave me stock. He was a prietor. Was a servant 11 years. Had a large . Had more money then than have as a farmer. opportunities for spending it, except when anging places at the fair; but stayed mostly. Have d as servant 15*l.*, but sometimes as low as 7*l.* the lf-year. Could put by the whole of it if did not ed clothes. Clothes were all I had to buy. Was tter off than employer in some places. Have known e of my men make more money than me.

Farms 160 acres. Grows all kinds of crop. Breaks in rotation. Seven course, but not restricted. on't green crop much; could let it lie all time if ed it in grass. Make nearly all off dairy. Sell eal and corn; grow what turnips we want, and a w potatoes. Had this year three acres in green op; some very good, some not. Would get out xtra women for singling. Would have two singlers, nd own servants help. Whiles none at all, and ngled ourselves. It was very dry, and did not want uch work. Pay them just as can make bargain; ive 1*s.* and meat, and 1*s.* 6*d.* and no meat. Ten ours day's work.

Sell potatoes by bag. Do all digging ourselves; hiles plough, but generally with grape. Pull turnips ith our servants.

58. *Adam Leatham*, Crofthead, Stonehouse.—Would have about 10 acres cropping; two acres turnips; six to eight potatoes. Sell them in the ground y the acre. Sell about five acres to a potato merchant. le gives about 30*s.* an acre to a labourer, who provides hands. My neighbour, however, gets days-wage women, who use the grape. The potato merchant gets them about the villages; some come four miles, back and forward. Don't sleep out. Mostly woman nd a man; man to dig, woman to gather. A few children come. Perhaps a husband, if the wife cannot come, will sometimes bring two children. Some are rish. No women, but get them three or four miles ower down. Near all harvest done with scythes; shearing quite gone out. Not many machines yet.

Have two men and no boys. Not married; have had a married man, but not now. Don't care much which. Men dine with me. Men used to sleep in kitchen, but have now a bit room beside the stables; are nearer the horse. Kitchen system most common. Would employ two girls, one about the dairy, and one for out-door work. Both milk; the mistress milks too. Would milk about 18 cows. General thing is six to each hand. One of the women cleans out the byre. Last year had an extra woman for the six summer months, but she went away. Bad thing to have too many; won't have another this year.

Out-door servant does cleaning byre, threshing, &c. No out-door work till spring of year. Have days-wage people for potato hoeing and singling. From three to six come; all women, or mostly. Easier paid, and do as much at hoeing as a man. No boys. Give from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in hoeing, but in harvest 3*s.*; no food. Would not come below 15 years of age; chiefly girls; mostly labourers' wives and daughters; a few miners.

Ploughman's wages: the present best man was a second-class man, but when last went away was advanced from 10*l.* to 14*l.*, and got a new one at 7*l.* Dairymaid 5*l.* the half-year. They generally like to change, but have had a man for eight years. Two or three years the usual sort of time to stay. Go off to the fair and get hired again. Would be a good thing for masters and servants if registration offices were adopted. Would, however, never hire without asking some few questions, but some will. Can remember when fairs were not nearly so general; been one just started in Lanark. Before had to take servants as could find them, but would stay better. If anything offend them now they just go to the fair and get a new place. Difficult to get them sometimes in spring. In the big places will often take two or three extra for the summer months.

59. *John Fleming*, occupier, Plewland, Avondale (sheep and dairy farm).—Keep about 40 score of sheep, and a dairy of 15 cows. Grow about 12 acres of corn, and three of green crop. Sell none. Have one shepherd. Pay all with money; usual system now. Lives with me in the farm; unmarried. Give him 25*l.* a year, board and lodging. Lives in the house. When there are many servants they live over the stable. Have a ploughman, who has 23*l.* a year, board and washing. Have a separate table, but nearly the same food. Most people have a married shepherd in a cottage out by. I've a small girl in summer time to herd cows, about 9 months, aged from 11 to 14; generally daughter of a labourer; lives in the house. Just goes out with cattle when they go out.

Have two women about the dairy who clean out byre and milk. A sister keeps the house, and milks along with them. The general thing in the county for the mistress to milk and make the cheese. Sister looks after the making the cheese. Keep on all same all summer. Sometimes takes an extra man about mowing. Plant oats, green crop, oats, and then grass. Would have only half-acre green crop; mostly turnips. Just do the hoeing among ourselves; sometimes hoe myself, but the man and woman generally do it; the two would do it in a week.

One dairymaid 6*l.* 10*s.*, and 4*l.* 10*s.* for the other the half-year; little girl 1*l.* to 25*s.* Shepherd has been with me nine years; man five; woman four. Some change much; depends if place suit. All wish to have a day at the fair. Want a day or two when they get their fee, when we can conveniently spare them away.

60. *Alexander Kirkland*, Hairshaw, Avondale, occupier.—A herd would be the youngest boy employed; would say about 12; not many are under. Will come for six months. Lives in farm. Will not get anything but mischief out of them, except herding. Aye a boy forenent the beasts.

Farm 400 acres; would have 200 acres rough stuff.

Ploughman just my brother. Missis makes cheese. Have a servant girl. Just the two clean out the byre and milk. Have 16 cows. Get three more for perhaps a couple of months in summer; rather they

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come for the day, but if live at Strathavon, six miles off, come and stay. Would take one man to mow, woman to gather, lad to bind. Wrong place for machine; all scythe. Three acres of potato ground and turnips. Can manage that with own hands. Will go out singling myself, and brother, and the lassie, and the boy. Sell no potatoes. No weeding wanted; a kind of black ground. Am shepherd myself.

Boy gets just a note and his victuals for the six months. Never was ill off for a boy. Has been two years with me; means to come back in spring, but is rather too old for me now; want a smaller boy.

61. *Andrew Lethgow*, occupier, Glassford.—Have one ploughman, who gets bed, board, and washing; aged about 16; gets 12*l.* the half year. Has dinner and breakfast with me. No two tables except when strangers come. Female servants just the same; have two of them; their work is mostly in house now (March); just one manages the dairy. Would have 16 cows in milk. These two servants milk, and the mistress does as much as either of them. We are in the butter department; butter goes to Glasgow.

Farm 66 Scotch acres; rent 30*s.* an acre. Would have 40 acres lea. Break up so much every year. Grow enough corn and turnips for use of farm. No potatoes. Most women work in house. Generally take all hands for hay and turnip stowing. Generally get a man to cut in harvest, and sometimes a woman or two; don't count much on that. Just take them as get them, married or single. Days-wage women get 1*s.* 3*d.*; in harvest 3*s.* 6*d.* Men cut with scythe; no shearing. This year not an acre of turnips; ground too heavy for it.

III.—SHEEP-FARMING DISTRICT.

Parishes of Douglas, Crawford, and Crawford-John.

62. *Andrew Smith*, Castle Mains, Douglas, factor to the Earl of Home (population, 2,490; acreage, 34,317).—The land in the parish is chiefly pastoral, and cultivation carried on to no extent. I would say not more than 600 acres under crop annually, and those principally in oats.

Cultivation.—In this high district a part of the land under the plough is not put under a regular rotation of cropping, but sown down without a green crop, and when cleaned nothing but turnips and potatoes are grown, the former for supplying the dairy cows, and giving the rams, &c., an *extra bite* at certain seasons.

Employment of Boys.—In this parish few boys are employed except for herding cattle and sheep during summer, and they are never taken for that purpose before the age of 12 or 14 years. I should say not more than 12 *are employed throughout the whole parish*, and when the Martinmas term comes round they generally return to the schools. The wire-fences have become so general that not one half are employed in tending stock that used to be some 20 years ago.

Employment of Girls.—The young girls are taken out to herd cattle, and attend to children about the same age as the boys, viz., 12 or 14. I am safe in saying that *not half a dozen* are employed at the former occupation in the whole parish.

Female Servants.—The female servants are very much in request and difficult to be got; at times the farmers who have dairies require a good many for milking the cows, and attending to them; they at the same time do all sorts of out-door work in the way of making hay, cleaning green crop, &c., but they are little outside in winter, consequently fewer are required, and the servants find situations in towns and villages, and seldom return to the *drudgery* of the *farm*.

Distance to Travel for Work.—No boys or girls go far for work, as they are kept in the house where employed, but upon certain occasions men go a mile or two, but women generally find employment near where they live; very few of the latter are sought after or required in agriculture, except for hay and harvest.

Hours of Labour.—Farm servants have no stated time for working; as the weather is very changeable, they remain within doors in a stormy day, and when the weather is fine they cheerfully work an extra hour or two, especially in busy seasons. Ten hours are considered a day's work for a labourer, and about the same time with farm servants in most cases. The female servants where a dairy is kept have to milk the cows extra to the men servants both night and morning.

Restriction as to Age of Boys employed in Agriculture.—I do not consider any restriction necessary in the employment for boys and girls in agriculture, as they are never abused in this part of Scotland, but always put to work that they are capable of managing.

Female Servants, Restriction of Labour.—From my experience, female servants are *well cared for*, and I see no use in restricting their labour, at least any such who are employed in agriculture, as they are asked to do no work but what is becoming persons in their station.

Cottages for Agricultural Labourers.—Ploughmen and agricultural labourers have generally good cottages with three apartments, kitchen, room, and closet, or pantry, which I consider enough, as young people when they get married have difficulty in furnishing the same, and are apt sometimes not to use the house properly by keeping it untidy, and I have seen potatoes, sticks, &c., in the room.

Cottages and Gardens.—The cottagers generally have good gardens, and in many cases the farmers allow them ground near where they reside to plant potatoes into a field where he may have green crop, with what manure they can raise by keeping a pig, or with the ashes; this is a great *boon* to the *poor man*, and done with little loss to the farmer.

The cottager generally pays the farmer in a way by giving him a day or two at some busy season in lieu of the land he gets.

We have generally plenty of schools for the population, and in this parish we have six schools beside the parish school, and they are well attended.

I.

There are mines in Douglas; the farming is chiefly sheep-farming; some of the farms pay 800*l.* and 900*l.* rent, and possess 2,000 sheep on an acreage of 6,000. There would be in such a farm perhaps only an acre or two of oats and potatoes, close to the house, and a cow or two just for home use; but very many of them buy meal. They depend entirely on their sheep. Would employ three or four shepherds, but now that wire fencing, which is so cheap, has come in, so many hands are not required as formerly. A shepherd will take his wife and children to assist him, and they will work his garden for him, generally a patch of oats or potatoes; or they will go out and help him cut turf, for coal is difficult to get here, but there is no regular woman's work; and the parents seem to wish to send their children to school, taking an interest in it themselves.

There are a great many small farmers about. The people are very thrifty, and a ploughman or grieve will often put by money, marry a girl, and take a small farm. Of course he is a man of no capital, but he will get his old employer to go security for him and buy much of his stock on credit. He will handle the plough himself, and his wife will do the milking perhaps also knitting stockings. They will have no servant except perhaps one woman. As he gets on he will very probably add another small farm, and perhaps become in time a considerable farmer. A man at Blackwood, who had only 13*s.* a week as a woodman, put by enough money to start in farming himself, and has just given up to his son a large farm that he had there, and taken another for himself. The man who is raising himself will be assisted in farming by his sons and daughters as they grow up

if he succeeds well, his sons will be farmers after him, if not, many of them will go out to be ploughmen again.

A farmer as a rule prefers married men, if he has cottages handy, that is within half a mile; but if too far off, he finds they go off home and do not pay proper attention to the horses, hurrying their work over, while an unmarried man, who lives in the harness-room or stable, sees his horses the last thing at night, and gives them their feed directly he gets up. It makes a difference too, if the farmer has a family; in that case he prefers married men. A farm such as is common in this neighbourhood would require three cottages, perhaps two for ploughmen, and the other might be let to a widow with two daughters, who will come out to work in busy time. It is the women who are hard drove; the men will be sitting down to their porridge with all their work done, while the women have to hurry up and milk. Am building cottages now with a bed-room besides the kitchen and pantry; one such put up for Lord Home the other day cost 79*l.* The people do not really care about more; if an extra room, will often store their potatoes and peat in it.

In Lesmahagow parish the farms are generally about 100 acres; many of them are worked entirely by the farmer and his family, the farmer himself handling the plough, and the wife making the cheese; generally there is a female servant in the dairy. They will have perhaps 20 acres of oats, 10 of turnips; but the turnips are all consumed on the land, and they sell little meal, depending mainly on their cheese; the dairy will consist of 12 to 20 cows. They live hard, and will often put by money, and the great ambition is to go to the Lothians. On the other hand the Douglas farmer is a very different man; he will bring up his daughters as ladies, and keep his close carriage. He depends almost entirely on his sheep, but has generally a bit of arable land in the valley, and a few cows. Mr. A—— is an exception, he has about 120 acres annually in green crop or oats, and a large dairy; but he is a different stamp of man from Mr. B——, and has brought up his children differently; the sons handle the plough, and the daughters milk.

63. *Lord Home's Cottage in Douglas*, stone and slate, cost 90*l.* Enter a vestibule with a door right and left; on the left the kitchen with one bed in it, on the right a parlour with two beds in it. Both have a fireplace, and both measure 16 feet by 12. A press opens out of each room behind the porch, each being half the size of the vestibule, and at the back is a small pantry opening out of the kitchen. There is no garret or loft; the pair cost 180*l.*, cheaper of course than two single cottages, and a per-centage of 4½ per cent. is charged on the farmer. Material bought. Mr. Smith says, it is better to sell your own timber and buy what you need for building.

64. *William Temple*, overseer to Sir T. E. Colebrook, Bart., Abington (population of parish 180; cultivation mixed).—Boys are employed at "about "14 years of age in hay-time and harvest." No girls. "From four to five women employed during hay-time "and harvest. All reside in the village, which is 400 "yards from the farm." Hours of work, "from 9 a.m. "to 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner during "day."

"I consider that boys should not be employed before they are 14 years of age; no girls under 14, but know of no other restriction that would be beneficial.

"The parish has a parochial school, and there is also a school in the village, in both of which first class teachers are employed, and both are largely taken advantage of by all. I know of no children who do not receive education in one or other of them.

"The cottages here are most comfortable, and quite sufficient for the requirements of the place. In no case are they overcrowded; well supplied with water from wells in village, have all good gardens."

65. *Sir T. E. Colebrooke's* cottages, Abington.—Built of stone and slate. They are almost the only two-storyed cottages I have seen, and have two rooms upstairs, two rooms and a pantry downstairs. A man (a weaver) wife and two sons and a daughter live in it; but do not occupy the whole, one of the upstair rooms being a carpenter's shop, the other containing two beds; only costs 3*l.* a year.

66. *David Tweedie*, Castle Crawford, Abington, occupier (population of Crawford parish, including Leadhills village, 1,590; acreage 72,000; cultivation, pastoral, but mixed, oats, potatoes, and turnips; cabbages and carrots trifling).

1. "Boys or girls are not employed under 13 years of age; a few are engaged for tending cattle from June to November, and otherwise they are employed for short periods in doing light labour; at sheep handlings or making straps for the sheaves, in harvesting oats, for which they are well renumerated; and this occurs during the time the school is vacated. Herding is quite rare throughout the country now, principally owing to the fences and the general progress of farming. I herded younger myself than any one I ever knew do it. Voluntary to stay away from school."

2. "When girls are engaged, it is more in household duties."

3. Women are employed "chiefly in house duties, "except from June to November, one woman may be "engaged on each farm for outdoor work, and in "turnip cleaning, peat fuel, haymaking, &c., a few "are engaged, at from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* per day, for such "labour from the village and rural cottages. We "have one girl regularly employed in the dairy, cleans "out the byre assisted by a boy; cook and house-"maid, and one in nursery, all assist in milking; extra "one in summer for outdoor work, thinning turnips, "cutting docks, harvest, &c. Sometimes as many "out in summer, boys and women, as a dozen, days-"wagers from the village."

4. "None over one mile."

5. Ten hours is the day's work for all ages, but in sundry cases they are paid by the hour.

6. The comforts of the working people in this parish are excellent.

7. None as far as this parish is concerned, but it is an exception to the general rule. As to training for domestic duties, the agent for the Royal Commission visited with me unexpectedly our parish school yesterday, and we found the master engaged with a senior class, a pupil-teacher with a junior, and his accomplished wife with a form of her own, teaching knitting and sewing, &c. Amend the latter by giving an adjoining room to conduct those duties, and in addition to give them a knowledge of housekeeping for which she should be paid from some direct source.

8. No restriction necessary in this parish.

The Condition of Cottages.

13. In this parish and neighbourhood they may be called excellent. Well roofed, with two rooms with good fire-places, and fixed bedsteads, and a large closet; they are conveniently situated, not overcrowded. The improvement in cottages has taken place within the last 20 years, chiefly by the landlords laying out the money and the tenants paying interest 5 per cent. on his outlay, it has been a period of farming prosperity, and those improvements with others have been spirited. But until landlords are responsible to make all houses and cottages according to a fixed plan for comfort, and let their farms accordingly, it will only be partially done.

14. "The bothy system does not exist."

15. "None: but I may remark that this parish is rather an exception, and the additional house and cottage accommodation has so greatly increased of late that men and women who are unmarried have comfortable rooms quite apart to sleep in, and the new cottages have largely increased the number of married men.

16. "They have all gardens, which supply green vegetables for the family, and aid in keeping the pig to serve as bacon."

Lanarkshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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17. "Where they have not a cow it is customary to give from the farm half a gallon of milk per day, and 4*l.* in lieu of the cow."

"The small farms as a general rule are being absorbed into the larger. The old small farmer cannot afford to pay the price of labour, and the high rents and machinery necessary now, and we are losing a very useful part of the population for agricultural labour, they used to assist a richer neighbour. Recollect a man would come and do a bit of work for my father, and my father would do a bit of ploughing for him, for he would have no plough. But that exchange of labour has gone out."

25. Unmarried servants generally hired at fairs and paid in money, men from 18*l.* to 21*l.* with board and lodging, lads in the same way from 5*l.* to 13*l.* board and lodging. Women from 10*l.* to 16*l.*, girls from 4*l.* to 6*l.*, those are yearly engagements; men employed by the day get 3*s.*, in harvest 4*s.* per day. Women, 1*s.* 3*d.*, in harvest 2*s.* 6*d.*; girls, from 6*d.* to 9*d.* a day. Married able-bodied men get, if paid in money, from 33*l.* to 40*l.*, free house and fuel carted. A practice which is common is to give 18*l.* cash, keep of a cow; liberty to keep a pig, 65 stones of oatmeal, and 16 cwts. potatoes, in some cases an allowance of milk per day is given, and the balance of the value of the cow made up in cash. With ploughmen most usual money and not cow.

Shepherd at Castle of Crawford has the keep of 40 sheep, 6*l.* and a pint of milk daily (a pint = half a gallon) in place of the keep of a cow; five bushels of potatoes, planted and manured; 65 stones of meal, a free cottage and garden, and pig-house.

Shepherd at Elvanfoot a very fair average, 30*l.* a year (most people pay in money now, it was his own desire to have money); keep for a cow; five bushels of potatoes planted and manured, and 65 stones of meal; free house and garden; and then three bushels of potatoes, and 10 stones of meal extra for maintaining assistance he requires at handlings.

An assistant shepherd lives with him, aged 17, to whom he gives board and lodging; for which he is allowed the keep of another cow; 4 cwt. of potatoes, and 65 stones of meal. Gets 12*l.* now, in three years will have 21*l.*

67. *Mr. James Gillespie*, Gateside, Douglas.—Two men employed; one a regular ploughman, the other sometimes ploughs, takes care of garden. Both married, live in cottages. Average 40*l.* a year, pay half-yearly, cottage and garden free. Get 36*l.* in money, other perquisites, land for potatoes, coals carted free. A boy under 18 lives in the house; sleeps in harness room, food in house.

Women one through all year for cattle and outdoor work: a girl. Perhaps three for three months extra. turnip, potato, and harvest work. All sorts; people from the village, sometimes married, sometimes single, sometimes weavers, sometimes labourers; take then 18 to 45. Would have 136 acres arable Scotch; would have 32 acres of corn nearly; 14 acres green crop, rest hay and grass; five course; 2,000 to 3,000 sheep.

Three married shepherds, who all keep a boy; get so much wages, and keep a boy. They have the feed of 40 to 50 sheep; I feed them, they go with my sheep, and they have the produce. From one to two cows, same system; I feed, and they have produce. They have quarter to half acre of potato ground; 60 to 80 stones of meal; allowed to cut their own peat. Wage varies, 40*l.* to 70*l.*; average, 55*l.*; they have to keep a boy out of it; from 12 to 20. Generally his son, sometimes not; they have a capital house given in.

68. *Shepherd to David Tweedie*, Castle of Crawford.—Has had as high as 48*l.* a year, and as low as 23*l.* as the produce of his 40 sheep. Wages, 40 sheep, 5*l.* and a pint of milk a day instead of the keep of a cow; six bolls and five stone of meal; five bushels of potatoes planted; free cottage; coals driven. Keep sheep with the rest of the flock. It is not so customary as it was to pay thus, like it fully as well as money.

Began at 15, did bits of jobs before that. Belong to Mid Lothian. Was in the same place as father, and stoppit with him. Came here eight years agin Whitsunday; not married, live in farmhouse.

Herding has gone out, because the fencing has come in so much. Children used to be taken to keep sheep off a corner; a boy or girl about 12 years of age, but scarcely such a thing now.

69. *Mr. Tweedie's Cottages at Castle of Crawford.*—Mr. Tweedie showed me a cottage just put up for him by Sir E. Colebrooke; only one story.

Enter a vestibule, and at the back of it is a pantry; on the right go into a kitchen, and beyond the kitchen is a bed-room, containing two box-beds. All the material is bought; they are put up at a cost of 90*l.*, and Mr. Tweedie pays 4½ per cent. on them. Built of stone and slate.

APPENDIX II.

LABOUR RETURNS FILLED IN BY OCCUPIERS OF LAND.

I.—Glasgow District.

1. Home farm, Tannochside:—Nature of soil, heavy. Course of husbandry, good deal in permanent pasture, remainder in five-course rotation.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	1	3	4
„ Summer	—	—	—	1	3	4
„ Autumn	—	—	—	1	3 or 4	5
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	3	4

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
„ Summer	—	—	—	2 or 3	—	8 or 10	12
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

2. County, Lanark. Parish, Barony. Name of occupier, John Wilson, Glenduffhill Farm. Nature of soil, good dry field soil. Extent of Farm, 115 Scots acres arable.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring - -	—	—	1	—	5	6
In Summer, and including harvest time.	—	—	1	—	5	6
In Autumn, and including potato digging time.	—	—	1	—	5	6
In Winter - -	—	—	1	—	4	5

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring - -	—	—	—	—	5	5	10
In Summer, and including harvest time.	—	—	—	—	8	8	16
In Autumn, and including potato digging time.	—	—	—	—	30 to 40, say 35		
In Winter - -	—	—	—	—	4	—	4

3. County, Lanark. Parish, Old Monkland. Name of occupier, John Hendrie. Nature of soil, heavy Extent of Farm, 250 acres arable, 35 acres pasture.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	5	5
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	6	6

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	5	5	10
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	8	5	13
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	16	7	23
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	3	5	8

4. County, Lanark. Parish, Old Monkland. Name of occupier, Thomas Scott. Nature of soil, mostly light. Extent of farm, 220 acres arable. In four-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	5	5
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	9	9
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	5	5

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	16	5	23
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	22	8	30
„ Autumn	—	—	—	3	65	15	83
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	6	2	8

5. County, Lanark. Parish, Cawdor. Name of occupier, James Scott. Nature of soil, dry field soil. Extent of farm, 400 acres arable. In six-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	11	13
„ Summer	—	—	—	2	9	11
„ Autumn	—	—	—	4	18	22
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	9	10

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	13	7	22
„ Summer	—	—	—	3	16	8	27
„ Autumn	—	—	—	6	40	20	66
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	5	3	9

6. County, Lanark. Parish, Rutherglen. Name of occupier, John Wallace. Nature of soil, medium. Extent of farm, 200 acres arable. In four-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	8	10
„ Summer	—	—	—	2	5	7
„ Autumn	—	—	—	3	8	11
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	5	6

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	12	—	12
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	25	—	25
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	40	—	40
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	30	—	30

II.—HAMILTON DISTRICT.

7. Allerton farm, Hamilton:—J. C. Forrest. Nature of soil, various; holm land, clay soil, light sandy soil. Extent of farm to which the returns apply, 330 acres arable, 20 acres pasture. Course of husbandry, the five or six shifts.

Lanarkshire.

Mr. Boyle

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Labourers employed.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	1	—	5	6
„ Summer	—	—	1	—	5	6
„ Autumn	—	—	1	—	8	9
„ Winter -	—	—	1	—	4	5

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
„ Summer	—	—	—	5	3	7	15
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	3	17	20
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	1	2	3

8. County of Lanark. Parish of Dalziel. Name of occupier, John Watson. Nature of soil, clay. Extent of farm, 180 acres arable. In five-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	4	4
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	4	4
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	6	6
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	4	4

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	1	3	6
„ Summer	—	—	—	2	1	3	6
„ Autumn	—	—	—	2	8	4	14
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	—	4	4

9. County, Lanark. Parish, Dalziel. Name of occupier, William Smellie. Nature of soil, clay. Extent of farm, 130 acres ; 125 acres arable, 5 acres pasture. In six-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	1	1	2
„ Summer	—	—	—	1	2	3
„ Autumn	—	—	—	1	3	4
„ Winter -	—	—	1	1	1	2

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

10. County, Lanark. Parish, Dalserf. Name of occupier, James Holmes. Nature of soil, stiff clay soil. Extent of farm, Cornsilloch, 250 acres arable, 177 acres pasture.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	1	—	1	4	6
„ Summer	—	1	—	1	3	5
„ Autumn	—	1	—	1	4	6
„ Winter -	—	1	—	1	5	7

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

11. Home farm. Mauldslie castle :—Nature of soil, stiff clay. Extent of farm to which the returns apply, 100 acres arable, 120 acres pasture. Course of husbandry, five shift.

Labourers employed.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	2	9	11
„ Summer	—	—	—	2	9	11
„ Autumn	—	—	—	2	9	11
„ Winter -	—	—	—	2	9	11

—	Females. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	—	—	—	1	—	6	7
„ Summer	—	—	—	2	—	13	15
„ Autumn	—	—	—	2	—	13	15
„ Winter -	—	—	—	2	—	6	8

III.—BIGGAR DISTRICT.

12. County of Lanark. Parish of Liberton. Name of occupier, J. G. Chancellor, Esq. Nature of soil, medium. Extent of farm, 180 acres arable, 20 acres pasture. In four-course husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males. Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	5	5
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	5	5
„ Autumn	—	—	2	—	5	7
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	5	5

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring -	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
„ Summer	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
„ Autumn	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	—	4	5

13. *J. Waugh*, St. John's Kirk.—Nature of soil, turnip soil. Extent of farm to which the returns apply, 300 acres arable, 100 acres pasture. Course of husbandry, 10 years.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	1	3	4
„ Summer	—	—	—	1	3	4
„ Autumn	—	—	4	1	8	13
„ Winter -	—	—	—	1	3	4

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
„ Summer	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
„ Autumn	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
„ Winter -	—	—	—	—	—	4	4

14. County, Lanark. Parish, Biggar. Name of occupier John L. Murray, Heavyside, &c. Nature of soil, free and light. Extent of farm, 640 acres arable, 30 acres pasture, permanent. In six and eight-course of husbandry.

NUMBER and AGE of PERSONS employed on FARM.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring -	—	—	—	3	11	14
„ Summer	—	—	8 occasional.	10 occasional.	11	29
„ Autumn	—	—	4 harvest	6 harvest	11	25
„ Winter -	—	—	—	3	11	14

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring -	—	—	—	—	2	5	7
„ Summer	—	—	6	8	3	6	23
„ Autumn	—	—	5	6	2	4	17
„ Winter -	—	—	—	2	2	2	6

15. *Andrew Fleming*, Calla Farm, Carnwath.—Nature of soil, light, suited for turnips and oats, &c. Extent of farm to which the returns apply, 120 acres arable, 1,380 acres pasture. Course of husbandry. Oats, turnips, and potatoes, oats again.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring, potato planting, and sowing turnips.	—	—	—	1	5	6
In Summer, harvest.	—	—	1	1	7	9
In Autumn, potato digging, and turnip pulling.	Just the same as in harvest; whiles one more and one less.					
In Winter -	—	—	—	1	4	5

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.		Total Females.
					Married.	Unmarried.	
In Spring, potato planting, and sowing turnips.	—	—	—	1	—	5	6
In Summer, harvest.	—	—	—	3	1	5	9
In Autumn, potato digging, and turnip pulling.	Just the same as in harvest; whiles one more and one less.						
In Winter -	—	—	—	1	—	3	4

APPENDIX III.

EVIDENCE OF SCHOOLMASTERS AND STATISTICS CONNECTED WITH SCHOOLS IN LANARKSHIRE.

1. LETTER to REV. A. H. McLEAN, FREE SCHOOL, CARNWATH.

DEAR SIR,

THE following are the numbers requisite to filling up question 21 of the accompanying circular, so far as I understand it. The meaning I have put upon it is this, that only such children as *earn wages* are to be included (No. 20), thereby excluding farmers' children. And, again, there are parents, not themselves engaged in agricultural labour, who yet have children so employed; these latter children I have included. The return is correct so far as I am aware, and my personal association and knowledge of the locality leads me to speak more positively than a stranger might do.

I am, &c.

P. GIRDWOOD.

In Summer.

In average Attendance.								
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		
Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	
25	18	13	16	20·4	13·7	11·2	12·3	
43		29		34·1		23·5		

Lanarkshire.

Mr. Boyle.

u.

In Winter.

Average Attendance.

Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
30	27	15	17	28	25	11·6	14·8
57		32		53		26·4	

CARNWATH PARISH SCHOOL.

Trade of Parents.	Boys.				Girls.				Grand Total.
	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Over 13.	Total.	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Over 13.	Total.	
Farmers - -	5	1	1	7	1	1	—	2	9
Tradesmen -	8	2	1	11	8	10	1	19	30
Agricultural labourers.	9	9	2	20	8	6	—	14	34
Railway labourers.	5	1	—	6	2	1	—	3	9
Masons - -	5	2	—	7	2	3	1	6	13
Dairymen -	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	3
Road-workers -	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Slaters - -	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2
Police - -	2	1	—	3	—	2	—	2	5
Total - -	37	18	4	59	21	25	2	48	107

First two standards in Carnwath Parish School exhibiting the trade or occupation of the parent of each child in each.

1st Class.

Girls, average Age, 12¾.	Boys, average Age, 13½.
1. Tailor and clothier.	1. Carpenter.
2. Shopkeeper.	2. Policeman.
3. Tailor.	
4. Policeman.	
5. Tailor.	

2nd Class.

Girls, average Age, 11¾.	Boys, average Age, 12¾.
1. Mason.	1. Labourer.
2. Shoemaker.	2. Mason.
3. Labourer.	3. ,,
4. Shoemaker.	4. Dairyman.
5. Cooper's grandchild.	5. Miller.
	6. Farmer.
6. Shoemaker.	7. Draper.
7. Farmer.	8. Labourer.

French.—A class of 4 (1 girl and 3 boys) reading Fénélon's Télémaque.
German.—One boy reading Schiller's Revolt of the Netherlands.
Latin.—A class of 6 boys and 1 girl (same girl as doing French) all in grammar. Had till lately 3 girls reading Cæsar, but they have left.

Comparative regularity of attendance of children of parents of various occupations in the parish school at Carnwath. Out of 450 attendances possible in the year all above 370 have been selected.

Occupation of Parent.	Boys.	Girls.
Tradesman -	430, 421, 408, 433, 426, 416.	393, 412, 433 (pauper), 434, 426, 434, 428.
Farmer - -	390, 384 - - -	392.
Miller - -	419, 423 (brothers).	
Agricultural labourer.	379, 410 (one the child of a ploughman, the other of an odd labourer).	406 (pauper), 411, 397 (pauper), 405.
Railway labourer.	400.	
Dairyman -	387 - - -	387.
Mason - -	400, 383 - - -	421, 399.
Drainer and road-mender.	390.	
Slater - -	406.	

N.B.—It will be seen from a previous table that the number of tradesmen's children on the roll is 30, of whom 13 have exceeded 370 attendances, whereas the number of agricultural labourers' children is 34, of whom only six have exceeded 370 attendances.

Manner in which the nine schools in Carnwath parish are supported, from statistics kindly supplied by Rev. A. Maclean.

School.	Number of Children on Roll.	Average Age of Children.	Average Attendance.	Manner in which School supported.
Auchingray assembly school (agricultural).	48	9	40	School fees about 18*l.* General assembly and grant 15*l.* Gas and coal given. Master not certificated.
Haywood (gas-coal work's school).	110	8	95	Emoluments about 50*l.* arising from fees kept from parents wages at the works. Teacher's wife teaches sewing. School too small, but new one to be built.
Braehead subscription school (agricultural).	130	8	95	Annual value of fees about 50*l.* Expects Ferguson bequest this year. Certificated teacher of the Established Church. There is a pupil-teacher. Sewing taught by master's sister.
Newbigging subscription school (agricultural).	40	7	30	Annual fees 15*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* Teacher 2nd class certificate, value 11*l.* annual. Collection for school, 5*l.* Ferguson bequest, 5*l.* Female teacher of the Established Church.
Cameena adventure school (agricultural).	63	9	50	Annual value of fees about 35*l.*, out of which teacher pays for schoolroom, school, and provides fire. Belongs to the U. P. church. School and furniture good.
Parish school (agricultural and village).	—	—	—	Teacher, 1st class certificate 20*l.* and fees. Master's sister teaches sewing free, and there is a pupil-teacher. Teacher belongs to Established Church.
Forth subscription school (mining).	115	9	92	Teacher belongs to Established Church. Certificate of 2nd class, 11*l.* Ferguson bequest, 10*l.* From school management 5*l.* annually, raised by subscription. Annual value of fees 50*l.* Sister of master teaches sewing free.
Wilsontown (public works).	—	—	—	Teacher of Established Church, has certificate of 2nd class. School fees about 90*l.*, but includes a fixed salary of 60*l.* The master's wife teaches sewing and knitting, 1½ hours daily, but receives no fees. There is a pupil-teacher.
Free school, subscription (agricultural and village).	70	—	65	

2. Mr. Somerville, schoolmaster at Carstairs.—Besides parish school there is a Roman Catholic school and the Railway Junction school; also a school about a mile from here, chiefly girls, where needlework is taught. Have no assistant here, so do not teach needlework, and some of the girls leave earlier on that account. There is no other school in the parish, but some on the northern border go to the mining schools in the next parish. There is no rule as to attendance of farmers' or tradesmen's children being better than labourers; all attend equally well, and all absences, including illness, would average 10 per cent. Three had whooping-cough in the school

lately. Prefer the mixed school; never see any harm come from it, and it stirs emulation; the boys do not like to be beaten by the girls. The best pupil is a boy, son of a potato-merchant, the next two best are also boys. In the first class in all there are 10, four boys and six girls. They take places, and in this the boys will work hard not to be beaten by the girls. The position of each is taken down at the end of the lesson, and a medal given to the best in all the classes except the highest, which is taken home, brought next day, and again competed for. Have three boys doing Latin; one has begun Cæsar; and a girl and a boy doing French. No history is taught, wishes it could be, but there is a difficulty about books, which are expensive; in the advanced mathematics lends the pupils a book of his own. Three boys have got up to simple equations, and have been through the first book of Euclid; geography is taught. Seldom has occasion for any punishment; uses a light cane on the hand; sometimes to the girls. One big girl, aged 14, who deserved it the other day, he made write out her French lesson instead; but does not often give such a punishment. There is a field left to pay for the education of some poor children. Local paupers are not paid for by the parish; any children whose parents are so poor they cannot afford to pay he will take himself sooner than that they should not come at all. The poor of the parish are entirely supported by voluntary contributions. Cannot think of any child in the parish who does not go to some school.

CARSTAIRS SCHOOL.

Occupation of Parents.	Boys.			Girls.			Grand Total.
	Below 12.	Above 12.	Total.	Below 12.	Above 12.	Total.	
Farmer - - -	7	2	9	3	1	4	13
Agricultural labourer -	1	—	1	1	1	2	3
Railway labourer -	8	1	9	5	—	5	14
Shopkeeper - -	2	2	4	3	—	3	7
Other trades - -	4	2	6	7	—	7	13
Potato merchant - -	3	1	4	1	—	1	5
	25	8	33	20	2	22	55

Two girls in the school, aged 12 and 14 respectively, were away last summer at farm service. A boy of 15, now in the school, has also been at farm service. He is the oldest boy but one, who is the son of a joiner. The youngest is aged 5.

3. *Mr. Phyn*, keeps the parish school of Liberton.—Has 67 children on the books, and passed 57 for the Government examination. The only other school in the parish is the subscription school close to Shield hill, where there are about 50 children. There is not a child in the parish who does not come to school more or less, and all the people can read, write, and count. No child is admitted under six years of age; does not approve of making a nursery of it; calculates one in eight the proper proportion of children in school to population. The population of Liberton is 800 to 900. Does not remark any difference in regularity of school attendance between summer and winter. The boys are, as a rule, more regular than the girls, many of the girls being kept at home by their parents to look after children, not only by the parents who go out to work but by those, too, who do not. Of the children those of day-workers are, as a rule, more regular than ploughmen's children. All children come, tradesmen, farmers, even children of the minister, and sometimes of a landed proprietor. Few stay later than 12 or 13, and by that time can read, write, and count well. Those that stay later, who are seldom labourers' children (one child of a gamekeeper, one of a gardener, and generally of farmers), will learn history, geography, English grammar, and Latin. Has one boy reading Latin; he has done three books of Virgil and some Cæsar. He is a farmer's son. The fees are from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*, but there is a small endowment just come into operation, and some of the children come free of expense, but those are always the most irregular. The parents do not feel that there is any money thrown away if the child does not come to school.

All provide the necessary books. Mr. Phyn gets them wholesale and distributes them to the children. Has never had any difficulty with the parents about a book; when he sends in his quarterly account he charges for it. Sometimes has had a book returned, but not because the parents did not approve, only because some older child in the family had it already, and it was unnecessary to get a new one. When a boy gets into higher work the books are more expensive, but in that case the parents take an interest in his work by that time, and are ready enough to let him have the books. Those used by the boy in Latin have cost 2*l.* Reckons the needlework a great evil, the girls being taken away for a part of the time every day. It is difficult to keep them up in their other work with the boys; has no assistance. Has never any difficulty about getting lessons prepared at home; certainly many of the cottages are very crowded, and the children might have a difficulty in getting them done; but never allow an excuse of that kind. They can always manage to prepare them on the way, or come to school a little early and prepare them there, or even copy from some other child, which is better than not doing them at all. Has pretty good authority over the children; uses a leather not a cane. Uses it on girls and boys alike; has to do so, or they would think it favouring; of course can make a difference in how he applies it. In some of their work the children take places, but does not like to carry it too far. The children who do not succeed well get disheartened, and very often there are jealousies, and some think they are not so well treated as others.

LETTER from ALEX. PHYN, Schoolmaster, Liberton.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your note of February 28th. In regard to the statements you make concerning this school, I beg to make the following explanation:—

Sewing I consider a very useful and necessary branch of education, but situated as I am in a small school like this it interferes materially with the progress of the girls in other branches, and since they must pass the same examination before the Government Inspector as the boys, it renders my work double in some things, and it was therefore on that ground that I object to it *here*.

Punishment.—In regard to punishing boys and girls indiscriminately, you are so far right, but I trust it is not understood that for every transgression of discipline or neglect of lessons the tawse is brought into operation. It is only when other means of suasion fail that I have recourse to corporal punishment. My idea of it is that he who uses the tawse least uses it best.

Copying.—In regard to that, of course I meant, when I spoke of it to you, that I do not countenance such a way of performing exercises, but knowing the propensity of scholars, I *presume* that is often done, but even that is better than not doing the exercise at all.

Compulsory attendance.—I should very much like to see that a part of any future Education Act.

I am, &c.

ALEXANDER PHYN,
Schoolmaster of Liberton.

4. *Mr. Murray*, schoolmaster, Crawford.—All regular; no class more regular than another; sometimes have not had a single absentee. Longest distance some will come, seven miles; but attendance is better in winter. Go to attend at lambing, &c. There are few farmers resident, and they all employ

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Mr. Boyle.

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shepherds. Mr. Tweedie almost the only resident within reach of the school.

Have now three children boarding in the village; two children of shepherds and one of a publican. Have had more than that; have had eight at a time.

Weather makes a great difference in attendance, but village children very regular; chiefly labourers. Shepherds' boys are fully equal to any others; superior to usual run of labourers, and so are the fathers. There is no one in the parish uneducated. Where any defect in that way a farmer will remedy it. Mr. Paterson, about nine miles from this, boards a schoolmaster and has a school, at which attend about 15 children; his own and those of two shepherds. Rather more a tutor to his children.

Some of the bigger boys come and take a winter schooling, and go away in the summer; have three at present.

CRAWFORD PARISH SCHOOL.

Occupation of Parents.	Boys.				Girls.				Grand Total.
	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Above 13.	Total.	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Above 13.	Total.	
Farmer - -	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Crofter - -	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	3
Agricultural labourer.	1	2	1	4	3	1	1	5	9
Shepherd -	4	8	4	16	2	2	—	4	20
Slater - -	1	—	1	2	1	2	—	3	5
Tradesman -	—	2	1	3	3	1	—	4	7
Railway labourer.	2	1	3	6	4	2	—	6	12
Publican -	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Schoolmaster -	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
	12	15	10	37	14	9	1	24	61

5. Side schools in the parish of Crawford; number of children attending each, and the manner in which the schools are supported; from statistics kindly furnished by Mr. D. Tweedie, Castle of Crawford.

1. *Grain.*—About 12 scholars. The lad or female who keeps it lives alternately with the parents of children in the school. Four families, all shepherds, have children in the school. Has a capital room built by Sir E. Colebrooke. He gets 1*s.* a month from each child; and the subscriptions from proprietors and tenants amount to 10*l.* One gentleman gave a globe. The principal tenant up there gives 2*l.*; the rest given by proprietors. Distant from Crawford $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

2. *Elvanfoot.*—About 20 children, all and sundry, labourers, farmers, and railway people. The schoolmaster has a house and school, chiefly provided from the Ferguson bequest, from which gets at least 10*l.*, and perhaps 5*l.* from voluntary bequests and fees.

3. *Little Clyde.*—Average attendance 15. Lord Home gives 5*l.*, and other 5*l.* made up by the tenantry. Mostly children of labourers and shepherds. Only one farm, and no children there. A school-house and cottage, not built for a school, but Lord Home gave it for the purpose.

4. *Horn Cleugh.*—A farmer keeps a cottage for the purpose, and the man boards and lodges with him. The neighbouring shepherds are allowed to send their children, paying the ordinary fees. Has a sharp lad of his own choosing. Gets about 15*l.* a year. Fifteen scholars. The farmer has a lot of boys; were they girls would probably keep a governess.

5. *Sweetshaw.*—My uncle has 12; perhaps one or two more. All shepherds' children. He lives six miles off himself, and used to keep a tutor. Just a room in one of the shepherd's houses, and boards with them alternately. Board and lodging free amongst the shepherds. Only lasts eight months. 2*l.* a year from the tenant, and the current fees from the children. Best teacher he ever had.

In Crawford parish are few resident tenants, and most that are employ tutors or governesses, or board their children away.

6. LETTER FROM D. TWEEDIE, CASTLE CRAWFORD.

Castle Farm, Crawford, Abington, N.B.,
8th March 1870.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request I frankly report to you the substance of my remarks to you upon the subject of supplying a better education to the children in scattered districts.

I have long been impressed with the necessity for some special modification on any educational measure so as to render it more applicable to the thinly populated and scattered parishes throughout the pastoral districts of Scotland. From the great distances, frequently 9 to 12 miles, which intervene between the parish schools of such districts, and the farmers' and shepherds' houses in remote glens, it is physically impossible for children to travel to the parish school at any season of the year. In order, as far as possible, to supply the want of education in places at too great a distance from the parish school, it is common, wherever from 10 to 15 children can be collected, to set apart a room in some shepherd's house for a school, and to engage a young man as teacher at a small salary, which is contributed by the few farmers or others benefited. This, in addition to the small sum raised from fees and board among the shepherds alternately, forms the income of the teacher. As a natural consequence, such an one cannot be expected to have received any training to fit him for the proper discharge of the duties of a teacher, but is in many instances compelled to accept such a situation because of some physical defect which unfits him for ordinary labour. In a few places where a larger population may be collected, or at a point accessible to a greater number, schools may be found conducted in a room specially set apart for the purpose, with an attendance of 20 or 25 on an average. These schools are rather better supported, the teacher receiving voluntary contributions of a rather larger amount than the former class from the proprietors and others interested, which, with school fees, but without board, will make up a salary of 20*l.* or thereby. From the foregoing statement it may be readily inferred that in few instances can the teacher be expected to display much knowledge or skill in the management and training of children, as he is in most cases totally unacquainted with the method of teaching. I would therefore respectfully suggest, as a remedy for this inferior education in thinly populated districts, that very great care be exercised in the appointment of a thoroughly competent teacher to each parish or central school, who should be required by the local board, with the sanction and approval of the central board in Edinburgh, to train pupil-teachers sufficient for the wants of the whole district. These pupil-teachers might be put in charge of the small side schools, such as have been mentioned above, but under the supervision of the head master of each parochial or central school; the head master being responsible to the board for the management of these schools. Some arrangement would require to be made between the central school and side schools, whereby the pupil-teachers might be changed from time to time, in order to afford them an opportunity of returning to the central school to proceed with their own education.

Pupil-teachers trained in this way would, I am certain, conduct these small side schools, under the direction of a properly qualified head master, much more efficiently than a badly educated "lad" who had received no previous training. The above plan might even be extended to villages of, say 1,000 inhabitants and under, where one first-class school should be established with sufficient accommodation for all requirements, including separate class rooms for the girls' industrial department, the school to be strictly undenominational. I am the more anxious to see

this or some similar plan adopted, because I have frequently witnessed most unprofitable results produced by the establishment of rival denominational schools. A thoroughly undenominational system of national education might, in this way, be extended to the most remote districts of the country without unduly burdening the public, provided that the present restricted mode of administering the Privy Council grants be modified in regard to such schools.

DAVID TWEEDIE.

R. F. Boyle, Esq., Assistant Commissioner,
Home Office, London.

7. OCCUPATIONS of PARENTS of CHILDREN in the two highest standards in the free school at Strathavon.

VI.

Boys.	Age.	Girls.	Age.
Farmer -	12	Cheese dealer -	12
Joiner -	11	Different cheese dealer	12
Clergyman	12	Joiner -	11
		Writer -	12
		Cabinet maker	14

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Boys.	Age.	Boys.	Age.
Schoolmaster	11	Smith -	14
Huckster	13	Farmer -	13
Saddler -	12	Clergyman -	13

Lowest fee, 2½*d*. Farmers' and labourers' boys stay later, but come later too on account of distance. Get few before 6.

Farmer, 26 boys out of 112	Labourers - 9
„ 16 girls out of 111	„ - 6

LIST of CHILDREN of farmers and labourers who have left the free school at Strathavon during the past two years, with the reasons assigned for so doing.

Sex.	Occupation of Parent.	Age.	Reason for leaving School.
Boy	Farmer -	13	Home work.
„	„	14	Gone to a shop in Glasgow.
„	„	13	Gone to union bank office.
„	„	14	Gone to work at home on farm.
„	„	10	Gone to parish school.
„	Labourer	10	Removed from locality.
„	Farmer -	12	Home service.
„	Gardener	9, 7, 10	Emigrated.
„	Labourer	—	Refused to pay fees (just a drunken fellow).
„	Farmer -	15	Become pupil-teacher.
Girl	„	14	Home service.
„	Labourer	11	„
„	„	10	Service required at home.
„	„	(Sister of above.)	Paid no fees.
Boy	Farmer -	20	Gone to assist at Gilmerton school.
„	„	10	Works at home.
Girl	Labourer	6	Removed from locality.
„	Farmer -	15	Service required at home.
„	„	7	Did not return after holidays.
„	„	11	Home service.
Boy	Labourer	9	Gone to Campbeltown to a farm.
„	„	6	
Girl	Farmer -	—	Home service.
„	„	12	„
„	„	15	„
„	Labourer	10	Paid no fees.
„	Farmer -	10	Did not return after holidays.
„	„	5	„ „
„	„	14	Left for home service, but attended for industrial work.

8. LIST of SCHOOLS in the Parish of AVONDALE, with the manner in which all are supported, from statistics kindly supplied by THOMAS TENNENT, Esq.

1. *Barnock.*—Not always a regular attendance, and not kept up all the year. Attendance, 16 to 20; farm servants and farmers and shepherds. School and house and garden of three-fourths of an acre. Sum paid by heritors, 7*l*. 10*s*. ; 15*s*., an old mortification. Duke of Hamilton gives a penny for every penny given by tenants, 4*l*. Lets his house and lives with the farmers. Gets fees besides, but not much.

2. *Drumclog.*—Abandoned at present ; no schoolmaster for a year or two. No maintenance. House and school, but not as good as other.

3. *Gilmerton.*—Kirk originally built as kirk and school. In winter have had an attendance of 70. There is a house and land attached. Keeps three cows ; and is paid by fees. Adventure school, but regulated by committees.

4. *Parish school.*—Attendance about 70. Gets 47*l*. 10*s*. from heritors, and a good school and schoolmaster's house and fees. Under Government, but has lost certificate.

5. *Mr. Allen's* school.—Adventure school. 70 scholars. Paid by fees. Very indifferent house. Could get no assistance from Government with such a school as yon. Industrious teacher, and very central.

6. *Mr. Stone.*—Has about 100 of the lowest class. Adventure ; paid by fees.

7. *Mr. Watson.*—In relation to parish church ; side school. Has 25*l*. from heritors. Under Government ; and gets one or two pupil-teachers.

8. *Free Church.*—Has upwards of 200, and has two or three pupil-teachers. Mr. Nesbit. Paid entirely by fees and Ferguson bequest, 10*l*.

9. *Mr. Steel.*—30 to 40 children. Adventure. Paid by fees. Has a good many children paid for by parochial board. Has in connexion a night class paid by subscription ; open to every class. Most teachers have night schools in the winter.

Parish school, Dalserf.

9. *Mr. Fraser.*—Reckons the farmers' and labourers' children far more regular in attendance than the miners'. The miners' boys are taken away very early to work in the mines, which is the reason of the preponderance of girls in the upper classes, all the boys who should be in such classes being taken away to the mines. A boy of 14 can earn three-fourths of a man's wage ; a boy of 16 as much as a man. Very few of the labourers' boys will ever become a miner ; they are a distinct class, they and the small tradesmen from the original old Scotch village before the miners came. Though so much money does not pass through their hands they are more thrifty and better off than the miners. They take an interest in having their children well taught ; the miners do not care. Would not say that there is much difference in the regularity of labourers' and tradesmen's children, or farmers'. The farmers are a class very little different from the labourers ; they live quite as hard, and are often not a bit better off. There are a few large farmers down in the Clyde valley, but they are exceptions. The children of agricultural labourers are sometimes taken away for a short time in summer to gather gooseberries and apples, for this parish is the centre of the Clyde orchard district ; but they all come back again. Most of the children of colliers who attend well are those of colliers who have been settled a long time ; these are generally a superior class. The extension of mines has brought in an inferior set of mixed Irish and Scotch, who seldom stay long in one place. The children of such people of course have a worse chance of education. They come as a rule later to school than labourers' children, and it is very awkward to put big children of 10 and 11 years of age down among the little ones.

Has about 150 children now, of which the greater part are colliers' children. Has an assistant and a female assistant, who takes the infant school. Will not admit a child under 3 ; they are not much good then. There is no limit of age when a child comes into the upper school ; that is left to depend on what

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they know. Has only one boy in Latin now; he also does a little Greek, the grammar, has got as far as the verbs. He is the only one in Euclid; has done up to the end of the 1st book, and some first rules of algebra. Does not approve of putting boys too early into higher mathematics; thinks it gives them a distaste for it, they cannot properly understand it so soon. Recollects being put into Euclid himself at about 10, and got a dislike to it.

Does not much like the "trapping" system but the people like it. Recollects being asked by one of the people to adopt it more, to put a little more life into the school. Gives lessons to prepare at home; will read out two chapters of the Bible or some chapters of history, and expect them to get them up for examination in the morning. As a rule they do it pretty well, but in some cases they cannot manage it; still, though it probably often happens, no child ever pleads that the crowded and noisy house has prevented him learning it. Asks a question and tells all who know the answer to hold up their hands, then pitches on one of them to answer it. The boys attempt to assume a superiority over the girls, but as far as acquirements are concerned have no right to. The best boy is a coal-master's son, but there is a girl, a labourer's daughter, who can beat him at all his work, even at mathematics. Finds punishments little necessary; has a strap, but does not often use it. Younger teachers are inclined to sometimes; believes assistant does. Not much discrimination between boys and girls. It is a good deal done in some schools, and the parents do not seem to object. Has an objection to giving prizes; the parents of the children are so jealous. If it is given to one child the parents of another will say that it was so determined beforehand; even the very best class, tradesmen and agriculturists, whom he would never have suspected, would say so. Consequently refused an offer made by a gentleman to give money for prizes. A lady much interested in the school gave prizes to the sewing class, real good dresses, but had to withdraw them on this account.

The female assistant teaches knitting and sewing. The mixed system rather clashes with the sewing, the girls having to devote an hour a day to it. Generally employs the boys in a writing lesson while it is going on.

In grammar will read out a story with a moral to the children, and make them write it out from memory; puts their power of composition to the test. As for the spelling, has many who never make a mistake. Teaches the history of the empire from Collier's edition. As a rule history is little taught in Scotch schools, the expense of the books being an objection. Reads out some of it, and makes them take their books home and get it up there, and questions them next morning. Is particular about the history of the present reign; thinks they ought to know about what is going on in the country, and its relation to other nations. The history comes up to 1855; makes up the rest for them himself.

In geography does a good deal of the teaching by making them do maps; it impresses it on their memory, and it is wonderful how good some of the maps are.

Never has any difficulty about the expense of books with the tradesmen and agricultural classes. The miners sometimes refuse to give books. In some cases has given the book himself, but does not like to establish such a precedent; it would be taken advantage of.

The regularity in school attendance depends almost entirely on the parents; thus, in the case of girls, they are often kept at home for the most trifling cause to assist their mothers. Are more irregular than boys. If the parents take an interest in a child's education he will get on; but the children require to be set down to their work. Finds that even in the case of his own children.

Comparative regularity of children of parents of various occupations in the parish of Dalserf:—

List of all Children in upper school who have kept above 400 attendances in the past year, with age and occupation of parents.

Boys.			Girls.		
Age.	Parents Occupation.	No. of Attendance.	Age.	Parents Occupation.	No. of Attendance.
11	Collier - -	408	12	Labourer - -	426
			11	„ - -	428
14	Tradesman -	416	—	Schoolmaster -	424
			10	Collier - -	428
13	Colliery manager	416	13	Labourer - -	429
			11	„ - -	425
9	Collier - -	400	10	„ - -	425
			11	Collier - -	424
10	„ - -	438	10	Farmer - -	400
			10	„ - -	432
10	Tradesman -	435	11	Colliery manager	429
			12	Tradesman -	401
10	Labourer - -	406	9	Collier - -	400
			10	„ - -	436

In the parish school at Dalserf (upper school):—

Occupation of Parents.	Boys.				Girls.				Grand Total.
	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Above 13.	Total.	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Above 13.	Total.	
Farmer - -	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	2	4
Labourer -	2	4	1	7	1	8	1	10	17
Tradesman -	2	4	1	7	3	8	—	11	18
Collier and people connected with the collieries.	5	12	1	18	8	19	—	27	45
Schoolmaster -	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	9	22	4	35	12	37	1	50	85

Occupations of Parents of the Children in the two highest Standards at the Parish School of Dalserf.

Standard VI. (two boys and two girls absent).

Age.	Boys, Parents Occupation.	Age.	Girls, Parents Occupation.
13	Colliery manager.	13	Labourer.
		13	Pointsman.
13	Farmer.	12	Labourer.
		13	Joiner.

Standard V.

Age.	Boys, Parents Occupation.	Age.	Girls, Parents Occupation.
11	Gardener.	11	Farmer.
10	Tradesman.	9	Coalmaster.
		9	Colliery manager.
10	Collier.	11	Pointsman.
		11	Tradesman.
10	Smith.	11	Joiner.
		11	Farmer.
10	Joiner.	13	Collier.
		12	„
10	Collier.	12	„
9	Coachman.	11	„
10	Shepherd.	12	„
—	Schoolmaster.	11	„

10. *Mr. Campbell*, Parish School, Lesmahagow.—14 girls, 60 boys (there being a female industrial school in the village); get some up to 16 years of age; come very well; farmers' children will go to small country schools, and come here to finish. Have eight in Latin now; there are seven who have gone up from here to

the universities. None in Greek at present; in evening take a French class of about five girls. Find some taken away in summer to herd, but not to the extent of a school was at in Perthshire. Not under Government; hold other offices which make it better not, and besides find that too much attention has to be paid to younger children, and not the attention given to getting on the elder ones.

TRADE of Parents of Children in Latin Class.

Girls.	Boys.
1. Schoolmaster.	1. Tradesman.
2. ,,	2. Innkeeper.
	3. Mason.
	4. Farmer.
	5. ,,
	6. ,,

Do not teach Euclid, but practical mathematics, such as book-keeping, and mensuration of solids to higher classes.

TRADE of Parents of Children in the School.

——	Girls.	Boys.
Farmer - - - -	2	10
Labourer - - - -	0	7
Schoolmaster - - -	4	0
Tradesman - - -	4	14
Mason - - - -	1	4
Miner - - - -	0	4
Weaver - - - -	5	13
Innkeeper - - -	0	2
Yeoman - - - -	0	1
Contractor - - -	0	1
Paupers - - - -	1	3

11. *Wm. Ferguson*, Master of the Free Church School, Lesmahagow.—Finds a great difference in summer and winter attendance of farmers' and labourers' boys; nearly all that 1st class of 18 boys will go away when the summer months come. The farmer boys go as much as the labourers, but they generally come back in the winter; a labourer's boy once gone will seldom come back. They go into service in farm houses, and are generally kept on; a farmer will work his boy to save the wages of another boy. Many of the weavers and miners will send their boys and girls in like manner. They go to herd, boys and girls alike, but not younger than 10. The weavers are the poorest class; supports at school himself about 14 of the poorest children. The lowest fees are 3*d.*; besides his Government certificate 15*l.*, and 9*l.* for the two pupil-teachers, has 15*l.* from Free Church fund. Mrs. Ferguson teaches sewing.

On school roll, 16 girls, 83 boys.

All attendances above 400 in the past year, with occupation of father of each. 453 best possible.

Boys.

435. Mason.	432. Wright.
406. Farmer.	438. Ostler.
444. Shoemaker.	425. Labourer.
428. Tailor.	441. Warehouseman.
401. Labourer.	438. Labourer.
438. Weaver.	404. Mason.
426. Labourer.	407. Weaver.
446. Publican.	

Girls.

451. Farmer.	413. Miner.
446. Schoolmaster.	421. Farmer.

12. *Industrial School, Lesmahagow*, Miss Annan, Teacher.—Has about 100 children. It is supported entirely by contributions; about 50 of the children pay no fees; the mistress has a salary, and the rest of the fees; there are two pupil-teachers, one of whom teaches sewing. The school is mixed; labourers, farmers, tradesmen, and weavers; the daughters of the former bring their bit of food with them; but soup is provided for luncheon for the poorer children, made of meat, or rather bones, and vegetables, which certain gentlemen in the neighbourhood provide by turns; any other of the children can have it for 6*d.* a month also. They all wear pinafores in school, and the discipline seemed admirable. At one word they all took off their pinafores, when school was to be dismissed, and they left the school quietly, every pair arm in arm, and turned round at the door to make a curtsey. Miss Annan made the first class read, and the reading was very good; they then wrote out from dictation a few sentences of what they had read, and out of a class of about 10 or 12, the only trip made was by two in spelling Cœur de Lion. Knitting and needlework are taught the regulation Government hours; there was some very good patchwork quilting shown to me; the very youngest children do needlework; one only 4 years of age was doing it; Miss Annan finds at that age that it is about almost all that the children are able to do.

TABLE of best Attendances in the past Year, with the Occupation of each Child's Father.

Age.	No. of Attendances.	Trade of Parent.
10	460	Mason.
12	457	Coachman.
11	457	Overseer.
11	450	Labourer.
14	440	Shoemaker.
8	440	,,
9	440	Labourer.
9	440	Mason.
9	440	Weaver.
8	440	Tailor.
11	440	Father dead.
10	430	Gamekeeper.
8	427	Father dead.
10	426	,,
12	420	Labourer.
10	420	,,
10	420	Innkeeper.
10	420	Mason.
8	420	Labourer.

13. *Miss Watson*, Free Church Industrial School, Lesmahagow.—Has girls employed doing crochet and sample work, knitting, mending shirts, embroidering names, &c. A little girl knits a stocking in three days.

Has 47 belonging to the school, present to-day 42. A good many children of farmers and labourers who attend as well as the others. All are girls except 10 little boys. The parents like to send the boys here when small; they do not get so much knocked about. Have no regular hours for needle-work. Always keep them at it when not otherwise employed; each has a bit of work by her. Practises "trapping" in reading, that is, when it is a word they ought to know, and do not know. When girls get big, people will keep them at home on the least pretence. The little ones come very well; the best attendances are in the 3rd class.

(Depends on fees 1*d.* a week, and on a few pounds subscribed. Very small, hot, stuffy room.)

Lanarkshire.

Mr. Boyle.

11,

14. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Elementary Schools in the parish of Lesmahagow, Free Church School.

In Summer.

On the Register.				In average Attendance.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
45	26	8	12	40	25	7	11
71		20		65		18	

In Winter.

On the Register.				In average Attendance.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
45	30	7	9	40	27	7	9
75		16		67		16	

15. *James Smith*, schoolmaster, Uddingston, Bothwell.—"In the season boys and girls are a good deal "employed in gathering fruit, but not much otherwise. Women are employed to a considerable "extent in hoeing, reaping, planting, &c. From a "long residence in rural districts, and my position as "session clerk of a large congregation, I have come "to the conviction that field-work is not appropriate "for young girls, and in the case of married women "it leads to an almost total neglect of their families. "Wages are good in this district, and with ordinary "economy there is no necessity for mothers leaving "their children uncared for; in the case of young "women and girls there are more suitable employments to be found, such as domestic service or "factory work.

11. "The custom here is to work out during summer, and to attend school for a few months in "winter; and educationally, and morally, it is better "than any of those named above."

16. *Robert Smith*, son of schoolmaster, Bothwell.—Tradesmen's children best taught. Farmers' are much more irregular, even than labourers' children, will stay away often in busy times for some time together. They begin later too to come to school. Tradesmen's daughters on the other hand are the most irregular. Kept at home for household work.

There is a female teacher for the younger children and the needlework class.

17. Bothwell Free Church School.

In Summer.

On the Register.				In average Attendance.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
21	13	10	6	18	10	9	6
34		16		28		15	

In Winter.

On the Register.				In average Attendance.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
Under 10 Years of Age.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Under 10.	Between 10 and 13.
21	17	14	9	18	17	12	9
38		23		35		21	

18. *Mr. Whamond*, schoolmaster, Dalzell.—Has only three agricultural children in his school, and they are children of a farmer's son, a boy and two girls—they come very well, the boy certainly was away for a time in the summer. This is the parish school, and the children are chiefly those of tradespeople in the village; some of the miners' children come, but they have schools attached generally to the collieries. The parish school is supported by 85*l.* of salary paid by the heritors and by Government grants to the certificated teachers and pupil-teachers, the rest being made up by the pence. The colliery school system does not apply to the parish school. For the colliery schools the masters stop a small sum weekly out of the wages to support the school, whether the man be married or single; but if he is single he can take advantage of his payment by coming to the night classes himself. It is the usual rule to stop the 2*d.* whether the child comes to the colliery school or to some other, and some children whose parents are having fees deducted from their wages are sent to the parish, and other schools; in other cases, however, there is a free trade in schools, and the children go to which they like, and pay accordingly; in most cases the schoolmaster lifts his fees at the colliery office.

There were on the parish school roll 300 children, attendance rather low at present owing to fever, only 160, but may be set down as generally about 200. Some boys stay as late as 14; most go away earlier; miners' sons generally as soon as they are of the qualified age to work in the mines. The parish schoolmasters are generally required to teach Latin, Greek, and mathematics, in addition to the elementary branches.

Renfrewshire.

RENFREWSHIRE.

APPENDIX I.—GENERAL EVIDENCE.

1. *Lord Blantyre*, Erskine House, Glasgow.—(Population of parish of Erskine, 1,457; acreage, 9092·378; cultivation mixed.)

Hours of work "ten hours in summer, and as near that as the varying hours of daylight in winter will permit."

Three schools in the parish:—

"1. Parish school.

"2. A side school to accommodate the distant part of the parish.

"3. a school in connexion with the Free Church."

The best way to ensure attendance at school would

e to enforce it for a certain number of hours during he 12 months preceding the child beginning agri-cultural labour.

"There are good and also indifferent cottages. There are many Irish families in the parish." The ervants live "on the farm; they sleep over the stables, and take meals in the farm-house; these are unmarried. I prefer married farm servants, and believe the practice of preferring them is growing; but the farms being small have not cottage accommodation for married ploughmen. So far as I have observed all cottages have gardens. Such customs as keep of a cow, potato ground, &c. are not known to me, and not required where servants are fed in the tenant's house. The cottage accommodation seems little if at all deficient."

Wages:—

"Ploughmen, 15*s.* to 16*s.* per week, and a free house and garden. Averages 40*l.* per annum, and a free house and garden.

"Labourers 12*s.* to 14*s.* per week. Average about 34*l.* per annnm; rent of a good house and garden 5*l.* per annum.

"Occasional hands, 16*s.* to 18*s.* per week.

"The above is paid on my own farm, and is not above the county rate, but tenants pay less in wages where they feed the men.

"Some of my labourers have houses free, and all can gain a little more in harvest. The Irish labourers prefer a high wage, and more or less idleness, to a moderate wage and constant work. The Scotch prefer the latter.

2. *James Myles, Esq.*, factor for Elderslie estates.—"The cultivation is in Renfrewshire cropping and dairy farming." No boys or girls are "employed under 13, and that at age only at hay-making and harvest work. Women are employed the whole year, except the greater part of the three winter months, at such work as planting potatoes, gathering weeds, hoeing, hay-making, harvest work, and storing turnips."

"The proper cultivation and clearing of land require more hands than formerly, and they can only be got from the nearest villages, often 1 or 2 miles distant from place of employment."

Hours of work "10 hours daily, generally from 7 till 12, and from 1 till 6.

"Parish and other schools are generally taken advantage of for children of agricultural labourers, but parents are often less careful as to their personal attendance than they might be.

"Cottages exist on some farms, but they are not common. Where they do exist, they are of suitable size and conveniently situated with no over-crowding or evil result to morality." No bothy system.

"It is common for young men hired as ploughmen to get their meals in the farmer's kitchen, and to be lodged either in a loft above the stable or in a separate out-house,—a system I consider less favourable to morality than the cottage system.

3. *Mr. Harper*, overseer to the home-farm, Ardgowan.—All dairy farming, but a few sheep kept, don't depend upon selling anything but milk and potatoes. Milk all goes to Greenock; no cheese made; some make a little butter. Green crop mostly potatoes; very few turnips. Generally sold to potato dealers, the potato hoers being their own people, generally out of Greenock; men that hoe and women that gather; generally a woman to each man.

The farmer sells at so much an acre, and carts to Greenock. The farms are small about here; the largest will be about 12 or 13 cows. On an average farm there would be 10 acres in potatoes, 10 cows, and 10 hay, rest pasture, five years in pasture. Farm would be about 80 acres, neither land nor weather suit cropping; it is a very light soil.

A farmer who has no sons or daughters would keep two servant girls, two men, and a boy. But most farmers in the glen would have just their sons and daughters, and one man and a girl; all feed mostly at the same table; all live in the house. No such a thing as a cottage on a farm, but on the home-farm all live in cottages there, except three in a bothy down on the farm, which is the only one in this county I am aware of. It consists of a place for them to have their food in, and a sleeping room upstairs. They buy their own food but it is cooked for them.

A good hand, first hand, would get about 13*l.* the half year; a second hand, 10*l.* to 12*l.*; girls on the farm, 6*l.* or 7*l.* The men at the bothy on the home-farm get 2*s.* 5*d.* a day and 11*s.* 6*d.* a week. Men in cottages have 14*s.* a week and a cottage and a good large garden.

The men are hired at Glasgow, Greenock, and Paisley fairs, which they always make a great holiday of. The bulk of the farm servants are Irish, but whenever the best of them put by a little money they emigrate. The wages are not high, considering that the provisions are so dear. Greenock is the dearest market in the kingdom. The English grooms who come to Ardgowan House say it is dearer than London. The bulk of the people of he place all take to trades. The wages are kept down by so many Highlanders and Irish coming in, but for them they would rise. In hay-time and harvest growers will get some of the Irish tramping about; the villagers do not go out; most employed in the quarries, but the women are not above work. We employ three or four little girls, from 12 upwards, at 1*s.* a day before they get other places. They would go out to service at 14 or 15. They are just the children of labourers, working in the farm; it is much better for them than idling about.

Girls in farms milk and clean the byres and work out when that is done. They milk the cows at 5 in the morning and 5 at night, and do other work between whiles.

Pay best ploughman 17*s.* and next best 16*s.*, both with house and garden on home-farm. Pay 2*s* 5*d.* to men in the bothy, and 2*s.* 4*d.* to those in cottages. Young men would go away unless well paid; married men are more certain to stay. Our work is continuous; if it is wet we still find work for them, whereas the quarrymen often only work four days in the week, and are not paid unless they work the whole day.

Most of the farmers would have a bit of hill and perhaps 30 or 40 sheep. Very little braxy, so few sheep farmers can look after them themselves.

We have one great sheep farm, but most of the farmers keep a dairy stock, and bring up their young beasts on the hills. Servants often sleep in the house itself, but generally above the horses. Women always in the house.

4. *Meeting at Paisley.*

Present: Messrs. J. Young, Fulwood; R. Rowan, Paisley Abbey; J. Bryce, Abbot's Inch; Alexander Blackwood, Inshinnon; Alexander Jackson, Salviland; &c.

Mr. Young would have four married men, who live in houses, and besides, generally speaking, farmers have cottages; besides these Mr. Young has five servants in the house who get meat in the kitchen "and remain "in the kitchen till they go to bed; we turn them out "when we go to bed; the women servants sit also in "the kitchen; they sleep out in a room by themselves."

Mr. Rowan's servants sleep above the stable; they are all unmarried; but many have a bothy for their servants to sleep in. All single men in Renfrewshire get meat in the kitchen. Am giving 16*s.* a week and free house and coals driven. The youngest house servant is about 16. Unmarried men from 6*l.* to 16*l.* Get boys by day for leading horses.

Most farmers about here have a dairy. Not much feeding. Sell wheat, depend on that more than on dairy. In the Lowlands depend chiefly on wheat; it is different at Kilmacolm, which is mostly dairy. Mr. Young has had sometimes a score of women out—has had them out most of the spring. A good many are widows and colliers' and masons' wives; all married. Another gentleman employs some little

Renfrewshire.

Mr. Boyle.

u.

girls. Women get 1*s.* 6*d.* hoeing and weeding and lifting grain after machines.

Generally sell the potatoes in the ground. Some farmers dig them. Men dig them and women lift. Can come in to the Cross here in the morning and get as many women as you want, mostly Irish. Lots of both men and women come out.

Mr. Young says, with us it is all the villagers come from Houston and Crossby, mostly Irish. The days wage class are mostly Irish: most of the servants are Scotch.

In harvest men do the heavy women light work, women lift and men tie. Not much shearing; that is done mostly by Irish and Highlanders.

Not many boys at day wages. Mr. Young has one or two boys for frightening crows; perhaps a woman who has a boy brings him out.

It is becoming more general to put up cottages. The landlord builds them, but the tenant has to pay a per-centage if the cottage is put up during the lease. Generally one room and a bedroom, but it is of no use to have more: quite as much as they require.

Boys when grown up generally go into trade, so there are never any large families about all living at home.

The neighbourhood of Paisley is just the most cropping part of the county.

Farms from 100 to 200 acres; 120 acres the average size of a cropping farm. One-fourth would be in green crops, potatoes, beans, &c. Hardly any cheese made. Generally the milk is sold in the town. Very few sheep farms in the county. Mr. Rowan has a mine on his farm, and all milk and butter goes to the miners. Their women come out to work on the farm. Never heard indecent language among the labourers.

5. —— *Brown*, farmer and tile maker, Bishopton. —Men at days wages get 15*s.* to 18*s.* a week, and women 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. Two ploughmen, one married lives in a cottage, and one unmarried. The former lives in a house I built myself. Married man gets 17*s.* a week and a free house worth 5*l.* a year.

Just a small dairy. We will have six to ten women regular through summer; after turnip time till hay time. They are daughters and wives of labourers and widows, and such like.

Have two men at 15*s.* a week who hoe with them and guide them a wee, all hoe in a line.

Have 25 acres of green crop, nine of which are potatoes. It is very customary to sell potatoes in the ground, but last two years have lifted them myself. Have plenty of folks convenient to me.

Have one man at 12*l.* the half year, but he is a second man. We get servants at fair days; they are pretty steady and generally save a little money. Have some that leaves a little money with myself: that one who has 17*s.* leaves 5*s.*, which I put in the bank for him.

6. *Mr. Bryce*, farmer, Paisley. — Employ only regular men: three ploughmen and a young half-grown fellow and young boy for going about keeping cows, &c. Would be 13 or 14, and very few younger employed.

Farm servants get meat in house, and sit in bothy. Put up a room for servants in most new steadings. Generally have two labourers besides all year through. Don't live on farm: just come out of the town, just a mile and a half. A number of farmers lately have had cottages built and keep married men. Mine have to leave, but get into jobs about works; get a place driving cart about works. Some like it, some don't. Cottages getting more general.

Some tenants rather have ploughmen married; less bother giving meat in the house.

Keep two girls, one for byre, one for house. Have 15 cows; mistress assists in milking and daughters. General custom here. In harvest in summer I have sometimes 20 women hoeing potatoes and weeding crop ground. All work, mostly Irish, girls and women. Just take jobs when they can get it. A great many wives and daughters of men about brickworks and works in Paisley. Always plenty to be had; give 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; none above 1*s.* till 13 years age, then got up to 1*s.* 3*d.* Just got rather scarcer here, and struck for 1*s.* 6*d.*; came out in the morning to plant potatoes and said would not work till got promise of 1*s.* 3*d.*

Labouring man gets 15*s.*; ploughmen get 14*l.* and 5*l.* the six months, bed and board, but not washing.

Farms mostly 80 to 100 acres; mine above 200. Always have 50 acres in green crop, which employs so many extra hands. Takes a deal of work in summer. Sell potatoes to dealer in the ground, and he brings his own hands to dig them, and does all the work except the carting. Sometimes have a few of ours, the hands we have had through the summer.

Mostly women employed singling, done with hoes, but some men too; man gets 2*s.* 6*d.*, and women does every bit as much as a man. We never have girls under 20, but on some farms at 15 or 16 they come out.

There was a farm, between here and Glasgow, where about 20 or 30 little girls used to come out turnip singling with a woman to take charge of them. They were 10 or 12 years of age; they did it with their hands; but it was too young, perhaps it taught them to do it the better when they were older. It is not done now.

It is nearly all a county of dairy farms, but little cheese is made here; milk and butter for the Glasgow and Paisley market and grain is sold. In some farms the farm servants live altogether with their masters. There are some sheep farms up among the hills.

We give our men ham-pork at breakfast, and milk to drink; not often tea, except on Sunday. They have for dinner mutton or beef; water to drink; no whisky; sometimes milk.

7. *Thomas Thoms*, farmer, Kilmalcolm. — Area of farm 300 acres, about 20 in green crop. Employ four men, including the boor. Boor employs two maidservants who sleep in his kitchen. His wife and two servants do all the work. 27 cows. He does not much in the milking, but keeps the youngster while the mistress is milking, and retails the milk in Greenock, getting back about 12 a.m. I feed the horse, but he has the use of it for going to Greenock. I drive the turnips and all that, just as if he was my servant. Pays so much a cow. 14*l.* a cow. Rather above the average which is about 13*l.* It is a very general system in this locality, don't know how I could manage without.

I employ two married men living in cottages, given rent free. Wages 22*l.* and 24*l.* respectively the year. Six and a half bolls of meal, and pint of milk a day and potato ground. Know of no one else in this country who has married men. The cottage here was a farm house. Decidedly prefer married men; they stay longer; it is a great advantage for a farmer at any rate.

One unmarried not full grown, an Irish chap, 12*s.* a week in winter, 13*s.* in summer. A very quiet creature. He boards with the ploughman, sleeps over him, but I don't interfere with his arrangements at all. Begun as a weekly place, but has been with me two or three years.

Have an Irish boy and girl too. Just work outside among the fields. We have two or three cows, and she just looks after them, does everything she's told in fact.

Not a common thing to engage Irish except for a week or two.

No difficulty in getting extra hands; can get as many in Kilmalcolm as I want. Have a cottage up here too, and I get a woman and a boy out of it; they work out the rent. My ploughman's wife comes out and have a woman from Kilmalcolm. Have four at present. All women, no profit to get boys and girls, cannot depend upon them. Have sometimes one of the servants from the boor and pay him just for her. Would never have more than four or five extra hands out.

Have mostly grass; have only about 20 acres of

otatoes this year. Very often sell potatoes in ground o a dealer by the acre, and he brings his own people. Get Irishmen about for diggers and women from ere, and if scarce from Greenock. Have what they all a squad; dealer comes himself or employs a fore- an. Often has a dozen of grapes (three-pronged pades), and hands to each grape.

But have dug them myself sometimes. Get a few eople sometimes from Port Glasgow.

Mr. Smith's much the same sort of farm but better and. Does not profess to have dairy, but has 15 or 6 cows, and dairy besides. Has two married men and labourer all the year round.

Women get 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. Have a cottage on the state, which is let to a woman. Calculate that about 0 days of a woman's work pays her rent for it.

8. *William Walker*, farmer, Kilmalcolm. Farms bout 160 acres, about 18 in oats and 12 in green crops, ostly potatoes.

Our own three boys are worth a man; the eldest 5 on the 22nd of March past; next is 13, and the oungest 11. The eldest still goes to school for four onths in the winter; goes with the third horse like. he second works among the cattle, and the youngest bout the house; he is at school, now was at home bout the potato planting. In course of two or three ears if boys is all at home here wont want any men

Only employ one man, age about 20, unmarried. ets 24*l.* the year, just a good ploughman.

One servant girl, 10*l.* the year; have had them that o the length of 7*l.* the half year. The longer they re in the house the wages rise.

The mistress and me wrought among 20 cows for metime all alone; its the only way to make some- ing. Nothing to hinder any woman to milk 20 cows. lake no cheese or butter; it is the big cheese dairies here all comes at once that want so many hands. oys is learning some of the milking.

Have a man and women extra in harvest, the oman to bunch, just for a fortnight. Don't take ny days wages yet; may be they are in Ireland yet. ince our own boys got up, we don't want any more. oeing potatoes or weeding turnips just all go out ith the girl, and the boys and all. Man gets in arvest 4*s.* 6*d.*, women 2*s.* 6*d.* the day, but do not et a bite.

Man stops in the house just out in the close there, nd eldest boy stops along with him.

9. *Mr. Findlay*, farmer, Ardgowan.—You have o give a good man now 13*l.* I recollect when you ould get just as good a one for 9*l.* or 10*l.* Employ wo men, one is married and his wife stops down the village. Lost a man last year because he arried. Don't know which I like best, the young en are more supple, but the married men don't care much about change, but then they think they want ore wages.

Employ one little boy, he's a sister's son. Minds he cows and all that. Employ two girls, give them l. or 5*l.* the half year. Have to hire at the fair, some- mes gets them afore, but they all want to go to the ir.

The man sleeps up there in the roof; give them eir meat, not their washing. In some farms they eep over the stable.

Milk 14 cows, and send milk into the village. Not ough much. Land not good for cropping. Grow otatoes, and sell them in the ground to dealers; eep some for our own use.

10. *James H. Brunton*, schoolmaster and inspector poor, Innerkip.

Parish school:

On the roll, January,	127.
,, February,	127.
,, March,	129.
,, April,	127.
,, May,	131.
,, June,	143.

Had a good many big boys, but they have all ft lately.

Almost all agricultural class, no other about here; have some up to 16, perhaps half a dozen; have about half a dozen in algebra. The great necessity is a commercial education. Teach book-keeping, Euclid, &c., proportion, interest, &c. Practice is the most important of all. Most of them go further and learn square and cube root. Most of them (50 or 60 at least) are drilled up every second day to draw out accounts, &c.

Many of the girls are quite as well educated as the boys, and stay as long at school, going to service mostly; get good situations in Glasgow; about shops and that.

Fees commence at 3*s.* and rise 6*d.* each branch; but when a number in a family, deal leniently with them; after three or four take one for nothing; 3*s.* reading, 3*s.* 6*d.* reading and writing; 4*s.* reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Supply books myself and charge it in the bill; no bookseller here; parents hardly ever object. Generally if a child gets a book and parents object, take it back; but it is seldom done. Am a member of Scottish School Book Association; no use many of them, but use Chambers too; and others.

11. *H. McDonald*, parish school, Kilmalcolm.—This is the only school in the parish, except a small side school. In first class in April, 13; wont be six in June. The reason there are more big boys than girls is that they often come back if they want to learn some trade. Girls will go to service. Boys and girls both work for their parents: are not brought up to great luxuries; far better for them if to be farmers.

Few girls stay after 13. Can milk very well at that age, and are kept away for the purpose.

Children very often go off when pressure comes for a few weeks and then come back; potato weeding is the principal work, and turnip hoeing, and haymaking. Last year, when inspection was to take place, a boy of 11 could not come because was wanted to make strops. Regulate holidays by harvest. The warning is they bring a few handsfull of corn and put it on the desk, when it is ripe. Many farm servants and children go away for the six summer months and come back in winter. The parochial board keep their children at school till 14 years of age, and then they go out to farmers. They insist on regularity A little herding in the back part of the parish. Some come three and four miles. Have one boarding in the house now; at one time had five or six; higher class generally. Have 12 in Latin; a very elementary class, except one, who is reading Cæsar. Have one boy in the first two books of Euclid; have had 13 or 14 out in a field learning mensuration; younger children at present than usual. Have also some learning book-keeping for a commercial career.

There are some children about the village growing up utterly uneducated. Their parents give no heed to education. If I go to talk to them they will perhaps send the child for once or twice, and then send away again. Will give as an excuse, working or a bit of work or something; just illegitimate children whose parents are living together. No evening school. As many as 20 children in the school whose parents never pay fees. Give an evasive answer, if you speak to them, say they will send it. It is difficult to insist on it against people who do not care much about sending the children at all, as is too much the case.

12. *J. Balfour Robertson*, schoolmaster and inspector of poor, Bishoptown.—March and April are the two worst months; attendance dwindles down to 70, from 100 to 130. Those from 10 to 15 years go out to work. The farms are small; most farmers sprung from labouring class. When a son comes to about 18 or a daughter, a farmer will give him a servant's wage; and it does better, because they take greater interest.

Most farmers and farm servants educate their children. In large families, and where mother has not economy, other friends often help. Very often a second child is paid for by a friend, a farmer or some

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one. Teach a good many of the poor for nothing—agricultural labouring class. They would not be able to come unless this was done.

They begin at 3*s.* the quarter and go up to 5*s.*

Girls here stay longer than boys. Not much inducement for them to go away; all agricultural in the parish. Except in summer do no work. After reaching 12, all go and do a day's wage; boys at 10*d.* per day for a month or so. For herding crows at 6*d.* a day. Nearly every farmer has a boy so employed. There is a great deal of green-cropping in this parish; little grain sold out of it. No herding here, because all enclosures.

Boys and girls taught together; they sit in different places, but are all mixed in a lesson. Each child learns in school what parents wish. Don't teach the catechism except of our own church. Trapping, and putting boys and girls together, encourage emulation.

Higher branches not sought after so much as used to be. Farmer not asking for it so much. Only four in Latin. Never go to any great length. Have a dozen in book-keeping; often only to keep the books at home, but some to go into business. Use the Irish school books; prefer them to Scotch books; they make the boys think: the Scotch books are mere copying

Even the poorest labourer's child will make a struggle to get books. Books are kept in the village, so I lose no money. I only keep copy books and the first simple books.

To teach them to read writing, I always make them write out at home two or three lines of each lesson. The arithmetic work is done at home. The younger ones of course do nearly all the work in school; but as they get older more is done at home. If a child is absent, expect him always to bring a line from home explaining the reason why. If it is not brought, give him so much home work to do.

Have two at simple equations and at second book Euclid. One is the son of a market gardener, the other of a servant.

Have a few children from Glasgow. Pauper children attend the best. Rates very low. No poor-house. Have parties belonging to parish getting 5*s.* a week and clothing; a widow gets the same. If a widow is able-bodied, we say she should keep herself and one child; for the other children we give relief. But she cannot get work in winter, and then gets relief. For girls we give relief up to 15; for boys from 12 to 15, according to strength. Give them then an outfit. My own servant was one of the paupers, educated in the school first.

There is a poor-house at Paisley, but by paying towards rates we can send our paupers there. In case of illegitimate children set our face against giving relief as much as possible. In some cases have to give it, of course; an Irishwoman with three natural children last winter, for instance.

All the girls are taught plain sewing and knitting by Mrs. Robertson. No fees. Don't encourage fancy work much; but when they get up to 13 or 14, if they wish it have it then. A great many of them keep their parents in stockings and socks. The Irish are very glad to send their children to learn it. There are many of them among the labourers. They work for less wages than the Scotch, and Scotch are not to be had so much. A number go into the east country, where they get more work. Usual wages 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, but if a man does not come, or wet day, is not paid. I have to pay 3*s.*, as anyone pays who only wants a man now and then. Lord Blantyre gives 14*s.*, but that is constant work.

13. *Charles Clarke*, Free Church school, Houston.—One of the great causes of non-attendance is that perhaps the father will be away at the iron-works all the week and the mother out at work, and they will think that the child has gone to school, having been told to, but the child when let alone has not come.

On roll at present, 30 June, 78; average attendance, 70; February, 103; average attendance, 90.

In winter would have a dozen children of 13 and 14 years of age, and all disappear now, except five or six. Chiefly boys, hardly any girls go; they get away down to the mills. Girls will go half time a good deal, and if they do not go for that, are useful at home.

Boys don't go before 12 or 13 years of age. Many Irish in this place; most of the women who work are Irish, just lodged here and there, mostly unmarried. Two or three will join together and take rooms, and go out to farms. There are large farms and plenty of work, for the parish has a good name for paupers being well off.

There are three schools, a parish, Free school, and school supported by Miss Speir; but there must be a third of the people who do not come to school. See a good many big fellows loitering about. The farmers have a push now and then, and gather in as many as they can get, and then they go about idle till more work comes.

14. ————, parish schoolmaster, Mearns.—Number on roll, about 115, of whom at least three-fourths are agricultural class. Generally most crowded in winter, when there would be perhaps 20 more than in summer. But has been better than usual this summer; a number of the older ones, for whom there is no work in winter, come to school, boys from 14 to 16, farmer boys as well as labourers. Not so many girls at school: sometimes a few removed in summer time, for raking hay, at this time for instance, and some to keep an infant and let the mother out to work.

The girls are removed much earlier than boys, can be of use sooner, and they are taught to milk earlier; plenty of them can milk at 10 years of age. Some boys milk too: a great many milk morning and evening before and after school, beginning perhaps with one cow, and from one to two and so on. Only farmers' children (the ploughmen's and labourers' boys) are removed for going out with father and mother in the field at 14. A boy of 14 will get a woman's wages.

Mearns means "dairy;" it is chiefly a dairy district. Have a very big bleaching field, which takes some of the agricultural labourers' children.

Usual fees, 3*s.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, up to 5*s.*; up to 10*s.* for Latin and Greek and mathematics. Only about half a dozen in Latin now; had 14 a short time ago. Have two in Greek. None above 14. All boys just now; have had a great number of girls, doing mathematics first rate.

The labouring class take very little trouble in sending children to school; the boys often play truant. Often have to send another to look after them. There is a female teacher, who teaches in her school at 1*d.* a week, and after going to her come to the parish school, generally at about 9 years of age; but she teaches only reading and a little sewing.

APPENDIX II.—STATISTICS RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Approximate number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Parish School in the parish of Erskine.

In Summer.

	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 - -	24	24
Between 10 and 13 -	8	8
Total - -	32	32
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	23	23
Between 10 and 13 -	9	9
Total - -	32	32

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 - -	26	26
Between 10 and 13 -	21	21
Total - -	47	47
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	28	28
Between 10 and 13 -	15	15
Total - -	43	43

The children of the agricultural labouring class only are returned (no farmers' nor mechanics' children). Those on the register and in average attendance are the same.

2. *Parish School, Kilmalcolm.*

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Between 5 and 10 - -	51	32	83
„ 10 and 13 - -	48	43	91
Over 13 - - - -	5	2	7
Total - - -	104	77	181
Been in school less than one year	21	19	40
One year - - -	25	16	41
Two „ - - -	18	14	32
Three „ - - -	15	13	28
Four „ - - -	12	9	21
Five „ and over - -	13	6	19
Total - - -	104	77	181
Left in last 12 months -	29	21	50
Highest weekly average attendance.	82·5	49·8	132·3
Lowest „ „ -	18·75	13·25	32
Highest number on roll in the year.	71	50	121
Lowest „ „ -	54	33	87

	On Roll.	Average Present.
First quarter (Jan., Feb., March) -	136	124
Second „ - - -	135	100
Third „ - - - -	122	99
Fourth „ - - - -	120	83

Parish school, Kilmalcolm.

Table of fees for education, sanctioned by a meeting of heritors held 3rd June 1858.

Branches.

1. Reading, or beginners - - 3*s.* per quarter.
2. Reading, writing, and arithmetic - - - - 4*s.* do.
3. Ditto and grammar, geography, history, practical mathematics, and drawing - 5*s.* do.
4. All foregoing branches, with geometry, algebra, Latin, Greek, French, and agricultural chemistry - - - 6*s.* do.

Exceptions.

1. When four or more children, being brothers or sisters or members of the same family, are regularly or simultaneously attending school, one of them will be gratuitously educated.

2. Children schooled at the expense of the Parochial Board of Kilmalcolm to be charged 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter for each child, with an annual allowance of 6*d.* each for coals; books and articles of stationery being charged as extras to the Board.

N.B.—Other parishes pay the full fees.

3. *Copy of bills for Tuition at Innerkip parish school.*

Due, quarter ending December 28th.

	s.	*d.*
Thomas Scott and Mary McLean (4*s.* each) - - - - - -	8	0
Books:—Progressive lessons 1*s.* 6*d.*, slate 8*d.*, arithmetic 1*s.* - -	3	2
Tables 6*d.*, questions 2*d.* - - -	0	8
Pens, ink, and slate pencils - -	0	6
Coals (winter quarter) - - -	2	0
	14	4

To J. H. Brunton,

For the quarter's tuition, &c., due on Saturday the 31st. instant.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Robert McKechnie and George McQueen - - - - - -	0	9	0
Elizabeth, Charlotte, and Susan Burns	0	10	6
Margaret and Catherine McDougall -	0	7	0
Magaret McFarlane and Annie Berry	0	8	6
Richard Ross - - - - - -	0	4	0
Books:—Progressive lessons, 3*s.*; Arithmetic, 2*s.*; ——— book, 1*s.*; Bible, 2*s.* 6*d.*; advanced reader, 2*s.* 6*d.*; grammar, 1*s.* 6*d.*; spelling, 2*s.* -	0	14	6
Copies, 10*d.* - - - - - -	0	2	6
Pens, ink, and slate pencil - -	0	2	6
	2	18	6

Argyllshire.

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COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

APPENDIX I.—GENERAL EVIDENCE.

1.—CANTYRE.

1. *Extracts from Circular filled up by John L. Stewart, Esq.*, proprietor and agent to the Duke of Argyll, Stronvar, Campbelltown. — The cultivation is "chiefly arable; a large proportion hill pasture." Boys are employed "from 9 to 14 in summer; after "that age they usually become ploughmen, and are "constantly employed. At 10 or 12 girls assist in "the dairy or weeding in the field."

Women are "partially employed in their own "neighbourhood in weeding, gathering stones, and "harvest work."

"They never go to work more than a mile or a mile and a half; if further, carts are sent for them."

"Hours of work of men, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., if resident on the farm; if not, from 7 to 6. One hour's interval."

"Hours of work of women, if not residing on the farm, from 9 to 6.

"Hours of work of children, the same as with women.

"They are invariably kindly treated; their work is all light work. I much approve of the employment of women and children after 12. Their morals are not affected by it, and much good results to themselves, their familes, and the farmers. It would be cruel to deprive them of an opportunity of making money."

Of cottages "there is rather a deficiency; but "within the last two years the Duke of Argyll has "erected many new ones; the old are deficient in "accommodation. There is only one bothy on a "farm under my superintendence; it is attached to "the ploughman's house. The sleeping places are "divided by partitions. I hear of no evil effects. "At one time the mode of lodgment acted injuriously, the women and men sleeping in the kitchen; "but this is not the case now, they are always "separated.

"There is generally a garden not much valued.

"I have instructions, as the leases fall in, to stipulate that a cow's grass must be given to a farm labourer who has children. Potato-ground is generally granted, as much as they can cover with their manure."

"At present 14 new cottages, containing a kitchen and three sleeping rooms each, are being built on the Duke of Argyll's estate."

"The Act ('advancing money for labourers' cottages') is not the least taken advantage of; the interest charged is considered too high. Money at 3 per cent. would be taken up if the tenant built by agreement with the proprietor; at the end of the 19 years' lease the proprietor to pay the then value."

"Until the children are 9 years of age they have every facility for attending school. From 7 to 14 many, though employed in summer, go to school in winter. There is no difficulty in the way of education owing to their employment on farms. The commonest obstacle is their own disinclination to school, and the carelessness of parents in not enforcing attendance. There is no work for children between 9 and 14 in winter; they should then attend school. In all the parishes the means of elementary education are abundant and of good quality. All children attend school more or less. The children of all, except paupers, avail themselves of schools to the age of 11 or 12. Even paupers' children all learn to read."

Hiring is done "privately for married male servants with cottage on the farm three months before "term, and for unmarried male and female servants "at hiring fairs; paid partly in money and partly in "meat, with cow's grass for married men; single men "paid in money, with board in farmhouse."

Average yearly wages:—"20*l.* in money and 80 "stone of meal, with cow's grass on hill; cottage "and garden, and ground for potatoes and turnips, "as far as he has manure to cover. Equal to 33*l.* in "money, or about 13*s.* per week."

2. *D. Sinclair, Esq.*, Gartnagrenach.—Boys are employed "at about and after the age of 10, and "from 1st April to 1st November, girls are employed "about the same ages, and as many as are within "reach of the work at hay-making, weeding turnips "and potatoes, and lifting potatoes.

Women "employed as above, with the addition of "shearing corn in harvest, and none within a reasonable distance need be without employment at these "works; and are sometimes difficult to be had."

Would not let boys work under 10 years of age. No restriction necessary in case of females.

"In most cases the parish schools are within about 2½ miles of the residence of children attending them; and advantage is always taken of them, except in so far as the necessity of their going to early labour for the period above mentioned may prevent their doing so.

"The cottages in this parish are for the most part of inferior description, but of a sufficient number for the supply of labour, and are for the most part conveniently situate. They are overcrowded in some of the villages, but no extensive evils to morality occur in consequence. They are generally well supplied with water, but ventilation, especially in villages, is defective."

3. — *Smart*, overseer to Colonel Buchanan.—Children are not much employed under 14; go then to attend cattle and spread out the ground. Boys and girls much about the same age.

County principally sheep-farms, but most have a bit of arable ground up the glen, and some have a good many dairy cows, and a deal of cheese is made; they depend a good deal on dairy produce. Just grow enough corn for their own use. Most of the farmers just about here do all the work with their own children; the girls clean out the byre, and the wife and daughters make the cheese. One or two farms just here do not employ a servant at all. In that case the shepherd is a son. All servants kept in the farmhouse; they just have a room, and the women have another. Don't sleep over the stables. All have meals with the family. In the colonel's largest farm the shepherd manages, and he and his family live there, and they provide food and lodging for the other servants. Besides the shepherd there would be a maid and three lads about 20; one may be older. The oldest works the horses, the other two would be shepherds. A shepherd would not employ a boy; in some cases if he has children they would assist. Just about a farm a farmer would send his own children at about 6 or 8 among the sheep; but they go to school; all go to school more or less.

Most farmers employ unmarried men. A few extra hands would be employed for weeding turnips and planting potatoes, chiefly cotters. Most of them wives; sometimes labourers' wives and daughters, and fishermen's families, and widows. Sometimes a scarcity of hands, especially when turnips to be thinned. Children would go and assist, but not under 12 or 14; not capable of work under that. Most of them go down on hands and knees; make a better job of it so; leave the best plants.

The only cotters in this locality are fishermen, and widows of fishermen. The fishermen's children mostly in this locality go well to school, but are the most neglectful as a rule.

A farm servant's wage, 12*l.* or 14*l.* the half-year; a young woman 6*l.* The most are hired at the fair at Campbelltown. A shepherd would have from 10*l.* to 12*l.*, and has generally some perquisites, such as fire and a bit of potato ground, and grass for a cow. No system of paying by sheep in this locality. The shepherd has a cottage generally. Mr. Mitchell's shepherd has a cottage out away on the hill, and the shepherd of the home-farm lives away up the coast yonder. Always have two rooms, and sometimes a little pantry or closet in the centre, and all a bit of garden, perhaps one-eighth of an acre.

We have only one farm all dairy, but there are several farms dairy altogether between here and Campbelltown. Most of the hill-farms have 1,000 to 1,300 or 1,400 sheep, all black-faced sheep. Most of the proprietors are putting up wire fences now between each farm, which keeps the sheep much quieter, and there is no need of herding.

4. *Mr. Wylie*, farmer, Macharioch.—Have two boys on the farm, just about 14, the youngest I have had. The youngest boy has 3*l.* 10*s.* the first half-year he has been with me. The next boy has 6*l.*, and he'll be 16 or 17 years of age. Employ three ploughmen, and two live in cottages, married men; the rest stay in the house. Will do for cottages for a while. Would rather have the married men, as a deal steadier, and a deal of less noise with the girls. Have three married men; wife of the other lives in the village.

One has 10*l.* the half-year, and victuals.

One gets 24*l.*, 10 bolls of meal, and four bags of potatoes, free house and garden, and coals driven.

The other gets 23*l.* and something similar. They have no cows.

Have an old man also about the dairy.

Have about 60 cows. Five girls here and two women, and mistress milks herself. Mistress has charge of cheese, but girl works as well. Five girls live in farm; a mother and daughter live up at the other dairy. Girls get 6*l.* on the average the half year.

Have to get over a few weeders from the village; send over the cart. Just women mostly; no boys or girls. Most of the girls are out at farms. Some of the women who come are on the poor rate in the winter, and it is withdrawn in the summer, but not all; some are labourers' wives.

200 acres arable, and 250 of hill.

Boys do not work under 12; some few from the village will go weeding.

5. *Mrs. Lightbody*, widow (farm near Campbelltown).—Has 23 cows and 18 score of sheep. Has two sons, of whom the eldest is shepherd, and the younger goes with the horses. Has one daughter at home, who used formerly to go and work out in the field; but when her sisters married had to come into the dairy and make the cheese. There is one farm servant, who cleans out the byre and milks, and she and Mrs. Lightbody and her daughter do all the milking. Mrs. Lightbody is not so young as she was, and can only manage three or four cows, and the rest, about 20, fall upon the daughter and servant. There are no other hands employed, except perhaps one or two extra in harvest. The eldest son has eight children, who live also in the farm, and his eldest boy is old enough to come out now in the summer and do some work.

6. *Miss M——*, farmer's daughter, near Campbelltown.—Keep one servant girl and 25 cows. Me and my sister and servant milk, and we get a woman in to help. We can just do it, but it is rather heavy.

Have one boy of 15, who works with the horses. We have no herding; all the farm is enclosed. He came to us at Martinmas. We have besides one ploughman and an old man that works about with the boy. All stay in the house.

We get people to work extra from the village in harvest. Men and boys, and young girls, who make straps for machines. Get 2*s.* in harvest, working from 9 till 6. Come for turnip singling at 1*s.* a day, and are not out so late. If work is very pushing, get a few extra; but our people do a good deal without assistance.

Servant girl gets 5*l.* 10*s.* Like to get them engaged before the fair, but not the men; get them on fair-day.

Sister makes the cheese.

7. —*Lightbody* (age 13).—Was away last summer working. Went weeding turnips; worked for mother, who keeps a farm; strapped in harvest; lead horses; gather potatoes. Been at school in winter, going away again this summer.

8. *Hugh Reid* (age 12).—Father is a farmer. Never went to work before summer last. Did harvest work, weeded turnips. Four big men went weeding turnips, and one girl bigger than me, and me. Father employs two ploughmen.

9. *Samuel Mitchell* (age 13).—Father is a farmer. Worked for father a month last summer, weeding turnips and gathering potatoes. Just holidays. Eight of us went gathering potatoes, three girls all bigger than me, father's farm servants. I was the only boy. Like coming to school best. Did harvest work too. Father has two ploughmen, who live in the house.

10. *Mr. John McIsaac*, inspector of poor, Campbeltown.—Put out the children at about 14, some of the stronger at 12, to live in farmers houses. Wages 1*l.* to 30*s.* the first half year, and after that look out for themselves. Boys and girls much about the same.

Always send the little ones to country, as country more healthy; board chiefly with labourers or widows with families of their own.

Women do outdoor and indoor work, trained to both; about dairy. Girls will begin 12 to 14; others prefer town.

Most bastards from town than country in proportion to population. If come to be confined and are unfortunate but deserving, give mother money and confined at home, but if not come to poor house.

Hiring fairs common; engagements mostly made at fair. All go to fair whether they want a place or not. Most who want a servant tidy try to engage before the fair.

Population of parish 8,149, of which odds on 1,000 in country (nearly 2,000).

11. *John Buchanan*, shepherd, Carradale Mains.—Wages paid every six months is the usual custom; so much money with the keep of a cow and some meal. Most shepherds have just one or two fat sheep; formerly used to have a flock of 50 or 60 sheep, but all done away now; some had perhaps a little money besides.

Get 20*l.* the year; would be a fair average. Two cows, grass, and a calf (some have three cows); nine bolls of meal and potato-ground planted for you. Free house always for married shepherds; unmarried generally live in the farm.

Most shepherds are married and live far back in the glens, very far from schools.

Have an assistant at time of lambing, just an aged man. Have a boy helping me now, aged 13, just keeping sheep off the plantations and other peoples ground; stopping just a bit with me, but will go back to school.

Have a two-roomed cottage, a kitchen and a bedroom; don't count much on the garden; just a few greens. No pigs; beasties I don't like. Always have a byre.

Get sheep to eat who die of braxy, but very good to eat; eat besides oatmeal and milk. At clipping have so much whiskey allowed. One farmer helps another, and his shepherds go to help.

One shepherd will hardly manage 1,000 sheep out on the hill. On our farm will be 1,100 to 1,200, and on our farm have no assistance except just at dippings. Our farm is however, well fenced; some of the hill farms have very little. Hogs sent away to winter will try to find their way back home, and so straggle in that way.

No herding really necessary, if sheep straggle on to neighbour's ground shepherds are very neighbourly, and will take charge. Do not mind much if there is

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not great straggling, and do not keep very particularly to the march.

(Braxy is inflammation of the lungs; comes on on rich pasture from eating too much, and kills in a few hours.)

12. *Mr. Montgomery*, schoolmaster, Southend.—Generally farmers children attend best. Very few labourers children come after 12; many go away to farm service, some shift from parish altogether.

Four miles is the greatest distance any come; they are farmers children, and come in a machine. Hardly any in the parish do not come to some school.

Oldest pupils stay till 16; last year had two stay till 17. Were in Sixth Book of Euclid and in trigonometry. Were beginning Virgil and in rudiments of Greek.

Have five just begun Cæsar. Those of highland descent stay longer at school, and are fonder of reading at home.

Give spelling lesson, and perhaps give work to prepare at home; just a little to the lower ones, but have to help them mostly. Farmers children will prepare lessons well at home; but not the poorer children, not the labourers children. No proper light, and babies squalling. Parents would not take much interest, and children are not under control much, allowed to get their own way; but there are exceptions; two of the labourers' children have been prize-takers this last year. A lady down here gives many prizes. Rather causes a little illwill and jealousy, but try to do it by marking, and to those who do not get prizes I try to give a little book or something.

They have to get their own books. Give them to labourers' children at cost price, and the farmers and richer people pay full value. To the very poorest would charge nothing. Some of the people are worse off than paupers; teach them gratis, and have to provide books sometimes myself. Parents rather grudge money sometimes; always give a reading book, but geography or such like I have to teach off map; extra books, such as arithmetic, only some will have, but will let others look over, and can teach it much from the slate. Some will not even have bibles.

Trapping makes a great noise, but stirs up the class a good deal.

Have had a few lads of about 20 this winter learning mensuration, just about half a dozen who have spoken to me about it. Have had 20, but rather hard work for me, and all doing different work; much harder than if in one class.

Have a good many go in summer; some come back after turnip sowing, but only for a short time, and then go to harvest. Farmers' children go rather more than labourers. Girls leave school sooner than boys; twice as many boys as girls, and have been for the last eight years. Girls go to help older sisters in farms; would go at about 11; some go to nurse, either at a farm or house. A farm will take a girl of 11 to nurse, and run messages. And not so many of them in the parish, so wanted now.

13. *Mr. McLean*, schoolmaster, free school, Coalhill.—Have during the year 102; highest average about 80. Best in winter; lowest in harvest, and indeed all the summer too. The women go out to work, and children kept at home. They are very irregular after 10; the irregularity is the mischief of it. They go after 10 to gather weeds after the harrow, and to weed and single, and hoe potatoes. Live at home. Children who do that, will come back in winter. From April to November very irregular, but attend Sabbath schools, and sometimes a bible class in evening, which keeps up the knowledge.

Colliers children are perhaps the most irregular, and most inexcusable, as they are getting good wages, and women in constant employ. Children not used in the pit at all now. Colliers women work about the fields more than the agricultural labourers; will leave the children at home to take care of the younger. Went to enquire at one home to day, mother and daughter, of about 11, were working out. Girls get nursing from neighbours when no nursing in the house. Most of the colliers are low country people, strangers. No colliers children stay late.

14. *Mr. Ross*, schoolmaster, Free Church School, Campbelltown.—Better attendance in winter, between November and August. Go off for harvest, and some not come back till November. With few exceptions, of the better class; ages 11 to 15. None go under 11; very little value except herding. A boy came all winter, but just gone off herding; just a widow's son, will require to get clothing before he comes back.

Not above one-seventh or one-eighth would be farmers' and labourers' children out of 140. Farmers children come better than labourers. Very much inclined to have children educated. Could not draw any contrast between farmers and labourers and townspeople in point of regularity. Some of the furthest are the most regular; some come between four and five miles. Do not get them so young; often go to little country schools; but sometimes when two or three come in will get a car, and come together. Town schools always the finishing schools. The longest walking distance three to five miles. Have them walking it every day, back and forward.

Have 11 in Latin in the senior class reading Virgil, and same reading French; two would be girls. Would have 41 in Latin altogether.

In Greek have four; Anacreon and Tyrtoeus and Æsop's Fables.

Have 13 or 14 in Euclid, from the first to the sixth book; have 14 or 15 in Algebra, up to simple equations.

Give senior class alternate weeks of English and of History; same way grammar and geography alternately.

Trapping has its advantages; with certain conditions creates jealousy. But if they see you are fair, it goes on well enough. Don't let boys and girls go up above one another; disapprove of it above 9 years of age, but have a small proportion of girls. Boys wonderfully gentle to girls if master manages well. Would say "Girls you beat boys to day," or *vice versâ*; but do not let them go up above one another. Emulation brings out qualities, and is an epitome of the after world. Must treat them gently as well as firmly.

Very seldom have to use strap, only for carelessness or obstinancy.

15. *Mr. McFarlane*, Assembly school, Carradale. 38 boys and 22 girls; attendance is broken after 10 or 12 by going away in the summer to herding or something; in the winter come for a few months up to 14 or 15. In summer principally take farmer's work or go to the fishing.

Not much difference in farmers and labourers attendance. Have some boys come five miles from a shepherd's house; one family came very well; the boy aged 12 is away herding now. No girls are taken for herding. Girls much more regular, do not go to herd or to fish. Some boys go fishing at 12.

A great many are kept home when not much to be done. There is great apathy, especially among labourers. One family, paid for by parochial board, and too young to do anything, do not come. Sheer carelessness on the part of the parents. Never turned a child away because a parent could not pay, so that is no excuse. Fees 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* the quarter. No difficulty about books; I am authorized to give them gratis if the minister can certify they are unable to pay. Farmers generally have some good excuse, if they keep children away. Not so labourers.

16. *Duke of Argyll's cottages*:—(1.) A pair, in each a vestibule with a small closet on the right for coals, a pantry facing and the kitchen on the left, out of the back of the kitchen open two bed rooms. The rooms are very lofty, and of large size; the ceiling is plaster and they are roofed with felt. This is a favourite plan of Mr. Stewart's, it is much cheaper, saving a great quantity of wood in the roof as well as of tiles. This pair cost 180*l.*, if built with slate-roofs would have cost 250*l.* Let for 5*l.* a piece, which just pays the interest. The only drawback to the roof is its ugliness, rather like a bathing machine. It requires three coats of tar; if

not well tarred the water comes in. There is a small byre for one cow opening out of one side, under the same roof, and a privy at the back.

(2.) At Coal-hill, some old cottages, which had been let to coal company for 50*l.* by the Duke of Argyll, and let fall out of repair by the company; colliers' cottages never being so well kept up, as there is a doubt how long the works will last. Mr. Stewart shewed me the site, and plans for 14 new ones the Duke is going to put up; they will be in a row; each to have a kitchen, closet, and two bed rooms, to be roofed with felt. Visited two of the old ones, each consisting of but one room; in one inhabited by two women (pauper) there were holes in the roof; paid for it 2*s.* a fortnight.

(3.) At the new farm, which Mr. Stewart has been reclaiming, visited the grieve's cottage, which consists of two rooms, and built on to it is a bothy for three unmarried ploughmen; it is a large kitchen with little rooms partitioned off for each one separately with a boarding about six feet high. The grieve's wife keeps it in order for them. Mr. Stewart says it is the only bothy in the country; servants live generally in the farmhouse.

II.—KNAPDALE.

17. Circular filled up with assistance of Captain Campbell of Ardpatrick, and J. Campbell, Esq., of Kilberry; Parish of Kilberry, great proportion hill pasture, interspersed with a considerable extent of agriculture; send away a good deal of corn and potatoes; vessels from Ireland come to the coast for potatoes. Corn goes to Glasgow; there are some considerable dairy-farms; most of the Kilberry farmers do a good deal of dairy work, keep from 14 to 20 cows.

1. Only for herding cattle; from 10 upwards as long as the crops are standing, to keep the cattle off. There are very few boys in the country now, all go away to the low country to get into trades, &c. They generally live at home and are employed close to home, but know one or two instances in which they go to live in the farms. The cotters are very glad to get paupers to board out at their houses and make them work for them; they have them from the age of 10 to 13. Discourage it very much here.

2. Employment of girls rare, sometimes in small farms they take a spell at herding. As a rule it is the farmers own child that is employed. They always like to be employed about the place. Know some instances in which parents have a difficulty in getting them to go to school; they prefer running about at home after a sheep or cow.

3. Women take their share of work with men, planting, digging, and storing potatoes, weeding turnips, and hoeing, harvesting, &c. Cotters wives and daughters, and also those in the smaller farms paying about 100*l.* a year rent. These farmers will employ perhaps one lad, and the rest of the work is done by the family. The larger farms are just like those in the low country, but in the smaller the dairy work will be done by the family, sometimes with one girl to clean out the byre; but that even is sometimes done by the family.

4. Generally resident on the farms.

5. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. nominally, with an interval of two hours in the middle of the day; in winter breakfast at 7 and come after, working from daylight to dark with an interval of one hour for dinner.

6. No; dampness of the climate sometimes gives rheumatism, of which there is a good deal in the country, but they take the work very easy and there is no case of hardship.

7. Agricultural employment does not tend to immorality. Immorality is apparently not common.

8. Needless.

18. Some cottages indifferent, some bad. Generally only two rooms, kitchen, and bed room made of one room for children, if any in the family, to sleep in. Improving. Every one built now is built on an improved system. Captain Campbell has built three new ones; in each you enter by a door into a little entry with a room on each side, small scullery with a back door at the back. Most of them have a chimney now, but have one cottage where the people will not have a chimney put up; the old way was to have the fire in the middle of the room. Discourage box beds, and try to get iron ones; the box beds were for warmth and to protect from the rain that comes through the roof. It is very expensive to build cottages. Mason gets 4*s.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* a day. One Ardpatrick put up cost 110*l.*; tenant has also $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land, and keep of a cow; charge, 9*l.* a year; ought to have got it built cheaper. Slate cottage and the floor at one end, wood at the other. The common thing in the country is mud with a flag before the fireplace. Have only one house with a privy. Barely enough cottages, but the country has for the last 40 or 50 years been decreasing in population, and there are many deserted.

Apt to be overcrowded for a time sometimes, when special work, which entails a gathering of people, is going on, and then they go into lodgings; but it is unusual. In one case have a woman and three children in one small room, eldest boy aged 16, but it is an exceptional case. Half the cottage is occupied by an old man of 90, of whom the woman takes care. Could not trace any immorality to that source.

14, 15. No bothy system. Farm servants sleep generally in the house, and sometimes in the loft. In small farms would often find formerly men-servants sleeping one side of kitchen, women on the other, but this is rapidly going out. One case mentioned of a tenant's brother and female servant sleeping in same room eight years ago, with natural results.

16, 17. All who have not gardens have potato-ground; a farmer plants a field with potatoes, and gives so many drills to the servant. Common thing to give the keep of a cow. On hill pasture the value averages 30*s.*, on better ground as much as 3*l.* Very many have no gardens; potato-ground usual. Cotters have generally an acre or an acre and a half of garden; but farm servants very seldom; they have no time to work one, except if they have wives and children to work upon them while they are out working for their employer.

18. No instance here of loans from Inclosure Commissioners. Ardpatrick thinks the expenses make the system unsuitable for an out of the way part of the world. Kilberry says it answers well for draining.

25. Ardpatrick gives as wages 12*s.* to 14*s.* a week in money, a free cottage, sometimes a garden. No perquisites.

18. ————, Minister in Knapdale.—Children are taken away from school very early, will go as young as seven or eight to potato-planting, and after that to herding. The schools are often almost deserted in summer. A child that is old enough to come to school is generally old enough to do some work in the fields. It is the farmer's children that are generally taken earliest, they will be kept at home for a few days or weeks in a busy time and will then come back again. At about 10 or 12, a farm labourer's child will often get a place as farm servant for the six summer months, but then he will come back to school in the winter. They are generally taken away about April, and often will not come back till after Christmas; the parents when appealed to to send them will say, "O! we'll send "them when the days get a little longer," or they complain that their clothes and shoes are worn out, and they have to give them a new outfit before they are in a state to return to school. What is more to be complained of is the extent to which girls are kept at home for nursing, they are kept from school to look after the baby, while the mother is out at work. Recollects hearing of the wife of an 80*l.* rent farmer filling a manure cart with her baby strapped on her back. As a rule the girls leave school younger than the boys. There is not now the same inducement to the schoolmaster to teach advanced branches; no Government aid is given except for those passed in the three R.'s. Two or three winters ago had some big boys at Dunmore school, who came for morning

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or day classes, but the discipline was difficult to maintain.

There are two families, perhaps a third very poor one, the father often invalid, in the parish, who never send their children to school; one of these is the ferryman; in his case it is simply poverty; in the other case, that of a farm labourer it is extravagance and ill management; he is well enough off to send his children if he would spare the money, or not waste it. Complains that the children do not think enough for themselves; one of the children brought up at Whitehouse school, and considered one of the best pupils was found afterwards unable to do accounts; he understood the routine work of the arithmetic, but was unable to apply it.

There are two parish schools in the parish, at Clochan, and at Kilberry; the one at Clochan is the principal school; the building and 40*l.* is provided by the heritors and the master has his Government certificate and fees. The school at Kilberry was put up by subscription, and the heritors pay the master 25*l.* besides which he has fees and Government grant. There is also a school at Dunmore which was put up by the laird, and is supported by the Christian Knowledge Society, and another society gives 5*l.* The parish is well enough provided with schools, but there is great difficulty in keeping a good master on such poor pay.

Illegitimacy is very rare in the parish. The old system of lodging farm-servants, male and female together, is gone out; mentioned a case talked of, of a female servant having a child by a hawker. It was in a farmhouse of four rooms, in which the family occupied three, and the female servant the fourth, but if any stranger came he was put in the last room; it contained two concealed beds one of which the servant occupied, the other the hawker.

There are a few cases in which even farmers who have been educated themselves are very careless about educating their children; they can do all the necessary accountant work themselves, and do not bring up the child as if he would ever be independent himself, but keep him herding and working about the farm from an early age. The only real time when herding is necessary on some farms is morning and evening, which need never interfere with school if near. They like to give the cow a bite of good grass just before milking, and that they have close to the cottage; the boy is wanted to keep the cow meantime from the patch of corn, and after that till evening the cow is driven off to the rough hill, and the boy can go to school. Girls herd too, but not so much as boys. There is much of the feeling among the people that what is good enough for themselves is good enough for their children; they are not ambitious as in the north-east of Scotland.

19. ————————, occupier, Kilberry.—Would plough about 270 Scotch acres; have also a good deal of green pasture by the sea, and rough hill for the sheep. The largest farms about here employ six men, of whom five live in cottages. One is a shepherd, who is paid in money as the other men, but some still pay in so many sheep out of the flock; that, however, is going out. One of the other men will help the shepherd sometimes. One of the others is the dairyman, who overlooks the dairy with his wife and daughter. Two women also assist to clean out the byre, &c. Has 36 cows: six is full many for one woman to milk; the day-workers assist.

The highest wage of farm-servant is 14*l.* in money, varies from 10*l.* to 14*l.*; gives besides a free cottage and perhaps a half acre of garden; a cow's keep, which is worth 7*l.* The cow is kept with my own cows; by that means I get the manure. The reason a cow's grass is given instead of selling milk to the labourer is that the farmer runs no risk with the cows: if the cow's milk fails, the risk is the labourer's. The labourer does not keep a calf too, that system is much gone out, except on the small hill farms. He also gets four bolls of potatoes and a stone (14 lbs.) of meal weekly; fuel cut and carted for him, and time given for the purpose. The value of the wages comes to 35*l.*

	£	s.	d.
Money - -	14	0	0
Cow's keep -	7	0	0
Meal - -	6	10	0
Potatoes -	3	0	0
House and garden	3	0	0
Peat - -	2	0	0
	£35	10	0

Some have only 10*l.*; but the same allowances are given to all with a family. Have only one unmarried man servant. He sleeps in the house. Gets 16*l.* a year.

Generally hire servants privately, but if you cannot get them you must go to the hiring fair at Lochgilphead. I hire by the year, but the general system of hiring is by the half-year. They, however, always get the holiday twice a year if they want it, and they always do want it. Prefer married servants, because they are settled for life and stay with you. A farmer, if he has a house to give, will generally prefer married men for that reason. But a smaller farmer who pays 80*l.* to 100*l.* rent will prefer unmarried men. He keeps, probably, only one, and he boards with him, so that it comes cheaper; but a man who farms on a larger scale does not find it so economical, as he has to have a separate table for the servants. Unmarried men sleep on the premises. Sometimes they sleep in the same room as the female servants, but the good man and his wife generally sleep between them. Besides they sleep in box-beds, in which they dress and undress, and which comes to much the same as separate apartments.

Employ four men as day's-wagers at 2*d.* an hour; they find employment also from the neighbours when not employed by me. Employ six women in the same way at 1*d.* an hour; they would work for me, on an average, 150 days in the year. In cases of great poverty give them also some wool to spin. Two of them are widows, the other four are wives of men who work for me or of broken down labourers. At busy times have had as many as 17 out hoeing turnips, &c. It takes 18 hands to keep the reaping machine going, and there is sometimes difficulty in getting all the hands required. At busy times neighbours used to help one another, but it is not so much done now. Wages are doubled at harvest time.

20. *Schoolmaster*, Kilberry.—Have only 19 children on roll, 10 boys, 9 girls; two are children of shopkeepers, the rest of farmers, shepherds, and hinds. None come further than two miles.

Children will sometimes go as young as 8, but generally not till 10 years of age, to herd in the summer months. Farmers' children as well as children of farm servants will be taken in this way. They come back for the winter months. They generally go in May, and often do not come back till November, sometimes not till December. They leave for good at about 14, some as young as 12.

Boys stay longer than girls. A boy will stay to do Latin or mathematics, but never a girl. Have four boys in Latin, two in Greek, four in mathematics, doing the second book of Euclid.

21. *Angus Taylor*, occupier, Ardpatrick.—The farm servants and people with small holdings would put children at 12 to 14 weeding or herding, sometimes their own child. A farmer would not take a boy before 16 to live in the house; he would begin carting.

Principally depend on grazing. Share the farm with another man and keep a score of cows, all Ayrshires, which are becoming general now; sell off our farrow cows and bullocks, at 2 or 3 years of age, to people in Ayrshire, who feed, either stall-feed or pasture. Would not have above two or three feeding ourselves. Herding is necessary now on a farm which is not fenced to keep the sheep and cattle off the corn. Little girls are employed by some herding, but not so much as boys; would go weeding or haymaking.

My own son and a lad are the men employed; have also two women who milk and clean out the byer. One woman will milk eight cows, 10 is fully much. Two daughters assist, and when the house-work is done they and the women will go out to do field work. In harvest and busy times have two or three extra hands, who get on an average 1*s.* a day, (some give as low as 10*d.*,) and 1*s.* 6*d.* and food in harvest. They are just cotters. Girls and boys would get 8*d.* or 9*d.* Ten or 12 would be the most out. The women servants generally sleep in the kitchen, and the men, if there is a room over the stables would sleep there. Can recollect quite well, in a small farm, where perhaps there were only two rooms, men sleeping on one side the kitchen and women the other, but know of no such now; accommodation is better.

My lad, aged 18, gets 6*l.* 10*s.* and board and lodging; not up to everything, but will do almost what a man can. A first-rate man would get 12*l.*; a dairywoman 6*l.* or 7*l.*; a common one 4*l.* or 6*l.* Don't like to hire at a fair; even if you get a character, people are very heedless in giving a character; but they all want their holiday at the time of the fair.

Have only a few sheep, so do not require a shepherd.

Share the farm with a neighbour. Was just short of means. We have two steadings on the farm. It is not a regular partnership, just a friendly arrangement. Very much done away with now, but sometimes three or four will join. Proprietors are against it. There is a stone dyke between the two farms; we are only in company in the lease. Three of my neighbours all have a little bit of agriculture, and combine to hold a bit of hill, where they have a shepherd between them.

The highland cattle are being much superseded by Ayrshires, for two reasons, they calve a year later, at 4 year old, Ayrshires at 3 year old, and the highland cattle are bad milkers and give no return till sold off as young cattle, whereas the Ayrshires will be giving milk for butter and cheese, and can be sold off afterwards.

The climate is too wet for wheat.

22. *Andrew Carswell*, old man.—Great difference from what was when I was young; was not so much fencing. I went at 9 or 10 to herd cattle till I was 16, when I got farm-work; but now most of the proprietors fence, and perhaps only a boy will go here and there, not as it was in my young days. Back on the hills the shepherds drive back the sheep from one another's ground, and there are no fences, but boys are not employed. A shepherd will only have to go out and look after the sheep morning and evening; will manage perhaps 500 or 600. Will want perhaps an assistant in lambing or cutting time, or if he has more than that number of sheep will have perhaps a boy at half wage, 5*l.* the six months, including board; he will be about 16 years of age, perhaps younger.

A shepherd's wages will come up to near 50*l.* A free house and garden, sometimes a rood or half an acre. Food for three cows, in some places two, or only one, but I recollect when shepherds were paid in sheep, and had no money at all, perhaps 20 sheep, but farmers did not like it, as they paid too much attention to their own side. Do not think there is anyone paid like that from Campbelltown to Inveraray now. Keeps his cows in a byre; was much the way to have the byre quite into the house at one end, but not so much the way now. Have seen it in pretty extensive farms. Eight bolls of potatoes of the Cantyre measure, it's more than a load; six bolls and a half of meal (a boll 140 lbs.); right of cutting peat; 12*l.* in money. Likely enough the master would give the use of a horse.

Very few rich farmers who employ servants and send their children to education about here, but plenty over in Cantyre. Those who pay under 200*l.* rent would employ their children, if they have any. A poor farmer will make his daughter clean out the byre, and son thresh and plough; perhaps if there are several sons, a son is appointed to be the herd. In small farms servants would eat with the farmer and his wife. A farmer, on agricultural ground, paying 100*l.* a year would require two pairs of horses, would have two ploughmen, and an extra man sometimes in the farm or looking after cattle. Would have two women servants living in the houses; the women generally sleep in the kitchen to be ready for the work next morning, the men sleep now generally in a loft over the stables, or in a room out by. But have seen cases, and there are some now, where the entrance comes in the middle, and there is a close bed on each side, one for the men the other for the women. The box-bed is one that lets down into the room and shuts up by day like a cupboard; the close-bed is in the wall; some have shutters that you can close, but people who have them would be counted to have means above the commonality.

Women servants clean out the byre, and they would have some spinning to do, but that has gone out much. One woman will often milk eight to 10 cows, and that quickly, the mistress often doing as much herself.

In morning herds and farm servants would eat porridge and milk at 6 o'clock, and would be at work at 8 o'clock. Bread and cheese, after the porridge and milk, is put on the table. At dinner, potatoes and milk, and cheese; quite half the days would get meat, beef, but what they get would be inferior stuff. Supper, porridge and milk, and a cup of tea when they come in from work, but in my young days they got no tea. They are better off in the farm-house.

Have to get extra hands in April at potato planting and turnip planting. Girls at 1*s.* a day; only work perhaps from 10 to 6. From 16 to 40 years of age. would just take a girl of 8 to 10, and a boy at 8; would take them as well as a grown person for light work. Hoes are coming in very much, a child of 8 or 10 can use a light hoe; can learn use of it in a couple of days. The master goes out; say there are six of them at work in the next field; unless the master is with them the work is not properly done. It is just a mixture goes out, from 9 years upwards, an old woman and a young girl. Will have done with the extra hands about the middle of May, when the turnip ground is cleaned; set them to work again at the haymaking, and then they will go on till all the crops are gathered. At potato digging men and women both work; a woman will often do as much as a man, and then the master will pay her as high, 2*s.* a day. She will bring a little girl or boy to gather the potatoes; but it is only at that work she will make as much. A farmer's young family, aged from 10 to 15 years, would often be kept from school when labour is not readily to be got to do the light work. The farmer would rather do it with the children of their own farm servants or their own children in preference to paying day wages.

23. *Neill Baxter*, woodman and farmer, North Knapdale.—Would employ boys at about 11 years, girls at about 12, boys just barking the trees, working with the mell; begin at about 1st of May till perhaps 1st of July; only employ children for peeling. Employ grown up women and girls of 12; girls working with the mell, and women peeling. Girls and boys get 10*d.* a day, if a little older, about 13 or 14, 1*s.*; women 1*s.* 3*d.* They are very scarce; would like to get three times as many if we could. They prefer going to farm work, the pay of which is regular, though not so high.

Farmers give days wages 10*d.* in North Knapdale. Employ girls at about 12, not younger. Come out haymaking at 10 a.m.; no good coming earlier because the dew is still on.

Most common to have servants living in the house; second class ploughmen would get 9*l.*, living in the house. The shepherd I hire gets 13*l.* the year, 6½ bolls of meal, a cow's grass, free house, planting of two barrels of potatoes. They cut their peats on the hill, and it is carted for them when convenient. There are none now paid with sheep.

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	£	s.	d.
Money - - -	13	0	0
Meal - - -	6	10	0
Free home and cow's grass -	5	0	0
Potatoes - - -	1	0	0
(He has to get the seed.)			
	£25	10	0

24. *Mr. Turner*, Parochial School, Bellaloch.—Children will come at 6 or 7, some as young as 5; are very regular for two years, and then only come in the winter time. Leave school altogether at about 13, but some will come back at 18, just for a winter's work. This only applies to boys. It is chiefly for their parents they work when young.

In the winter have on the roll 75, in summer 50. average regular attendance for the year, 36.

The furthest any child comes is 3 miles, but that is an exceptional case.

Fees vary from 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter.

Salary is divided between this, Kilmichael and Inverlussa, and Tayvallick. At Keils, which is five miles from any other school, they have a teacher in winter, who boards week about at the various houses.

Do not think there is any one of 14 or 15 who cannot read and write. One or two families are very careless. When they go away in the summer, they very often do not come back till very late. Make all sorts of excuses, such as no shoes and want a new suit of clothes.

25. *Mr. McDougall*, schoolmaster at Dunmore.—Has 38 children in the school. Thinks that there are always one or two families in the parish who do not care about schooling; are a few just at present who are neither at school nor at work. Farmers children will be kept at home just for a bit of work when there is any pressure, at a very early age, but come back to school when it is over; they are not so regular as the labourers' children. The school is rather empty just at present owing to the spring work having just begun.

26. *Capt. Campbell* of Ardpatrick's cottages.—(1.) A new cottage consists of a vestibule from which a room opens out to the right and to the left, the one to the left being the kitchen, to the right a bed-room. From the kitchen another door opens into a large scullery or pantry, from which a back door opens out at the back, the plan simple but good. The bed-room has a wooden floor, the kitchen is floored with red tiles from Glasgow, which however have not worn very well. The windows are large and open like sash windows, but as is the usual custom were found close shut, though it was a warm May day. The ceiling is of wood, and a ladder leads up from the pantry into a dark store-room under the thatch. The thatch is of bracken, which lasts very well for four or five years. The cottage cost about 60*l.*; had it been roofed with slate the cost would have been at least 20*l.* more.

No. 2. one of the old fashioned cottages, two rooms, very low in the roof, so that we could not stand upright; open fire-place in the room, but a hole in the wooden ceiling above, through which the smoke went up out into the air. Captain Campbell had offered to put a regular chimney, but they say their fire never smoked and fear that a chimney would. The floor is of hard mud, the ceiling of rafters covered over with rough wood.

III.—ISLAY, JURA, AND COLONSAY.

I. Islay.

27. *Meeting at Port Ellen.*

Present.

Mr. Colin Hay.
Rev. James Macfadyen, minister of Kildalton parish.
Mr. Scott factor to John Ramsay, Esq.

All Mr. Hay's men have cottages. General custom to have one herd or ploughman, who lives in the house and the rest are boarded out. Dairy farming is increasing very much, all dairy stock are Ayrshires.

Ploughman has 10*s.* a week of money, free house, fuel provided for him, planting of one barrel of potatoes; he provides seed, Mr. Hay merely gives ground.

Other labourers just have 10*s.* a week, and a free house, have cottages on the farm, small accommodation generally.

Extra men going from the village get some 9*s.* and some 10*s.* a week, no extras.

Women begin potato planting, lifting stones off the clover, peat cutting, weeding turnips; there is work for them all the season from April till October. Pay 1*d.* an hour, 10*d.* a day; at shearing time they get more, and at heavier work 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* The scythe is not much used. The women do most of the reaping, the scythe is used by the man and two women attend to him.

We have no scarcity of women, distillers wives and daughters come out. The best class of labourers go off to the low country. Girls would never work for us till 12 years of age; just a few younger may work for their parents. The herding is done more about the village for their own people.

Have no boys under 14; a man is worth two boys about a stable. Girls would leave school earlier because they are more useful at home, sewing, &c., and there is a general impression that girls' education is not so important as boys'.

In a transition state as to cottage accommodation; old ones very bad, often only one room, but they generally combine to divide it into two with beds, &c. There are still some of the old farms left, with the byre at one end opening into the kitchen, and the people coming in through the same door as the cows. Farmers with as many as four or five cows;

but such farms are going out now very much. The labourers do not have the keep of a cow, the shepherds do; they are the best paid class of the labourers, they are now not paid in sheep. Mr. Hay gives a shepherd 20*l.* a year, grazing for a cow, three loads of oatmeal, found his own peat, free house and garden; would be about an average. Some have 15*l.* to 16*l.* or 18*l.*

Mr. Scott says he would put wages at 9*s.* to 12*s.* the great difficulty is the number of old and infirm people, who come back to live among us. Give some of them 1*s.* a day, perhaps 7*s.* a week.

A good many children do not go to school, but all have the chance, except in one district up beyond Ardbeg, where about 25 untaught. Those who do not send their children complain of having no clothes or that cannot afford the fees; the fees are 2*d.* or 3*d.* a week at Mr. Glen's school.

(1.) Parochial school; heritors give 35*l.*, house, and garden, fees, and a government certificate. Has an assistant, a certificated teacher.

(2.) Female school supported by the proprietors, fees, certificated teacher.

(3.) Ardbeg; a general assembly school of the church of Scotland.

(4.) Parliamentary school.

(5.) Gallic society's school in connexion with the free school.

(6.) Lot's school, a general assembly school.

28. *Robert Ballingall, Esq.*, factor for Charles Morrison, Esq., of Islay, (population of the island 10,361; acreage, 150,000):—

Boys are employed in the summer from 10 years of age and upwards, girls also at out-door work, herding, and fuel.

Hours of work for men, women, and children 7 a.m. to 12 a.m., 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Agriculture "prevents proper attendance at school,

"we require some mode of inducing more regular "attendance at school; apathy and the dread of the "parent that by the child learning English the child "may leave the parent" are the principal other causes of non-attendance. To ensure attendance at school would suggest "that the required number of attend-"ances at school, viz., 100 days or 200 attendances "for each pupil of a certificated teacher be enforced "as a minimum; that amount of attendance is "required by the new code for Privy Council grant."

New cottages, good; old ones, bad. "All new cot-"tages have separate apartments for boys, girls, and "parents; old ones, overcrowded, morals low, but "the inference that this proceeds from overcrowding "is doubtful. Bothy system not much known here. "All can have potato-ground, and nearly all have "gardens."

Average value of wages of an ordinary able-bodied labourer:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - -	23	8	0
Cow - - - -	5	0	0
Potatoes - - -	2	0	0
House - - - -	3	0	0
Fuel - - - -	2	0	0
	£35	8	0

Generally the cause of depression in female workers is the want of proper industrial labour for females; no evil arises from over-employment, much evil from the scarcity of such employment.

29. *Rev. John Macgilchrist*, minister, Killarrow.—There is a great difficulty in keeping the children at school, they go away this time of the year, very young, to gather shells, cut peat, &c. It is very much the parents' fault, there is a great apathy among them, they say they cannot afford to give them shoes and dress them properly, yet the fees are very low. There are very few who do not come more or less; two families just close down here, crofters, are very careless about it, and never hardly send their children.

Bowmore is a very poor place—these country villages ought never to have been built, they are mere nests of paupers. It is all very well if there are fisheries or works, but there are no works here except a distillery, which only gives work to a few men. There is no work for families; the women can manage to get in summer a little work, potato planting, and at harvest, but there is positively nothing for them to do the rest of the year. No one has ever tried to introduce knitting or other work; needle work is taught in the schools, and they do a little of that, but only for family use.

The parish is badly off for schools, we have only the parish school within a radius of three miles each way; there is a female school at Bridgend, and an adventure school at a hamlet, but both these are on the outskirts of the parish.

The cottages as a rule are very bad, many of them consist of only one room in which eight or 10 people are crowded; this is an evil, however, that the rapid depopulation of the island is diminishing. Many of the crofters, men who farm 20 acres or so, simply with the assistance of their families, still live in the same house as their cows. The cows come in through the same door as the family, and there is no partition between the kitchen and the stalls; there is generally a second room for a bedroom beyond the kitchen.

There are a great many paupers here, and the rates are very high. As a rule the young people do not do all they should in support of their parents; they marry at about 24, and are very poor themselves, so that they find it difficult to help their parents. The fate of an old man is often very miserable—very often he has to go to the workhouse, no relief is of course given as long as he is in possession of land; many of these crofters end as paupers. The old system of subdivision caused a great deal of evil, little bits were separated off when one of a family married; of course it is not allowed now.

The population has diminished immensely since last census; most of the young people, whose education is sufficient, go off to Glasgow or the low country. The people of one district, the Oe, have almost all emigrated to America; emigration is encouraged by the landlords, who wish to consolidate the farms. The population was and is still too large for the requirements of the land. Can recollect a great revolution in the system of farming. Formerly the population was divided into two very distinct classes—the crofters and gentlemen farmers. The latter were above working with their people, and would often go away for weeks and weeks leaving the work to be carried on in their absence by their dependants; of course little was done, but in those days rents were low. The larger farmers all reared stock. At present the landlords wish to encourage low-country farmers, and nearly all the farms are accordingly advertised as dairy farms. Men come in from Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire; they make better tenants as far as rent is concerned, for they do not require to keep up so much display, and also make more of the land. They have much increased the area under crop, and there is a great deal more of the surface capable of improvement. It is wonderful how much work they do with a few hands; they live much with their servants, many of them eat with them, and they go out to work with them. It is a case of "come out to work" not "go out to work," and as they are present to superintend much more work is done. Wages are very low, 9*s.* a week.

The old small farmers or crofters are going out very much; when such a farm falls in it is generally added to a neighbouring large farm. The people do not like it much, but they are quiet and there are no complaints here; the landlords are content to let them stay on as long as their rents are paid. They are all yearly tenants, and as a rule a very poor class, never trying to save, and only caring to put together enough to pay the rent. They do not employ servants, but assist one another in busy times.

Extract from circular filled up by the Rev. J. MacGilchrist.—Boys work in the fields "at all ages "from 8 and 10 upwards, in spring and harvest, and "herding cows or cattle all summer in many in-"stances in the parish." Do not think they should ever work under 14 years of age. Girls often herd cattle, gather shells, fish on the shores, and clean turnips in the fields from 8 and 10 upwards. In some kinds of work females may be very useful, and do the outdoor work equally well with the men. In a poor place like this I would not discourage it from 14 years and upwards.

"All have gardens for potatoes and also plots of land, and small feus at a reasonable rent."

30. *Thomas Scott*, factor to John Ramsay, Esq., Kildalton.—The women and children will get work whenever they can; the island has more people living on it than are requisite for the work; consequently the wages are low, 9*d.*, 10*d.*, or 1*s.* for women, and 6*d.* for boys. The men go away very much; higher wages are given low down, and they will go away at 18 or 20, and only come back to work here, or to go into the poorhouse when they are old men or crippled. Mr. Ramsay has built capital schools, and makes the people send their children to school, but they are very negligent about it. It is a pity that they should go so early to work, but the people cannot well get on without it where there is a large family.

Our wages are from 9*s.* to 12*s.* There are many crofters with small holdings whose wives and families will come and work for us when not busy on their own pieces. They make far better workers than the villagers as they have begun younger.

31. *Rev. James Mac Fadyen*, minister of Kildalton.—"Boys begin work at 14. Girls are employed in the fields at 14, and in the house (working for their parents and brothers) at 10 years of age, which keeps them out of school. All the women that can work and get employment are so employed."

"From 7 to 7 are the longest hours" of work.

Argyllshire.
Mr. Boyle.
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"14 is the limit I would fix for boys to begin to work so as to enable them to attend school more regularly. I do not think females should be employed in agriculture without being superintended, from their tendency to fall into immoralities"

"There are sufficient means of education, but many don't take advantage of them, (1.) because they go to early labour; (2.) because they are kept at home as nurses to let their parents and brothers and sisters out to work; (3.) because their parents are so poor that they cannot pay school fees."

"The cottages are not very good"—sufficient in number—"far away from labour, overcrowded, much illegitimacy in consequence. Very ill supplied in the village of Port Ellen with water; have sometimes to go a quarter of a mile for it. Ventilation bad."

"Very few have gardens."

32. *W. Graham, Esq.*, occupier, Lagavulin.—Cultivation mixed. Boys are "not employed till after 13 years of age, and chiefly in spring, summer, and harvest. Girls under 15 are seldom employed, except at peat and turf-cutting, or herding. Girls from 16 to 18 are employed at spring, haymaking, and harvesting. Women are employed in the same way as above, and are well treated and well paid." No restriction required.

Hours of work, "8 or 10 a.m. till 6 p.m., with an hour for dinner."

"Excellent schools, which are well attended."

"The condition of the cottages is generally bad, inconveniently situate, overcrowded, and ill ventilated. There are seldom gardens or allotments."

33. *William Webster, Esq.*, occupier, Daill, Bridgend, Islay.—Employs "six or eight girls from 11 to 13, singling turnips and harvest. Wages, 6*d.*, 7*d.*, or 8*d.*"

"Five or six women at haymaking, turnip, or harvest. Wages, 9*d.* or 10*d.* They principally belong to the farm."

Hours of work, "from 6.30 to 11, and from 1 to 6 o'clock."

No restriction necessary.

Cottages very poor; sufficient in number; in some cases conveniently situate. Very badly supplied with water in the villages; many have neither gardens nor allotments.

34. *Lachlin MacPhail*, farm servant (age 14).—Went to herd half a year last year; took a half-year's job. Had 2*l.*, and was stopping in the house, and he fed me. Went a month after feeing time; went to feeing fair. Was working in the summer at the hay and at the turnips; weeding turnips with hands; go down on hands and knees; a month after that were doing it with hoes. There was another lad, the son of the farmer's brother, and a lad from the moors; both older than me. There was a lassie and the servant's wife; that was all. Father is a servant; lives on the farm, and has a house of his own.

35. ——— (age 13).—Father has a farm; is captain of a vessel. I work for father last year or two; dig, herd, hoe potatoes and turnips last year. Father keeps two servants, two women servants. I was lifting potatoes last year.

36. *George Ross*, parochial schoolmaster, Port Ellen.—Children go generally at 12; some stay as late as 17. Generally have a class up to 15 or 16; some know Latin and some French; have a few boys in Latin. A few may be taken as young as 10 for herding, but come back at the term of Martinmas; become a great drag, forget so much, and cannot be in same class as the old companions; but it is no great number.

Boys, present quarter, 83; girls, 58; May, June, July. Boys, last quarter, 113; girls, 80; February, March, April.

Children when they first come do not know a word of English. Farmers' children are few, but very regular. Two girls come two miles; had two in winter and spring from Ardbeg, three miles.

Do not allow them to talk Gaelic in school; if they cannot talk English must just not talk at all.

37. *Schoolmistress*, infant school, Port Ellen.—51 on the roll, of whom 29 are girls. Have only little boys; begin to come as early as 3 or 4. The little ones have not a word of English; it is like a foreign language. The other day spoke to a child in English, and she turned round to her neighbour and made him translate it into Gaelic.

Have lately lost some of the older ones; they go away about now to cut peat for their parents; will also go to herd at about 7 years old. It is not much to do; will do it very young. Makes attendance very irregular, and it is very difficult to keep the children together. It is just minding the cow for their parents. (The second class were being examined. Spoke to two little girls aged 9 and 11, who had been away herding.) Another thing that keeps them away is the taking out dinners to their elder brothers and sisters at work. This will take them from 11 till 2 o'clock, so that it is hardly worth while coming for the rest of the day.

Use for the elder children the Irish school series, and Nelson's graduated series for the younger. Have never had any difficulty in getting them to get books; they are very cheap.

The bigger boys go away to Mr. Ross's school, so they are younger here than the girls. They are also more regular; there is but one absentee to-day.

38. *Farms and Crofts in Islay.*—Mr. Ballingall drove me about the country (Islay). Meet a quantity of people travelling about in carts with all their luggage. It is the day on which all the servants change their situations, and the farmers lend them their horses. Visited various specimens of farm-houses.

1. Belonging to a crofter, who farms perhaps 20 acres, but very poor land, not worth 5*s.* an acre. The house is built of turf entirely, and thatched. It is very dark, and has but two windows, which do not open, each about a foot square. The floor is of hard earth. It consists of one room only, but two beds are placed across the centre of it, leaving only a narrow passage between, and it makes a partition of some five feet high. The interior is intersected by trunks of trees, which support the roof; the rafters, which with the thatch on them are bare, are black with soot. There is no chimney, but the smoke goes out through a big hole in the roof. The grate is open on both sides, so that people can sit on three sides of it. The man and his wife and five children live here. The woman could hardly speak a word of English.

Mr. Ballingall says that the schoolmasters report to him any children who have been irregular lately. Go round to parents next time I am riding in that direction and ask why they do not send them better. They are pleased at their names being known. Always say they will send them next week, but they have had to plant potatoes, cut peat, &c.; but the child does come.

2. *The farm of Angus McTaggart:*—The house consists of one big kitchen and a parlour opening into it, the latter neatly furnished with chairs and tables, and two beds, and has a fire-place. The kitchen, which is much the larger room, had an earthen floor and no fire-place, a hole in the roof serving to let the smoke out, and the grate was arranged as in the manner of the cottage above described. The roof, which had a very high pitch, had the rafters and thatch uncovered inside. Next door, built on to it, was the granary, where threshing with flails was going on.

3. *An Ayrshire farmer's steading:*—Much the same as in Lanarkshire. The stock are all Ayrshire. The mistress makes the cheese, and three women also are employed for the milking. All hands were out about the fields to-day, and we only saw one of the women.

4. Another farm of similar character, which we visited to see the bothy Mr. Marr has just put up. It was built on to the end of another new building at the farthest end from the home. It consisted of two storys, and was arranged for three men. The lower story was a paved sitting-room with a fire-place, and a wooden ladder led up through the floor into the

bedroom above. The bedroom is in the roof, which is of slate and sloping, with two small windows. It contains three beds, and the floor is of wood. Mr. Marr has put up these buildings himself, but Mr. Ballingall had seen and approved the plan first. The bill would come in to him, and he would probably allow the expenses for most of it. Mr. McTaggart built the farm-buildings on his holding without a lease, but Mr. Ballingall explained that he had bought them of him on Mr. Morrison's account since.

(II.) Jura.

39. *Rev. Lachlan McKenzie*, minister of Jura.—Boys go to work "at 12 years and upwards. They "are employed from the end of spring to the end of "autumn. Girls of 12 years and upwards are occa- "sionally employed in hoeing turnips, weeding, hay- "making, and other light farm-work. The number "so employed is small, perhaps about six." Women are employed "to a limited extent, except in reaping "time, when most of the young women in the families "of small tenants and cotters assist in securing the "crop, and they are generally employed on the farm "on which they live." No restriction is necessary.

Hours of work, "6 a.m. to 6 p.m., including two "hours of rest."

"In the island of Jura there are five schools, so "situate that they are accessible to all but a few "families. These schools are taken advantage of "particularly in winter and spring."

"Of late considerable improvement is observed in "the building of cottages and in their internal "arrangements. They are sufficient for the labour "required, they are conveniently situate with respect "to the farms, not overcrowded, and there is no im- "morality that I attribute to such a cause. They "are well supplied with water and pure air." All have gardens or some allotment of land.

40. *Colin Campbell*, parochial schoolmaster, Jura.—Girls leave earlier than boys; can assign no reason; have no girls above 12, but 16 boys.

Scanty attendance to day; wet day, and besides, some are away planting potatoes, cutting peat, &c. Two boys of 10 and one of 8 to-day in school, have just returned from peat cutting; the least is the son of a crofter.

41. *John McGillivray*, teacher, Brosdale, Island of Jura.—Children go away to work at 12 and 13 years of age; come back in winter, all about here come; all children of Mr. Campbell's labourers. Greatest distance two miles. No difference of age at which boys and girls go; go equally to work.

Had a night school of 12 in winter months, all adults, all men. Ages from 19 to 32. Five nights a week, went on for five months, two hours each night. Longest distance to which any came, a mile and a half. All came regularly. Taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. All had learnt before, it was just revising. Taught no higher branches, it was all elementary. Did not try to get women; thinks it a bad thing under the circumstances.

Set apart one night for mutual improvement; read extracts from books, each choosing his own. Had this reading in both languages, principally history of Scotland and England. Other nights just ordinary things. They made remarkable improvement; will have it again when nights get short.

Attendance at school, 39 in winter, 24 in summer. The Christian Knowledge Society gives 20*l.* annually; the proprietor gives the building.

42. *Cottages* in the Island of Jura.—1. Two rows of four houses each, facing one another. Two form the school and the schoolmaster's house, the others are the dwelling of Mr. Campbell's labourers. Each consists of two rooms; they are built of stone and thatched; the cottage we entered was entered by a small square vestibule, the door in the centre, and rooms opening off right and left; a window on each side of the door. The floors are of mud, which hardens and becomes firm, there being a substratum of small stones. There was a bed in each room, one being formed in the recess off the kitchen. A ladder from the vestibule leads up into a loft over the rooms, but this loft is only formed inside the sloping roof by placing small logs of wood across the rafters that run across the top of the wall. These logs are put up by the tenant, but carted by the landlord.

2. A pair of similar cottages just finished, one not yet inhabited. The rooms were open to the roof, the partitions only reaching as high as the top of the outside walls. The roof is of thatch, and lined with rough wood.

Mr. Campbell calculates that such cottages cost 40*l.* to put up; he lets them for perhaps 1*l.*, sometimes only for 12 days work during harvest, which the tenant may send one of his family to perform. Let cottages on farms to the tenants, reserving only a few for paupers. If a tenant wants a cottage Mr. Campbell gives wright-work, and materials free, and the tenant finds labour, and is forgiven his rent for three years. The small tenants have no leases, the large tenants have.

3. Cottage inhabited by an old woman, stone and thatch, but there is no mortar. The roof is open thatch; entrance into the cottage by one door, leading straight into the byre (the cow was not in at the time of our visit). The byre is only shut off from the living room by a rough wooden partition with a door in it, and to enter it we had to go through the byre; the partition did not rise above the height of the inside wall. The living room is large and is paved with stone. There is no fireplace or chimney, but a hole in the middle of the roof, and a fire of turf is lighted on the rough stone immediately below.

4. A cottage adjoining the last, only one room. It was deserted, and an old woman, who had left the island and returned, had taken possession. Rough stone walls, with no plaster outside, plastered inside, paved floor; room open to the thatch. No chimney; fire laid on the floor under a hole in the roof, as in No. 3, but on one side of the room.

N.B.—These two pay no rent.

5. House occupied by Mr. Campbell's herd, also a small crofter. Mr. C. put up the house, and the tenant the byre. Has three cows and a heifer, and six or seven acres of arable land, which he and his boy cultivate. The house consists of two rooms, right and left of the vestibule, and a pantry opposite. The windows do not open. Each room contains two beds; floor of hard mud. Pig sitting comfortably under a chair. Good barn attached. Mrs.—— makes good butter, which is not much made here.

(III.)—Colonsay.

42a. *Rev. J. B. MacKenzie*, minister of Colonsay and Oronsay (population 500).—Boys are employed "from 12 years, a short time in spring and a short "time in autumn, about eight weeks in all. About "50 girls are employed occasionally from the age of "13 years in weeding and hoeing turnips and pota- "toes, clearing hayland of stones, and such like light "farm work. Women are very seldom employed."

Hours of work "from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an "hour for dinner."

No restriction necessary, "as their work is entirely "optional."

There are "one parochial and two society schools "conveniently situate, at which the attendance is "about the average, and in no way hindered by early "agricultural labour."

Cottages very good "all have allotments of land "conveniently situate."

"I concur in all that has been stated above."

John McNeill,
Killoran House,
Colonsay.

43. *Col. A. C. McNeill*, occupier of Oronsay (acreage 1,300; cultivation mixed.)—No boys or girls under 13 years of age have ever been employed by me.

Argyllshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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"Extra hands when engaged have only one-half "to three-quarters of a mile to go to and return from "work."

"If attendance at school is desirable, no boy should be permitted to work until 16 years of age, or say 14 years at the earliest. Restriction as to age of females would be very desirable; no female can gain any good by being associated in work with males, particularly when the former are young.

"There are two first-class schools, great advantage taken, particularly in winter and spring. One scholar educated in this parish took first-class honours and degree of M.A. in Edinburgh university.

"Only one cottage on this farm, conveniently situate, not overcrowded, occupied by the grieve or headman, who is married. Cannot state about neighbourhood, but believe them to be the best in the west highlands. The only cottage has ample allowance of land for potatoes.

"In making this return it must be explained that a certain number of permanently engaged servants are employed, being boarded and fed by the occupier and that when 'extra hands' are required, they are employed as required, being also fed and boarded. Every care taken of them as regards comfort and morality."

44. *Parochial Schoolmaster*, Colonsay.—Age of children at school varies from 5 to 17.

Have 26 on the roll in May, in January 29. Many go away in summer and come back in the winter. In November, attendance 14, owing to gathering potatoes. In July, attendance 20.

Children are away now planting potatoes, gathering stones, cutting peat. Would not go to work under 11. They work for their parents, cutting potatoes, gathering whelks, &c.

Disinclination to move, and carelessness on the parents part are much greater causes of their not coming. Not poverty. Fees 2*s.* to 3*s.*

IV.—COWALL.

45. *Rev. John MacDougall*, minister of Lochgoilhead.—The cultivation is "chiefly pastoral, corn, "potatoes, turnip, rye." Boys are employed "from "12 to 13, chiefly in the summer season." Girls are not employed. "They are almost all employed at "home or elsewhere, in domestic duties." Women "are much employed in corn shearing, haymaking, "potato digging, &c., &c."

They go to work "only to the fields about the re- "sidence of the farmer. Hours of work generally "from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Very much depends on the "weather."

No restriction necessary.

"There are schools in the neighbourhood of the children of the labouring classes, excepting in particular instances; and they take advantage of these means of education. Those who are engaged in labour in summer go to school in winter."

The condition of cottages is fair, and the number sufficient. "Sometimes they are overcrowded from "giving lodgings to labourers at exceptional jobs; "and I have known evil results to morality to ensue "in these circumstances. Some of the cottages have "good gardens or allotments of land, but the greater "number have not."

46. *J. Clark*, occupier, Balemenoch, Strachur.—Have two shepherds; one married, one single.

Single shepherd gets 9*l.* 10*s.* the half year equal to 19*l.* the year; lives and boards in the house.

Married shepherd gets 18*l.* the year and a cow's grass, 6 bolls of meals, cottage and potato-ground, as much as he can manure with his cow.

Two ploughmen get 9*l.* the half year equal to 18*l.* the year, 6½ bolls of meal, a cow's grass, cottage and potato ground, as much as he can manure with his cows.

A little boy, who looks after the cows, gets 6*l.* the year and board. Aged about 16.

Two women get 4*l.* 10*s.* the half year; one dairymaid, the other housemaid. Keep about a score of Highlands and five or six Ayrshires.

They live above the stable.

Have more land under cultivation than most.

At haymaking give women 1*s.* a day, at shearing 2*s.* a day. Own men do the shearing.

Can get more work out of unmarried men, but the married are always ready. Do not care much which we have. Just depends on the mistress, which she likes. It is getting more common to have them out.

47. *Mr. Nicholl*, schoolmaster, St. Catherine's, Strachur.—Number on roll 35 in winter, 24 in summer. Rather more boys than girls, just a chance. Parents chiefly fishers with small crofters.

Have them up to 16 in winter, boys chiefly; perhaps for three months. Girls at that age are out to service. Boys out of place just living with their parents. Don't go to serve here young, perhaps not before 18, are helping parents fishing at about 12, and then help in the crofts too. Can help in the crofts at 9 or 10, when crops are being sorted; potato planting, making hay for the cow, and lifting potatoes are the three things that keep the attendance down. No herding here; just one boy only.

Fees begin at 2*d.* the week reading and counting, and 6*d.* extra for each branch. Pay always in money. Don't get it well since the fishing has been so bad; it is very unpleasant the matter of the fees; must take what I can get. Often have a difficulty about books. They don't decline, but they are very slow. The parents take an interest in learning.

Teach no Gaelic, dying out fast. When they first come to school all children talk English; few of the young people talk Gaelic, though all the parents do.

Plenty of schools in this parish. They come to me two miles each side. Three schools, parish school, free school, and this society school. Attendance in all three schools about the same.

Poverty is the reason of difficulty in getting fees. There is a great want of constant employment; they get a little employment in the winter, but generally speaking depend only on their fish, and perhaps half an acre of ground and a cow's grass. Have not a farmer's child in the school; they are all poor people. They pay 5*l.* rent for house, potatoes, and cow's grass. Cottages not good, but great improvement going on.

48. *Schoolmaster*, Lochgoilhead.—Most of the boys are shepherds' boys, and go to assist their parents with the sheep. One aged 11 away now for the purpose. One of 14 gone away herding for the minister, and comes to school in the winter. Three oldest in the winter are shepherds' boys, aged 16, 16, 15. Farmer's family up the loch come to lodge in the village, and go home on Friday evening. A farmer's daughter, aged 12, walks to school every day; was away last week planting potatoes. Two shepherds' boys, 11 and 12, were away at the peats. More boys than girls in the school. Girls leave earlier. Teacher over the hill was saying they stay at home to learn nursing.

Besides this there is the Parish school and Cairndow school.

Fees 2*s.* 6*d.* reading, 3*s.* writing, 3*s.* 9*d.* three r's. Get fees pretty regularly, some late, but shepherds get their wages half-yearly, and pay then.

Have only one in Latin, three were doing Algebra, but gone now. Got up to Equations. Surprised to find them so intelligent; they are by no means dull. Know of only one girl of 8, who stops with an uncle, who does not come to school.

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49. *W. Martin, Esq.*, agent for J. Malcolm, Esq., of Poltalloch.—The cultivation is "mixed, the low "grounds being arable and the high grounds "pastoral." Boys are employed "seldom before "14 years of age. They are employed from the "month of June till the month of November." "Girls at the same ages thinning turnips, haymaking, "making bands and binding sheaves, cutting weeds, "&c.; they still live in their own houses. Women are

"employed in all the above-mentioned works, and a "few of them have to assist in the care of cattle "during winter. They mostly live on the farms, and "hold the cottages of the farmer."

Hours of work for men, women, and children, "6 "a.m. to 11 a.m., & 1 p.m. to 6 p.m."

"The girls as soon as they get to 16 years of age "generally endeavour to get places as domestic "servants; many of them go to Glasgow for that "purpose, and they make very good servants."

No restriction on field labour advisable. "The "wages being only 11*s.* a week on the average, a "labourer with a large family generally looks to "their earnings during spring and harvest-time to "help him through the winter; his earnings alone "would barely support the whole family."

"There are parochial and parochial side schools in every parish. In Kilmartin parish there is a school supported by Mr. Malcolm in addition. There are one or two isolated ones where children do not attend school on account of the distance from their homes, and sometimes, but rarely, on account of the carelessness of their parents. It is a common custom to send children who live far from the school to board near it to enable them to attend. I know of a case where children living close to a side school are sent to board near the parochial school that they may have the benefit of a better master.

"The district is generally well off for cottages; they are sufficient for the supply and conveniently situate, they are not overcrowded. Male farm servants all live in cottages, the dairy-maids live in the farm houses. "No bothy system." They have gardens, and the farmers generally give them as much ground as will plant a barrel and a half of potatoes (seven barrels plant an acre). Cows are now seldom allowed to any one but shepherds; in some cases the head shepherd is a married man, and has to board the under-shepherd in his house, in which case he is generally allowed an extra cow's grass. Mr. Malcolm builds a number of new cottages every year, and is gradually doing away the old thatched houses; none of the kind without chimneys are left.

"Farm-servants are hired at the spring and autumn markets, and are generally paid half yearly in money. Labourers, male or female, taken on as extra hands for spring and harvest work are on daily wages, which are paid either daily, by the week, or at the end of the harvest according to agreement.

"Men in charge of horses 11*s.* a week, 28*l.* 12*s.* a year, free house and garden, one barrel of potatoes planted for them, time to cut their peats and the use of the farm horses to cart them home.

"Other men 10*s.* a week; in mowing and shearing time they get 12*s.* a week, potatoes planted as above; they find their cottage.

"Occasional wages:—

Men 2*s.* a day.
Women 10*d.* In harvest 1*s.* 6*d.*
Children 8*d.* „ „ 1*s.*

50. *John MacArthur*, National Bank, Inveraray, owner and occupier.—The cultivation is "principally "pastoral." Boys are employed "from 10 years and "upwards in summer and autumn." Girls "prin- "cipally weeding, making hay, and thinning turnips. "Women go to haymaking and harvest work generally "they and children of both sexes are both employed "in spring barking oak-wood."

Hours of work for men "usually from 6 a.m. to "7 p.m., two hours interval." Women and children, "from 9 a.m. till 7 p.m., with an hour of interval."

"The employment is wholesome. I do not think "their morals are injuriously affected by any of the "employments referred to, unless when a large "quantity of wood is brought by a wood merchant, "and he brings people from large towns, many of "whom have not the best morals, but the people "of the district seldom mix with them;" no restriction in farm work necessary.

"Children under 12 years of age are rarely employed excepting about three months in the year, and have the other nine months to attend school. Herds (boys) are usually employed in summer only, and attend school in winter. I do not think any compulsion is necessary, parents are all anxious to have their children educated, and there are lots of schools in this parish.

"In this parish the cottages are pretty comfortable, but in many other highland parishes some of the cotters dwellings are very wretched and overcrowded. I cannot particularly speak of evil results, but I fancy overcrowding has the effect of dulling the sense of decency. The bothy system is not known here. Farm servants are usually lodged in the farm-houses; sometimes the men sleep in the stable loft. Some cottages have gardens; all cotters living in the country have potato ground. Married ploughmen and shepherds usually have besides money wages from one to three cows' grass, and potato ground, and 6½ bolls of oatmeal.

51. *James Wylie, Esq.*, Chamberlain of Argyll, Inveraray.—Boys are employed from 13 years upwards summer and autumn. A few girls employed in haymaking and harvest work, women in clearing and reaping crops.

52. *Charles Turner*, Maam.—Employ two shepherds and three farm-servants, a head boy and two women servants indoors.

Have one farm-servant and one shepherd married, who have houses; when married are less trouble to the house. Women sleep in a room in the house, men in the little house out yon.

Wages: shepherds two cows' grass, two stirks' grass, 12*l.*, seven bolls of meal, as much potato-land as they choose, and some extras such as braxy; they have a little money before they marry to buy the cow, they rear the calf and sell the stirks at about 5*l.* a piece. Many people have crosses and Ayrshire cattle, but it is not usual. Just have a few Ayrshires myself, better milkers. Other cattle run on the hills.

Ploughmen in the house get 10*l.* the year, bed, board, and washing.

Married ploughmen—one cow, one stirk, 15*l.*, 6½ bolls of meal, and dinner in the house.

Braxy when dried is very good, don't mind much about it myself when can get better.

Herdboy—last one got 5*l.*, usually get 4*l.*

Married men generally engaged by the year, unmarried by the half year; do not change much myself, but some do. Have feeing-fairs, and always have their holiday, whether they change places or not. Have just enough arable land to keep the house, sell some potatoes, and turnips, and hay, in an occasional year. Have not many day's-wagers men in harvest get 2*s.* 6*d.* and dinner, don't have them at other times.

No women working except the Duke's people, and they get 1*s.* 4*d.*; are not employed as much as used to be, only a few old women who would come out from Inveraray. Don't want any to hoke potatoes now, potatoes fail in this part.

53. *James McPherson*, occupier, Kibblaan.—Employ two men. None married. No, won't tell what their wages are unless I was upon oath.

Two shepherds, one in the house and the other out, one in the house gets 18*l.* the year, board and lodging. Herd boy, aged 13 or 14, gets 30*s.*, or a crown more if he pleases me; only just comes for the half year; wish his time was up. No the right game at all.

Two girls; one in the dairy, one in the house. Wages, 4*l.* the half-year They are hired by the half-year at the fair. Men sleep in the house.

There are a great many of the low countrymen come up here now, but they are all cheated. They don't allow for the death; we lose regularly half our lambs by braxy. No one knows why, but that's just it.

54. *Mr. MacDonald*, occupier, Poltalloch.—Girls would come to work at about 14 in the fields; not

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younger than 12. Girls at 12 or 14 would get 2*l.* the half-year, and board and lodging.

Women above 18 would get 5*l.*

Keep two single men in the house, who sleep in the loft above the horses, have meals in the house, and get 9*l.* 10*s.*

Ploughman, living in a cottage, gets about 30*l.*; 15*l.* money, cows' grass, free house, wintering for a cow, stirk in summer too, planting of two barrels of potatoes, peats cut and carted.

In harvest women make 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, at turnip thinning 1*s.* and their dinner, put that at 3*d.* or 4*d.*; put women's wages at 1*s.*; higher than Mr. Malcolm.

Fifteen cotters hold of me; one or two pay 3*l.* 15*s.* with cow's grass and potato-planting; have no claim upon them, they work just as much for others. Only advantage from them is the dung for the land. Calculate 2*l.* for the cow' grass; the highest pays 4*l.*, the lowest 3*l.* 15*s.*; all are labourers. Pay so much for the farm and they pay rent to tenant. They are very useful, and in many places farmers are ill off for work.

Many little boys where ground is not well fenced live in farm at 14 years of age; but where ground is fenced girls are more useful than boys, as when they come in they can assist the other servants.

Milk five Ayrshire cows, rear 20 Highland calves. All the low ground is arable. Dairy-farming is all very well if you have have a grown-up family to look after the milk and cheese. Highland cattle rear their calves; sell them at a year old for 7*l.*, at two years old for 10*l.*

55. — *Davie*, occupier, Kilmartin.—Used to have married men, but have none now, change about; have only one man, have a brother at the farm too; have about 120 acres arable.

The man boards with us; married men are more permanent, and you can get the wife to work too. Single men change nearly every half-year. Some will go fishing in the summer, say the place is so dull, and like to get away for a time. Have one woman about the dairy and three day's wagers, sometimes more, sometimes less, at 1*s.* a day. Never employ children. Women won't come our side of the river unless we give 2*d.* extra.

55*a*. ———————— M.D., Argyll.—Consider the employment of women and children conducive to health; the parents are rather inclined to spoil their children than to overwork them. The women never suffer from field work, as they only work in fine weather, never in rain or in winter. The men do suffer of course from wet work, such as draining.

No evil results, as far as morality is concerned, come from the field work, what immorality there is is caused more by the crowding in the cottages, which has brought boys and girls into too great familiarity; the whole family generally sleeping in the same room, the parents and younger children in one bed, the older children in another. Familiar conversation about their cows and other animals with regard to their breeding, &c., probably also tends in the same direction, *i.e.*, to moral ideas.

The illegitimacy rate is very high. They have an odd twist on the subject of immorality, probably obtained from living away so much by themselves with no communication with the outer world; the spread of education it is to be hoped will gradually remove it. But, positively, a woman who has had a child is often rather preferred, cannot say why, perhaps because they feel sure she will have a family. The birth of an illegitimate child is called a misfortune, and not thought at all a disgrace. Know a case of a woman who had a child and then married another man, not the father of the child. There was always a sort of relationship kept up between them, and the husband and all the family went to the funeral of the seducer's son when he had been drowned at sea. After marriage they are always well-behaved, have never known in all my experience but one case to the contrary.

There is no bundling, have heard of it, but it has gone out; still, they will not the least object to come to your house very early in the morning to visit a sweetheart, and get a ladder to get up to her window, or break in through a lower window, and if you interfere you will get your windows broken or your cow stabbed, and will never find out who did it, for they will never tell of one another.

56. *David Kilpatrick*, grieve to Mrs. Dixon's farm, Drimvore.—Two men and myself, and Willie, Mrs. Dixon's son, work the farm. This big lad has 8*l.* 10*s.* the half-year; the other ploughmen 10 guineas; give meat too. All our men are unmarried, live in the farmhouse and sleep in the stable loft.

Employ two servant-women, one in the dairy, and one in the kitchen; dairymaid gets 8*l.* the half-year. Have 25 cows; a cotter helps to milk, comes night and morning.

Day's wages 10*d.* a day; sometimes employ children in turnip-thinning time.

Women spread manure, make hay, shear, weed turnips with the hoe; tried kneeling last year, and I think it is the best, never makes a blank, a hoe will. If the turnips come on first, employ just as many as ever we can get; have seen out 12 or 14, all that can handle a hoe. The girls in the house come out; have had them out at 12 years, boys and girls too.

57. *Schoolmaster*, parish school, Kilmartin.—Children will go in the summer months at 11 to work; would not have in the school above 60 or 70 then. Most of them are employed by their parents cutting peats or planting potatoes, but it only lasts about a fortnight or so. They work at hay; some go to experiment with the farmer. Generally Martinmas before the school gets filled up. Do not know of any who go to no school.

Some irregularity; some children go four miles to school, one child 10 or 11 years old walks all the way; must be irregular when the snow is on the road.

Fees: 2*s.* 6*d.* for English reading, 3*s.* 6*d.* for reading, writing, and arithmetic; 4*s.* 6*d.* for higher arithmetic; Latin 1*s.* a quarter; have 13 doing Latin now, in three different classes; have six in French, one a girl; three in mathematics.

58. *Mr. Malcolm's cottages.*—1. A pair of cottages for labourers on the Ardrishaig road. Enter by a vestibule with a kitchen on the right and a bedroom opening out of it at the back; there is a small pantry also opening out of the kitchen; floor of red tiles in the kitchen. On the left of the vestibule is a smaller room, probably meant for a bedroom, but used as a store-room for potatoes, &c. All the house is on one floor. Three little children were in charge, the eldest taking care of the others, because her mother was out at work. Stone-built and tiled.

(2.) A pair of older cottages in Kilmartin, also all on one floor, consisting of a vestibule in the middle with a room opening out on each side. In the one we entered a man and wife and seven children live; they have three beds. There is also a small pantry. One room has a wooden floor, and the other paved. Mr. Martin does not like wooden floors much, because they rot from having nothing under them but soil; all these houses have privies at the back. Mr. Malcolm is now building a block of four cottages that are to cost him 650*l.*

(3.) A row of the old fashioned cottages, stone-built and thatched, all have chimneys which bear the appearance of additions. Each consists of a vestibule with one large room, and a small pantry—no exit at the back; very dark; floor, mud. Rough wood is laid over the rafters, and the peat stored on the top in the roof, a system which produces warmth.

(4.) A block of four cottages, which Mr. Martin reckons about Mr. Malcolm's best; they are all on one floor, and of stone and slate. They each contain a kitchen, a pantry, and three bedrooms. All the rooms have fire-places, and all but the kitchens plank floors. The only drawback seems to be that the back door exactly faces the front door, but that is going to be remedied in a new block of four cottages.

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59. *James Bett, Esq.*, factor for the Earl of Breadalbane, Easdale, Oban. (Population of Kilbrandon parish, 1859, acreage, 8,000):—The cultivation is mixed, chiefly oats, turnips, and potatoes. The system of husbandry is mostly the five course rotation. Boys are not much employed, but such as are from 12 years old upwards. Girls are employed but little; those that are, about the same age. Women are employed during the summer and autumn generally.

"The distances travelled are not great, two miles at "most."

Hours of work of men, "from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., less "two hours for meals."

Hours of work of women, "from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. "less two hours for meals."

Hours of work of children, "the few who are "employed are engaged during the above." No ill-treatment or physical injury.

"Field work among women does not tend to improve morals, but the reverse; and women who have laboured much a-field do not make good wives, as they know little of the domestic duties required of them. There cannot be a doubt if women were withdrawn from field labour that the cost of the labour now performed by them would be increased, and considering the state of agriculture at present I am not prepared to recommend any restriction."

The mode of enforcing school attendance, "pre-"scribed by the Print Works Act, would be most "suitable. It would enable children to attend evening "schools."

"There are four schools in the parish which are well attended. Children attend school till they are about 10 or 12 years of age, and then go to work, returning sometimes to attend school in winter."

"Cottages not good but conveniently situate; "morality of district good." No bothies. Most have gardens. Keep of a cow or potato ground, "occasionally but not generally given."

Wages, "male, partly in money, and partly in oat-"meal and milk."

Wages, "female, usually paid wholly in money, if "outdoor, and boarded in home if indoor."

Average annual wages in money from 24*l.* to 28*l.*

The rate of illegitimacy is very low in this part of the Highlands. Cannot recollect more than two cases in the eight years have been here.

There is a combination poorhouse at Oban for seven parishes, and it has been found most successful. In Oban it is made a test of to such an extent that no outdoor relief is given at all. In this parish (Kilbrandon) though the same rule is followed to some extent, exception is made in favour of old people, who are thought deserving, and it is a far greater blow to the country people to be taken away from their bit of land to which they have been accustomed all their lives than to the towns people at Oban.

The out door relief given varies from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, and in the case of idiots and harmless lunatics boarded at houses, 5*s.* is allowed for their keep. This is a good deal done now; but a dispensation has to be obtained from the lunacy commissioners. It is a recent reaction from the old system that obliged each county to put up a lunatic asylum at a great expense and send all their lunatics to it. Each lunatic at the Lochgilphead asylum costs 10*s.* weekly, so that the above plan is a great saving.

Since the poorhouse has been built at Oban, the rates have diminished considerably in spite of the charges for its maintenance. But pauperism had grown to such an extent, in one parish actually one person in 11 receiving relief, that some test was needed, and now there are many people doing well on their own earnings who had applied for out door relief. One of the worst features of the poor-law system is that it makes young people very careless about supporting their parents, for they know that if they did not the rates must. The process too by law by which a person claiming relief could sue fell very hard upon the parish. He might appeal to the sheriff's court, and till it was decided the sheriff could order interim maintenance; and generally all the costs of the suit fell on the parish, so that there was every inducement to the claimant to prosecute his claim. In such cases now the workhouse is offered, and generally the claimant will refuse it, and so all other claim is barred. Most of the people who are refused if they cannot obtain work here will go south.

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There are two or three dairy farms that supply Easdale with milk and butter. The rest are all stock, and inland are the great sheep farms, the largest of which pays 1,100*l.* a year rent, the smaller farms lying along the coast. The Highland cattle are out almost all the year, and on these trap hills there is sweet pasturage almost to the top.

The company at Easdale supply meal and coal to the labourers, deducting the value from the wages; everything else they buy. Wages, now paid monthly, used to be paid quarterly. Nearly all spent at once. They have a branch society of the Greenock Foresters in case of illness.

60. Memorandum by Angus Gregorson, writer, Oban, Agent for the estates of Lockbuy and Duart in Mull, also of Airds and Gasnacloich in Appin, of part of Lismore and of Ardchattan and others in Lorn.

The following remarks refer to the queries in the circular of enquiry as to the employment of women and children in agriculture.

(1.) Employment commences about the age of 12, and is chiefly confined to spring for potato planting, and summer for potato and turnip cleaning and hay-making. For the larger tenants this service is for wages, but in the case of small tenants is afforded to parents. This employment is however of very limited extent.

(2.) Girls are also employed about the same age, and in the same manner.

(3.) Women are employed in spring at potato planting, in summer at potato and turnip cleaning and hay-making, and in harvest at shearing corn and lifting potatoes.

(4.) Speaking for the estates above mentioned, the distances may in exceptional cases extend to three or four miles, but in the general case the parties employed are generally resident on the farm or adjoining it, and the distances will be within a mile.

(5.) From 8 to 10 hours a day.

(6.) No.

(7.) The employment before mentioned in the districts referred to is to a very limited extent, and as that of the females is either by young girls or elderly persons, I do not think there is much immorality caused by it in these districts. The young women as a rule leave the district before they are 20 years of age for service as house servants. The outdoor service referred to is certainly not a proper training for domestic duties, if continued beyond girlhood.

(8.) The employment in the districts referred to, is of so limited an extent, that in my opinion any restriction on the employment of females or children in agriculture is not called for. It rather appears that having such employment leads to a feeling of independence, especially on the part of the elderly females, who are the parties that principally engage in it.

(10 and 11.) The principle that prevails in this district is, that the children of the working classes attend school during the winter six months, and leave when employment opens in the spring.

(12.) There are schools, centrically situated in all the parishes with which I have to do. From the carelessness or selfishness of parents they are, I believe, not so much taken advantage of as they might be; but, as a rule, parents endeavour to have their children at school during the winter half year.

(13.) The condition of the cottages though improving is not generally what it should be, but in some cases proprietors have been at some expense in improving their condition. Generally there are cot-houses upon or adjoining all farms, but these are of a poor description and sometimes too much over-crowded,

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and in these cases it must lead to immorality though I cannot specify particular cases.

(14.) The bothy system does not exist in the district referred to.

(15.) Not aware of any beyond what I have specified.

(16.) All new or improved cottages have pieces of garden ground attached, but there are still in existence cot-houses occupied by the classes referred to, where there is no garden ground attached.

(17.) When a married man is employed as a workman or shepherd on a farm and gets a separate house to live in, he invariably has the keep for one or two cows, and potato land to the extent of the manure produced from the cows, and such servants are engaged by the year.

(18.) There is decided progress in the district in the improvement in cottage accommodation. Mrs. Popham of Ardchattan has carried it to a greater extent than has been attained as yet by any other in this district.

(19.) This Act has not been taken advantage of on any of the estates I have had to do with, and I have not paid attention to its details.

(25.) Except in the case of married workmen and shepherds who as before mentioned get grazing for a cow or two in part wages, and a certain amount in meal and the balance in money, all others are now paid in money. Parties are generally engaged at feeing markets held half-yearly.

(26.) Except for the regular farm servants, the employment by day labour for able-bodied farm labourers is precarious and it is difficult to state the average value of the earnings. The former are well enough off living in separate houses as before mentioned, or if single, living in families with the smaller classes of tenants, and with other servants in that of the larger tenants. The average day wages for an able-bodied man is about 2*s.* per day, and for boys and females 10*d.* per day.

LETTER from Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, Bart. Dunstaffnage.

60*a*. DEAR SIR,— June 16th, 1870.

ON receiving your letter of the 6th, I at once wrote to the minister of this parish and to Mr. Bett, factor for the Breadalbane estate, and to Mr. Hosack, factor for Lochnell, enclosing a copy of the printed queries which you sent me, asking them to send me their views with regard to them. I have only received an answer from Mr. McKercher, the minister of the parish, and enclose it.

I concur in almost all he says; but I do not think that schools are quite so accessible as Mr. McKercher does. The parish school, for instance, is more than seven miles distant from some of the children's homes on my own property, and is more than five miles from the nearest farmhouse on it.

The labourers in this district are generally hired by the term, and either live in the farmhouses with their employers, or, if they have a family, in cotter houses on the farms. These, I am sorry to say, are generally very limited in accommodation and humble in point of construction. As the bothy system does not prevail here, however, there are less drawbacks to them than there would otherwise be.

I am, &c.

DONALD CAMPBELL.

61. *Rev. P. McKercher*, minister of Kilmore.—1. The nature and extent of the employment of women and children in agriculture.

(1.) As to the *nature* of said employment it appears to me to consist chiefly, if not entirely, of the lighter kinds of agricultural labour which women and children can, without any undue taxation of energy, perform; such as the spreading of manure, the sowing of potato seed in spring, the hoeing of green crops in summer, and the making of hay, the cutting of corn, and lifting of potatoes in autumn.

(2.) As this is a *pastoral* more than an *agricultural* parish, I do not think that the employment of women and children in farm work is carried on to any great extent. I certainly do not consider it to be carried to such an extent as to be an evil calling for remedy.

(2.) The state of education among the young employed in agriculture.

I consider it upon the whole unsatisfactory. Schools are accessible to the great majority of families in the parish, but the children of the labouring class and of small farmers are withdrawn from school as soon as the spring operations begin. Very little education can be acquired during the three months of winter which many of them can alone attend; and even of that little much is lost owing to the long period which elapses before attendance at school can be resumed.

(3.) Cottage accommodation in this parish is deficient both in respect of quality and sufficiency. There are however many exceptions.

(4.) The different modes of hiring and boarding farm servants and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

I am not sufficiently acquainted with these modes to be in a position to speak of them with confidence.

(5.) The general social condition of the agricultural labourer in its bearing upon the education of his children.

I believe in general that the agricultural labourer could afford to give a very fair education to his children in this parish were there an educational bill passed with a compulsory clause. But at present the agricultural labourer has a strong temptation to withdraw his children too early every season from school; in fact, from the earliest age at which they can be profitably employed.

Where there is a family with a large number of small children it may be doubtful whether there would not be a hardship in compelling the parents to leave the children at school longer than they themselves are disposed to do. But I am quite convinced that in the generality of cases the withdrawal of the children too early from school proceeds not so much from necessity as from a desire for gain.

62. *H. Hosack, Esq.*, factor for the Barcaldine estate, Ardchattan and Muckairn, 1870.

(1.) The nature and extent of the employment of women and children in agriculture.

Note.—In a parish such as this, where the extent of land in cultivation is limited, there are few if any women who earn their living solely by labour in the field. As a rule, their services are only needed from May till November, in seeding, cleaning, and in gathering the crops.

During summer and autumn employment is given extensively to boys of from 10 to 14 years in herding, and these boys always live in the house, and often at the table, of their employers. Young girls do not go out to service in this way, and when they do not go to school they remain at home assisting their parents in the cultivation of their crops. Children under 10 do sometimes assist in light work at home, but are not hired out.

(2.) The state of education among the young employed in agriculture.

Note.—There are five schools in this parish, at which the fees are small, and as the parochial board clothes and educates pauper children, every child has a fair opportunity of being taught to read and write. This opportunity is freely taken advantage of. The children remain constantly at school till they are about 10 years old, after which age they attend school in winter and spring till they go to regular work and leave school altogether.

(3.) The quality and sufficiency of cottage accommodation.

Note.—Very varied, but on the whole fair.

(4.) The different modes of hiring and boarding farm servants, and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

Note.—The rule is to hire servants at a "feeing" market, and as few inquiries are or can be made at these markets by either the employer or the em-

ployed, both are frequently disappointed. Good servants, however, find no difficulty in getting engagements privately. Hired servants, male and female, board and lodge in their employer's house.

(5.) The general social condition of the agricultural labourer in its bearing on the education of his children.

Note.—The agricultural labourer is rarely a married man, but many of the smaller crofters may properly be styled agricultural labourers. These latter, so long as their children are of little use at home, send them regularly to school, but when the children come to 10 or 12 years old their attendance at school becomes irregular, except in winter and spring.

63. *H. Gillies, Esq., M.D.*, Easdale.—Children are sent out to herd very young, say 10 years of age; but there is no doubt it is a healthy life. Girls go just as much as boys, principally on the smaller holdings. The farmer who has a large tract does not employ them. There are a good many small holdings, about 50*l.* or 60*l.* The family and herd will take meals together, but that is dying out as farms get larger. Servants engaged for half-year, and live in the house.

It is very common for the small farmers to sleep a great many in one room. Know a case of father, mother, and several big lads; but that is more done by the quarriers. Well-to-do crofters in this district, though small. They fish, and work for richer neighbours, and they live very poorly. Eat lots of fish, get plenty of sethe and lithe, and every one has his boat. They dry the fish and keep it for winter with their potatoes. They have porridge and milk, and every one has his cup of tea now-a-days. Many buy bread, or exchange in some way.

There is a good deal of exchange. Whatever little they grow they will exchange at shops against so much tea, sugar, and bread.

Belong to Oban combination, and are very stringent. Apply work-house test in most cases, even to old people. A man and wife perhaps would not send on account of hardship in separation. Do not look so much to the expense as to the principle. Have found that many people it has been offered to have refused it, and found themselves able to support themselves. Pauperism diminishing; so too are the rates.

In the quarries little boys are employed as young as they can carry slates, say at 8 or 10 years of age, and many of them grow up with little or no education. The quarrymen, though Highlanders also, are quite a distinct class from the country people. Know of only one case of intermarriage. Both classes consider themselves above the other. The quarriers get very good wages, 1*l.* to 2*l.*, but it is soon spent. They are very well behaved. There is no public-house within four miles of the village.

Do not think compulsory education would answer. Can ensure it best by the extension of the Factory Act, which could be extended to agricultural districts by making it part of the duty of the inspector of the poor, or some such officer, who probably knows all about every child in the parish, to see to the children going to school. The parents really are well enough off to afford to send their children to school.

64. *Mr. Grieve*, Castles farm, occupier. Have two married shepherds boarding out in cottages. Wages of shepherds 12*l.*, feeding for two cows and two followers, 6½ bolls of meal, cottage, and potato-ground. Allowed the manure of the cows for their potato-ground. Have three shepherds in the house; give bed, board, and washing, and 16*l.* to each. Some allow 1*l.* for the washing.

Have 3,000 to 4,000 sheep. Have to send hoggs down to about Glasgow to winter. Argyllshire is a deadly place. Send one of the shepherds with them. Calculate wages at 12*l.* cash; meal 6*l.* 10*s.* Am bound to give it even supposing meal up to 2*l.* Followers will sell at 11*l.*

Ploughmen get 18*l.*, bed, board, and lodging; are hard to get. Have been 36 years here, and could when first came get a ploughman for 10*l.*

Have about an acre of turnips for the six Ayrshires I have for the milk; but am more in the feeding line. Have two lads in the house, one aged 15 engaged for the year, 7*l.* 10*s.* the year, the little boy only for the half year at 2*l.* 10*s.*, is one of the boys from the Strath.

One of the shepherds was six miles from the school, but has asked to come down here nearer so as to be able to send the children to school; all the children at school now are small, the bigger go away to service for the six summer months. Could not do with all shepherds out, want some of them in to do odd job about the farm.

Men lodge in the stable. Have three women servants; give dairy women 10*l.* a year; they have barracks off kitchen, and one woman sleeps up stairs. The women have 9*l.*; they work at the hay; they are as strong as any man. Am paying one-third more for the women than I used to pay.

Men not so saving as they were, it all goes in dress; formerly had one man for five years who never had more than 10*l.* or 11*l.*, and would not take it all; when he married I owed him 35*l.* and paid it up. The merchants get it all now; they are making more now. Never sell potatoes; buy meal; want potatoes for the dogs, we have collies you know.

Give the men the braxy, give them braxy and potatoes and they are quite content Send it to the south and they wont eat braxy; but often kill two beasts at shearing time, one for the men and one for the family.

At shearing give 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* and food, all men. Get men from all the country round. Men who fish at other times will come from Skye and Ardnamurchan and all those remote islands. At shearing one neighbour often helps another.

A van comes round twice a week from Inveraray with bread. Paupers and all eat the bread, it saves trouble they have not to bake.

65. *Mr. Campbell*, occupier, Diuletter, Glenorchy.—Our herd-boy is 14 years of age, comes for a six months' wage and lives in the farm. Girls or boys go at 10 years of age frequently to mind a cow for the small tenants, who need it as much as the large.

Have one married shepherd and one unmarried who boards out with him for six months of the year; and two unmarried shepherds and one ploughman living in the house. The shepherds work along with the ploughman sometimes. Make a good deal of hay for wintering cattle; not above two or three acres of turnips; and six of potatoes for our own use.

Best shepherd gets 18*l.* and board and lodging. Food is braxy and potatoes and a great deal of broth. You could not tell braxy from cured ham when it has been well cured. Often wish we had bothy system. One bad fellow in the kitchen can put all wrong; they have a barrack over the stable.

Married shepherd has three cows and three stirks, 6½ bolls of meal, 8*l.*, 12 sheep, but that is an extra allowance; he is an old servant, has been over 30 years in the family; cottage and potato-ground; never restrict the latter, whatever he can manure with his cows. Pay and wages of man who boards with the shepherd (not full grown, a lad of 18 or 20) 12*l.* and 6½ bolls of meal. The house is mine and give the use of it to the two. Know of no one who pays in sheep; it was very troublesome, marking their lambs, &c.

Remember my father 25 years ago paying his men 9*l.*, and perhaps an extra pound to a good man. They have doubled in my recollection. Can recollect when shepherds were a very saving class, now do not think any save anything; some of them often have their wages advanced. A great deal goes in dress; they used to go out to the hill barefooted, now they all have their stockings and knickerbockers. It is the same with the women, on Sunday they are wonderfully dressed, better often than their mistresses. It

Argyllshire.

Mr. Boyle.

" is a great evil too the boys beginning to smoke so early, they all smoke at 15.

Wish you would get the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take off the tax on dogs for the poor herd-boys. My herd-boy gets 1*l.* or 1*l.* 5*s.* the half-year, and has to pay 5*s.* out of that for his dog; he must have a dog. It is a great hardship.

There is between here and Dalmally a farm divided between 28 small tenants. They have a common between them on which all run their cows, and each of them also has a small patch of grass of better quality near the house where they bring the cattle morning and evening. A herd-boy or girl is necessary for the purpose, and also to prevent them getting on the bit of potato-ground or oats.

66. — *McMillan*, parish schoolmaster, Seil Island. Would be in favour of a clause for compulsory attendance. Come for fully three miles. Will stay away on any excuse. Wish there was a clause to compel payment of fees; are nearly nil here, and in many other Highland parishes. Cannot often get a day's work, they have something else to do. Am waiting for a cart now to go fetch coals.

Number 50 in winter and 30 in summer. Would deduct five from summer attendance for average, and rather more in winter, for the weather interferes there. There is a great majority of girls in summer, because boys go to herd in summer, girls not so much. Boys would go at about 12, say average 13 or 14, one or two might go a little under 12. Had last winter two grown up lads whose heads would reach the ceiling; four big ones altogether averaging 17 years of age besides four big girls about 16 or 17. In summer go away. Have still one big girl of 14 or 15, whose father is manager of a doctor's farm. Most go to service now, or go working or herding for their parents; for instance, a man paying 40*l.* rent, a very respectable man, has them out just working now, has no servants, family work. Crofters are decreasing in number. School chiefly children of farmers, crofters, and cotters. Had many of the quarry people, but at the division of churches they built a new school; so many quarry people are free church.

Fees reading alone 2*s.*, reading and writing 2*s.* 6*d.*, arithmetic 3*s.* the quarter. Had them higher when first came, 4*s.*, 4*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.*, but had to reduce owing to the difficulty of getting them. A crofter, grown up family, always well dressed, and never got a penny from them for years, except one girl whose grandmother brought her up; they plead poverty. These same people said "we understand that ye get mair, "and we dinna think we got to pay it all." Which is a general feeling.

Discourage Gaelic. When first came people did not like it much, but it is no good their learning it, they just get laughed at in the low country.

The Sabbath school is all Gaelic, taught by one of the deacons or elders, and generally have a few who read a few verses of Gaelic, which they acquire at home, extra besides the other work. Perhaps stay when the school are going out.

Not one who do not go to some school. Between the free church and this school there is no want of means of education. A free church in Easdale, also a great part of the scholars even in the parish school are free church. This school has 36*l.* In Kilhattan (Luing Island) one parish school, 35*l.* from heritors. A female school kept by a female at a new slate quarry. No salary, just supported by the parents.

67. *Thos. Beaton*, schoolmaster, Taynuilt.—Winter attendance 103; 80 of whom boys, because all the farm servants come in from 15 or 16 years of age. Would have about 30, then take a six months place.

Summer attendance 50; 25 girls, 25 boys. None older than 12. Would begin herding at 10 or 12, but come back in the winter time, have forgotten a great deal, and leave when they are beginning to pick it up again. Come back in December and go in March. They hang about home, but are generally steadily working. Even the young ones are kept till December, crofter's children, lifting potatoes and cutting corn. The greater number are crofters' children.

Girls leave sooner than boys; would go to service just to nurse a child; can manage their work earlier than boys.

The little girls are kept at home in the winter on account of distance. There were two other schools, but are done up now. Have one or two coming four or five miles, several coming three. Have seen some of them very regular. Have no church nearer here than five miles.

Fees begin at 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.*; 4*s.* advanced classes. Pay pretty regular, but charge much lighter than predecessors, and get it from all. All paid in money.

Am an interim teacher.

No Gaelic taught. Find a difficulty with the very young ones as know no Gaelic.

68. — *Cameron*, schoolmaster, Glenorchy.—Market at Dalmally, 17th March, and children will go there, a very few as young as 11. They drop off from that time till Whitsunday and do not come back till November. A number go herding; a large farmer employs as many as half-a-dozen, here and there about. Girls go to lighter work, rearing, &c. Leave school earlier than boys; people seem to think their education finished earlier.

Have 40 now, and had 99 in the winter. Boys and girls about equal. A great many go to assist their parent just this time of year, with the peats. The children of crofters go earliest, but as long as they are here are regular enough. Have seven boys in Latin—they are all regular.

Fees: 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.*, and 5*s.* for Latin. Not paid very well. Get most of it in kind, carrying fuel, a day's work; have a bit of land, just for two cows. Common system, but bad. They are doing better now. For pauper children and books parish pays.

Children are never behind with their books.

Teach a lesson in Gaelic every day; only began two years ago. Teach them Scripture in Gaelic, and by making them translate English into Gaelic and back again, they acquire English much sooner.

Some come five miles, children of shepherds, ploughmen, and cotters, and generally earliest at school, and most regular.

This is the only school in the parish. Up the glen there used to be a teacher kept, boarded from house to house, and the proprietor gave 10*l.*, but since he died it has been dropped. They either keep a lad up in the house now, or send the children away. I boarded a few, and others were in the neighbourhood. I had children of foresters and of the innkeeper. There are few people but foresters up there on Lord Breadalbane's forest.

My wife kept a class for older girls in the winter, from 10, some up to 20 years of age, but got no salary, except that the people were kind and gave some little assistance, but do not think she will do it again.

Mrs. Cameron had them for sewing, there were eight last winter, 16 to 20 in age. Last winter were fewer. Got nothing for it, but had been in the habit, so did not like to refuse. When the society left off paying salary, three years ago, had as many as 20, just servants out of place. Would get perhaps one day's work at peats.

Taught sewing and the Bible, and any girls not good at reading lessons in that; not liking, as were too old, to go to the mixed school. The society thought the proprietor ought to do it, and kept their money for destitute districts. Have done it in other parishes. They only gave 6*l.*, and raised it after to 8*l.* Fees quite nominal, best payers from a distance.

Taught fancy work and dressmaking.

(VII.)—ARDGOUR AND ARDNAMURCHAN.

69. *Circular filled up by Alex. McLean of Ardgour, Esq., and the Rev. Alex. Stewart, minister of Ardgour.*—(Population of parish about 1,000, culti-

ation pastoral and arable.)—Boys are employed from 8 to 10 years of age, herding in spring and summer, weeding, spreading peats, &c." Girls the me as boys. "Women are largely employed in all sorts of out-door work." They go to work "seldom more than a mile or two; often their work is quite near their own dwellings, and for their own benefit."

Hours of work for men "sometimes from 6 to 6, and quite as frequently from 10 to 6. Women and children seldom work longer than from 10 to 6, with one hour interval for dinner." No restriction necessary. "Employment of females in agricultural labour has no injurious effect on their morals. Under proper supervision, rather the contrary."

"Children attend school during winter and spring. With less regularity, or not at all, in summer and autumn. The attendance is satisfactory, but with some sort of compulsion on parents it might be made better. There are five schools in the parish, quite enough for our wants. Too many schools have an injurious effect on education as well as too few."

Cottages "on the whole in good condition, warm and dry, room enough. No immorality from overcrowding." No bothies. "There is always a demand for houses with increase of population. The erection of cottages should not be restricted in the Highlands to such plans as the Commissioners (Enclosure) insist upon. Few are erected on account of this stringency, whilst many proprietors, if left to themselves, would do much more in this way, if they and the labourers were not under such strict conditions in the matter. Better accommodation, that is, suitable to the circumstances and habits of the labourers, and education, are the two great *desiderata*. Nothing else is wanting. Additional facility and reduction of cost in the erection of cottages would do much for the comfort and morals of those who are expected to occupy them."

Wages paid, "generally in money, but often in money and meal." Average annual value, "say 30*l*." The keep of a cow, "or an equivalent in the form of milk, potatoes, &c.," is generally given.

70. *Rev. Archd. Clerk*, minister of Kilmallie (population 2,000).—"The cultivation is mixed, but chiefly pastoral." Boys are employed at "from 10 to 15 years of age, in spring, summer, and autumn. Girls at the same age and in the same occupations. The cultivated land being generally occupied by small crofters, the bulk of the people work for their parents. As far as I know there are no more than 100 girls and women who work for days wages."

They go to work "rarely more than two miles."

Hours of work of men and women 6 to 6.

" " children - 8 to 6.

No ill-treatment. "We have no agricultural gangs, nor am I aware of field-work leading to coarser talk here than any other employment." No restriction necessary. "We have too few workers for our convenience; but probably enough for the comfort of the people; for while during a few weeks of pressure in spring and harvest we could employ more than we get, we have not agricultural farms of such size as to give them regular employment throughout the year.

"The residences of the crofters or small farmers are built of turf, are crowded, filthy, and uncomfortable, leading to immorality beyond question; the houses of farm servants are generally more comfortable. The bothy system is not known in this parish. Many of the cottagers do not cultivate gardens, but all of them have ample access to land for the purpose. Farm servants have often the grass of a cow or potato ground, but not in lieu of a garden. Land is of such little agricultural value that I have never known an instance of a garden plot being refused to a servant who wished to have it."

New cottages are being built. "The chief proprietor gives assistance to those who build slated cottages, but the progress is slow."

If the per-centage were reduced or the term of repayment extended I have no doubt that people would avail themselves of the loan more extensively.

Education:—"I think the best plan for such a parish as this is to insist on all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age attending school throughout the whole year, and that the parents who refused to send them should pay full school fees. The landlord could easily enforce this.

"We have ample means of education, eight well-taught schools throughout the parish. The people take advantage of them during a part of winter and spring, for four or four and a half months, but are excessively careless during the rest of the year. Early labour is not the cause of this to any appreciable extent. The indifference of the people to the benefits of education is the main cause. I am amply convinced that a measure of compulsory attendance at school would be a most important benefit to the Highlands and islands.

"Many are not absolutely idle during their absence from school, but are kept at home needlessly under pretence of herding, weeding potatoes, running messages, &c. Substantially one half of the children of the working classes are without education or any remunerative work during six months of the year.

"We have no regular hiring markets. Ploughmen and shepherds are engaged for 12 months; dairymaids, house servants, and herds for six. We pay principally in money, but a ploughman gets sometimes, besides a money payment, a certain allowance of milk, or a cow's grass, 6½ bolls of meal, potato-ground, and fuel.

"I give 20*l*. to my ploughman, with 6½ bolls of meal, averaging 1*l*. per boll, a daily allowance of milk, value 2*d*. per day, potato-ground, value 1*l*. 10*s*. a year, and fuel, value from 2*l*. to 2*l*. 10*s*. Farmers generally do not pay so much as I do. I know one giving only 14*l*. with extras. I would put the average at 18*l*., with meal, milk, and fuel. These remarks apply to principal or head ploughmen. Second ploughmen, generally under 22 years of age, get from 12*l*. to 16*l*. a year with board and lodging, value from 10*l*. to 12*l*.

"Labourers get 2*s*. 6*d*. per day for draining, trenching, peat-cutting, and harvesting."

71. *Rev. Lachlan Maclean, minister of Ardnamurchan.*—(Population of parish, 5,446.) Cultivation mixed; boys are employed from 12 years old upwards; girls "as early as 13 or 14, employed in various kinds of farm work. The most of the women here that do not go to service in the south work in their own crofts; the work is generally near their place of residence." Hours of work, "6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer; they are allowed an hour for dinner."

"A parish school, a general assembly school, a Christian Knowledge Society's school." Attended not in some cases as well as could be wished. Many of the parents do not seem to appreciate the advantages of education. Poverty, sparseness of population causes of non-attendance.

"Cottages sufficient for the labour required. They may be said to be conveniently situated with respect to the farms. Some of them appear to have too many living in them. They are never supplied with water in the house, and they are seldom well-ventilated. The cottages have allotments of land close to the houses."

The answers only relate to the part of the parish under my immediate charge, and embracing an extent of country 20 miles long by 10 broad. The parish of Ardnamurchan is perhaps the largest in Scotland. Its two extreme boundaries are the parish of Ardnamurchan and Morar River in Invernesshire, estimated to be 70 miles distant. It contains besides the parish church, two *quoad sacra* parishes, viz., Aharacle and Strontian, as also a chapel at Arisaig, by Fort William, 56 miles from parish church.

72.———, *Schoolmaster and crofter*, Kilchoan.—Boys would be working at 12 years of age; parents all crofters, and boys go to herding about the parents

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crofts. Begins about 1st of March; go too to sea-ware, and to gather whelks on the shore; in June peat-cutting for a fortnight. In end of August, shearing, cutting crop, and digging potatoes, and go on till November.

From November till 1st March is all I can get them regularly to school. They manage with so much herding to get something for the small boys to do from nine and upwards. Poverty does a great deal of mischief; the holdings are not self-supporting, and unless there was someone south earning wages they could not get on. It is only light work the little ones do; as soon as come to any age must be off south, to Glasgow dye-works. But the great bulk after 14 years of age go off to Barra and coast of Ireland, fishing; they are employed by boats from Campbeltown and Rothesay; too poor for boats of their own.

Cannot take fees from more than three or four people. Sometimes get a day's work from one of them, or the loan of a horse, but that is as often from someone who has no child in the school. Those who cannot pay fees being the poorest generally share with three or four others in a horse. But they are very good about helping one another; still they are not getting richer, just falling off.

I would be for this compulsory attendance: everywhere there is poverty it is required. All teachers on the west coast say the same. There is a great deal of not coming back in the summer even when no work is going on. But the poverty is such they require them as soon as they can do anything.

No difference in regularity of boys and girls.

Roll in January, 50. Attendance on Jan. 3–41.

,, June 32. ,, June –27.

In summer chiefly small fry. Have three boys and one girl above 14: one from the Manse; two boys and one girl my own. Three boys and two girls, from 10 upwards to 13; all children of small crofters.

No large farmers but one, and he a bachelor.

Only read Gaelic on Sundays, and if they can read English can soon read Gaelic, say in a month. Have to explain in Gaelic at first; the Gaelic is the great barrier to schoolmasters; they don't know no from yes; might just as well teach Africans.

Girls and boys herd just the same, and bring home creels of peat. It is not fit for human beings to do; but never hear of it doing harm. Have better roads now, and creels not wanted, except now and then to a steep farm.

Very soon the crofts will be extinct. It is not on an healthy foundation. Yet it is wonderful how some of the young people even stick to it.

Come from eight miles above Oban; a property where they began to get rid of them about 1801, and now there is not one left; is all good-sized farms, as 80*l.* or 90*l.* rent and upwards; here they only began doing it about 30 years ago. But no one is turned out except for non-payment of rent. (One man who was behind paid up, and Mr. —— told him he had had an offer from a neighbour of 10*s.* a year more rent for his croft).

Would like compulsory education at the age of six. They are six before they can do any school work.

Came here in 1843. Would say that before the potato failure they came to school more regular; had them up to 20, but now must go away to work. They were better off then, though now they have more money in circulation. Still the money does not go so far. They buy everything, meal, &c., and they require more luxuries; every one has his tea and sugar.

There are no real wages paid; the larger farmers do all with domestic servants. There are a few cotters who do perhaps a day's work, but most of the cotters are paupers.

The great fare is still potatoes, and meal when that fails. They have milk and tea, and they all keep cows, one, two, or three, and there is a common for them. Eight or 10 crofters are tenants in common, and they divide the farm, keeping the rough land for grazing their cows. The cows are in from Dec. 1 till April 1. Very few out in winter. There may be two or three that live in the house; perhaps an old woman who has just a cow: they have all byres out.

Have very little difficulty about the books; just the few pence required: they get books in Tobermory.

We are pretty well off for schools; what with society schools, and general assembly, and Parliamentary schools. The Presbytery of Mull got eight or nine of the *quoad sacra* parishes. Before the new schools were built the people used to get a lad, who lived about from house to house, but it is little done now. Still a schoolmaster's place is but a poor place—he can depend on little beside his salary. Gets a cow's grass and a bit of potato ground, or a small croft sometimes, hardly any fees. Fees nominally 1*s.* a quarter.

(VIII.)—MULL AND ADJACENT ISLANDS.

I.—Mull.

73. *Lieut.-Col. Greenhill Gardyne, Glenforsa House, Aros.*—Cultivation "chiefly pastoral." Boys and girls are employed at "about 12 to 13 in agricul-" ture in spring and summer, but in gathering shell " fish on their own account about nine." Women "to " a considerable extent, at haymaking, harvesting, " weeding, and milking cows, and drying peats. They " also gather shell-fish." Distance to which they go to work "from 100 yards to 4 miles." Hours of work 10 hours. No restriction necessary. "They require " employment—it makes the pot boil.

"Parents are in general very ready to take advantage of schools for their children, and require no force to make them do so. The poorer ones send them to school six months in winter, and let them work in summer. Those near schools always attend them, and those at a distance cannot do so, though in fact they often board a student in their houses for a few months of the year, being repaid by his instruction to the children. Shepherds often do so; being distant from schools cannot attend them.

"At Salen there is a good parish school and a female industrial school; they are well attended, particularly in winter. There are two or three other schools in other parts of the parish at distances of eight to 14 miles from Salen, and a student who visits remote glens, paid by heritors, fed by parents of those taught. Almost none neither at school nor at work.

"The cottages vary, those built lately being good. The older ones being mostly built by those who lived in them are not so good, but on the whole, under the circumstances of the country they are good. Many prefer the old sort as being warmer.

"Farm servants in general live and board in the farmhouse, and where the bothy system exists there is an old woman to cook and clean, so that it is much better than the bothy system in the lowlands. The men are comfortable and respectable. Most married servants have a cow's grass as part of their wages; some have winter-keep also. It is a matter of agreement; and also gardens and potato-land. All cottages have gardens or lots of land, except a very few, chiefly those of paupers, who pay no rent.

"Any cottage now built is better than the one it replaces."

Extent of farm to which returns apply, 160 acres arable, about 900 pasture. Soil, peats and stones. Five years course of husbandry. "Seven men em-" ployed by year on farm, and occasional labourers, " women and boys, according to season."

"Hired for six months, and paid by the quarter or " half-year as agreed on; part money, part kind. " Others by day or week, and so paid. Day-labourers " have 2*s.* a day, to 2*s.* 6*d.*; elderly men say 10*s.* " a week, and a house and garden; women 1*s.* a " day." Average value of a man's annual wage "from " 30*l.* to 40*l.*, or thereby."

74. *Rev. Alex. Carmichael*, missionary minister, Auchnacraig (population of parish 2,518, including *quoad sacra* parish of Iona).—The cultivation is chiefly pastoral and mixed." Boys begin work "at about 8, the generality of them in spring and harvest." Girls "much in the same proportion as boys, about the same age as in the case of boys; herding cattle, planting, weeding, and raising potatoes, turnips, &c., making bands for binding corn, &c." Women, "somewhere about half of them perhaps. In many instances they reside on the farms. Probably they do not travel on the average more than about two miles going and returning from the boundary of the farm."

Hours of work "seldom exceeding six hours; those cutting seaweed in spring work about four hours."

Restriction on boy's "labour might be desirable. The limit might be placed about 12; it would be difficult however to enforce this restriction in this parish. The employment of women in outdoor labour, and especially girls, tends to coarsen them, so to speak, which it would be desirable to prevent. In a parish such as this, however, it is difficult, perhaps impossible, on account of the scarcity of employment and other circumstances to enforce any restrictions of this kind.

"There are plenty of schools which they can attend; to a large extent they take advantage of them. The poverty of a number of the people and the ignorance of the parents of the value of education interfere with attendance at school."

The cottages "are in a pretty fair condition according to the ideas of the country; barely sufficient for the labour required; generally conveniently situated. Occasionally they are overcrowded, there being seldom but two apartments. I do not recollect any evil results having come under my notice from this. An ample supply of water is to be had; ventilation defective. In only a small proportion are there gardens attached.

"N.B.—The foregoing answers apply more directly to the eastern or upper part of the parish, of which the population may be about 500."

75. *Archd. Fletcher*, Auchnacraig, Mull.—The cultivation is "chiefly pastoral. Boys are employed 'as 'herd-boys' at from 12 to 13 years of age for the 'half-year from May to November. Few girls so 'young as 12 or 13 years of age. Women are chiefly 'employed as farm servants and dairymaids."

"Those who are employed as day-labourers go to work for about a mile or two miles. There are a few instances of men in this parish walking five or six miles to their work, and the same back to their homes after their day's work is finished.

"I do not consider any restriction necessary in this parish. Labour is scarce and boys do not get employment except in the summer months, as above stated.

"The education provided is such as to be found in the parochial schools in Scotland. Children do not take advantage of them for the following reasons:—(1.) They have to assist their parents in working the 'crofts' or small patches of land which they occupy; (2.) the parents are not able to pay the children's school fees in a great many instances.

"Labourers cottages are mostly thatched houses, "and are sufficient for the supply of the labour re- "quired, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded." No evil results to morality. Plenty of water.

Most cottages have allotments convenient. "In all "cases they pay high rents for their land and cottages, "and often have great difficulty in maintaining them- "selves and families, as also in collecting sufficient to "pay their rents owing to the want of labour."

76. ———, *M.D.*, Island of Mull.—Children will go to work cutting peats or helping to lay them out at 8 and 9 years of age; after that they go to herd, where there are no fences and one cow kept; very often a separate boy is taken to each cow. The outdoor work agrees with them most thoroughly; they are extremely healthy. There are some few of the cottages left with the cow put up in the kitchen, but they are disappearing rapidly—the new Public Health Act interferes with it; the system brings on all kinds of fever, it is most unwholesome; they are very careless about taking out the dung, and no dung pit ought to be within 20 or 30 yards of the house.

77. *H. A. Telford*, parochial school, Kilninchen.—Average attendance for winter, 60.

Average in summer, 30; those that are in the school attend better than in winter.

Average age in lower classes, 11; youngest child 6; average age of beginners, 7.

Average age in upper classes, 13; none after 15; generally children of best off in the parish.

Girls stay rather longer than boys; small proportion of girls; there is an industrial school in the village.

Eleven schools in this parish.

(1.) Parish.

(2.) Female industrial.

(3-4.) The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Salary generally 20*l.* to 25*l.*

(5.) One Gaelic school; two miles off; about 20 attend it; master from the society in Edinburgh. There are three in Mull. Gaelic is made a beginning; English taught to the advanced scholars. Teach here in English, but have to explain in Gaelic; as they get into the upper classes they get to know English, but hearing parents talk Gaelic is against it.

(6.) Iona government school.

(7.) Carstaig, side parish school.

(8.) Kinloch, assembly school.

(9.) Greeber, Gaelic school.

(10.) Torrens, female society's school, partly supported by the proprietor.

(11.) On the borders of this parish and Torosay is a school kept during six winter months, and taught by a lad from one of the schools; it is supported by the shepherds, and the teacher boards alternately at one of the houses.

Complain of the want of interest taken by the parents; all the teachers in Highland schools are in favour of compulsory attendance. Out of all who were here in winter only four have gone to service. They are running wild. Boys will go at 12 to herd, girls to household service, and more of them than boys.

Fees: lowest class 1*d.*, go up to 3*d.* a week.

No child comes more than a mile and a half.

As a rule lessons are well prepared at home; grammar, history, and geography committed to memory and repeated.

The parents think that enough can be learnt in two or three months every year; they fully realize the advantages of education, but think that more can be learnt in a short time than really can; they forget very much. Often have to put a 5th class boy in March, when he returns in November, into the 4th class; they do not like it.

Parents will spoil their children very much, and not make them come to school unless they like.

Nearly all crofters' children, a few merchant's; the former the worst attendance in summer. There is a great deal of work a child can do as well as older people, such as cleaning and gathering potatoes in June and July, at about 10 to 12; both girls and boys; then harvest, all for parents and neighbours. There are no large farms. Then September holidays, then potato-lifting, the great wind-up, and then back to school again. They all come back in November, and attendance good till middle of April. Very often kept at home to look after younger children, 8 to 10.

Know of many growing up at about 15, 16, 17, having never been at school; they are working now. It is the case with girls more than boys; they are kept at home for household work; they are all within reach. As a rule the younger ones come, but the attendance is improving. When the school was opened in November last Mr. Campbell, the duke's factor, mentioned that rent would be raised on any crofter neglecting to send his children to school, and attendance has improved.

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II.

Am a Sutherlandshire man, and found the same wish among teachers there for a compulsory clause.

Had a winter class of 12, of whom six were doing Latin, but four have gone away now. What have to complain of is, whatever teach in winter they are off again in summer, and what there is any satisfaction in teaching them is all lost.

Provide own books (Scottish School Book Society); have great difficulty sometimes, complain of poverty. If advancing into the upper classes parents very often decline, and have just to let them lag behind. Many are content with only reading, writing, and arithmetic, and never aspire beyond.

Read the Bible on Sabbath in Gaelic with 10 or 12. The more Gaelic taught in the schools the better. They will go on reading English very often like parrots, not understanding the meaning of the words. Under the revised code teachers cannot afford time to teach Gaelic. They cannot use a dictionary as none of them have learnt to read Gaelic; only speak it from hearing their parents. Some few teachers have no Gaelic, but it is rare; are put at a disadvantage too by inspectors knowing no Gaelic, especially in writing from dictation; some of the younger children will not understand a word they say, and they go away with a very bad impression of the school.

In the winter had about 15 stout grown-up boys and girls, averaging perhaps 17 years of age.

Industrial training much neglected; they are quite able to make a seam, but are content with that. What they should learn is economy; they all grow up bad managers.

78. ——— , schoolmaster, Salen.—The thing chiefly to be complained of is the gathering of whelks; when the flood tide comes during school hours they will all be away for a week and come the next week, but that is of course a great hindrance to learning. It would be an advantage to the children if compulsory education could be enforced. They go just if they can earn a penny, and they spend it in a careless way.

Just now too (June) will be employed peat-cutting and potato-weeding; but worst thing is whelks. Will have a pretty strong school in winter three months, but that is the only time can make any thing of them.

June—on roll 37, attendance yesterday, 24.

January—on roll 58, but weekly average 47.

29 have left since January.

About a dozen girls. There is also a female school, but when only want, reading, writing and arithmetic, come here. At other school get sewing, &c.

Have a number of ploughmen and shepherds' children. Mr. Oliver principal farmer here. Any farmers here with children send them here, but have very few.

Teach Gaelic just enough to be able to read scriptures at home, for no other practical use.

Would put fees all year over at 4*l.* or 5*l.* Would be a good deal more if I could get them from crofters. Fees, 2*s.* a quarter and upwards. Don't get any paid in kind now, used to before the famine, but they are so poor now, cannot get it.

None who do not go to school. Those who get education will get a situation through influence of the proprietor, so they seem to value it.

Generally plenty of work here for those able to work; general labourers 2*s.* 6*d.*, women 1*s.* Will make sometimes 2*s.* at the whelks. There is a dealer who sends them up to Billingsgate. Get 2*s.* a bushel, and oysters 1*s.* a hundred. There were 20 crofters yonder, but have been put into one farm, and the rest still stay on. Every cot is full, and they work as labourers.

Children will go at 8 and 9 and 10 to the whelks; can be seen in droves going away with their mothers and older people. Look like gypsies, or the like of that; not well dressed; get wet on the shore, they say sea-water is good for them. But they spend what they get at once; no foresight or economy. It is all goods they get in exchange from the grocer, tea and sugar, and the like of that; bread and biscuits, &c., and that is not so good for the family as meal. Porridge and milk is the best. Have potatoes too. They go out in evenings with boats, and catch sethe.

Some of them come five miles, some even seven, and are as early at the door as any of them. There is a boy comes seven miles aged 10, another five miles aged eight. Only shepherds up in the glens, who could not pay a teacher, nor are there enough to make an attendance of them.

There are three parish schools; there is 80*l.* given between them.

Lough Don 32*l.*

Lough Buy 15*l.* from the heritors, and 20*l.* from exchequer.

Fishnish; not above four or five children attend, 26*l.*

Salen, Parliamentary, 30*l.*, and registrar 5*l.*, fees 5*l.*, heritors 2*l.*

Female school, supported by Ladies School Association, 20*l.* from the assembly.

Then in Glenforsa there is a lad who boards with the shepherds by turns, 5*l.* from proprietor.

A head-shepherd up in the glens, and a farmer down at Laggan sent at one time their children to board here with me. Sometimes send them into a village to a friend. Charged for room and lodging, and provided food themselves, sent from home and cooked here.

79. *Mr. John Campbell*, crofter and schoolmaster, Dervaig:—Boys go to help at the peat-cutting after 10 years of age, lay out the peats. Is only a boys school, they come back in July and August. April, May, and June worst months. There is planting potatoes, &c. Only know of one about 15 who herds out of this village They go very much to the low country and learn some trade or take to burning lime. The district has lost a great part of its people. Up the glen there are now two great farms where formerly were eight or nine tenants. None left now except the feus, which have small crofts of three or four acres, and keep a cow; otherwise there would be no village at all. Most work done is for parents. There is a female industrial school for girls, which takes all of them. Best average winter attendance 40, summer 20.

None come more than three miles to school. There are no children growing up uneducated except that the side school at Croig is now vacant, and for some time the children there have been to no school.

	Under 10.	10 to 13.	Over 13.	Total.
Summer	- 13	8	0	21
Winter	- 8	21	6	35

Little ones do not come out so much on account of the weather.

Teach Gaelic voluntary on Sabbath. Don't understand much English till about 10 or 11. Have to keep them up to the spelling. Often speak in English and they answer in Gaelic; they can understand but not speak it at first.

The people are so poor cannot take fees from them much, except just from the shoemaker, &c. The people will do a day's work; I keep two crofts, could not get on so well without it, and would have to charge the usual 1*s.* a quarter. Have two cows and a pony. Join with another crofter, and plough in his croft one day and ours the next. For the shearing, women will come out, at 9*d.* a day, mothers of the children in the school 9*d.* a day.

Most of the crofts are held by old men, most of the sons have taken up some trade, such as carpentering. There is very little work to be got here, most of the farms being sheep farms; the women perhaps get a month or two turnip-hoeing or potato-planting on Mr. Lang's farm. Very little fishing.

(II.)—IONA.

80. *Rev. Alex. McGregor*, minister of Iona (pop. 620, cultivation mixed).—Boys are employed in "spring and harvest," girls at the age of "from 12 to

5 weeding, and hoeing potatoes and turnips," women for a short time in spring and harvest.

Distance to work "10 minutes walk."

Hours of work for men "6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

" " women "9 a.m. to 6 p.m."

" " children "9 a.m. to 4 p.m." No necessity for restriction.

"Children under 10 years of age are not employed in any way. Above 10 they are employed only for a short time in harvest."

There is "a parochial school, and a school supported by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The children do take advantage of them."

Cottages—some moderately good, others indifferent. They are sufficient, not overcrowded, conveniently situated, have gardens. "No bothies."

"Number of children not at school nor at work is very small, perhaps not more than 20 in the parish."

Wages "paid in money every six months. Amount 12*l.* with food and lodgings."

(III.)—TYREE.

81. *Rev. J. Campbell*, minister of Tyree:—Boys are not overworked, most of the early work is done for their parents. Am not aware of any case in which any one is over-worked; it would be a good thing if they had more to do. It is not so much for this work as for gathering tangle in cold weather that interference is needed; but it is only their parents for whom they do that, and it would only be for a short time.

The farmers generally work the land themselves and their families. One or two farmers would keep a servant-man, living in the house, or perhaps in the steadings, in a loft or some place.

Would divide the population into crofters and cotters; the crofters would let to the cotters a bit of potato ground to plant a barrel or two of potatoes, and in return for that would get the cotters children to assist in gathering potatoes, &c. Women get paid at rate of 8*d.* a day, and for 1*s.* can get as much men's labour as you like. But most often paid in kind. The tenant who has land charges for the potato planting at the rate of 9*s.* a barrel. All the tenants have horses and ploughs; not a rare thing for them to use a horse and a yearling at the same plough.

The cottages are rather better than in most islands; there are none except those inhabited by paupers, which have not two rooms. The walls are generally double, filled in with sand to keep them air-tight, and the thatch rests on the inner wall, the wall being covered with a sloping turf to run the drippings off into the ground, which is porous, and exhausts a deal of wet. They pay no rent for their cottages. An attempt was made once to make them pay 1*l.* rent, but they pleaded that if they paid it ought to be to the tenant, who was paying rent and on whose land they had built, and as as they were generally relations it was not enforced by the tenant. There is a great deal of near relationship. The rates are about 3*s.* 6*d.* They make no provision for their old age; if a man's wages are only 1*s.* and find himself, and even that only occasional work, you cannot expect him to put by much; young people cannot in every case support their parents.

There were once nine schools in the island. Now we have five, two parish, and two assembly schools, and a free school. No fees paid in most of the schools. Quite sufficient. The parish schoolmasters get 30*l.*, and a free house and croft, and government allowance. The general assembly schools a salary from the general assembly and a house and subscription from the heritors.

82. *J. M. N. Geekie*, factor to the Duke of Argyll, Tyree.—The cultivation is mixed, the crofts chiefly arable, and all the large farms stock-farms, the largest farm in the island is a dairy-farm, the only one. The people depend chiefly on fish, potatoes, oatmeal, and Indian meal. There is a great scarcity of work. A great many go away in the summer months south for six months service, and then come back; about 70 went in one trip. In the winter a great many cotters gathers tangle for the British Seaweed Company. The tenants have a right to what they require for manuring their lands.

A great deal of payment is given in kind. Shepherds on the large farms would be paid in money. A man working on the crofts would often get potatoes or grain. The cotters that have cows pay crofters for their grazing.

The island is over-populated, the place swarming with cottages, the best of them very good, but some might be better. The crofters have houses on the crofts, and keep them up themselves, the cotters are generally round the shore. In their gardens they only grow potatoes, no vegetables. A great many cotters have a ridge of potatoes from the neighbouring crofter for the manure.

Herding in the summer time is the principal work for boys, the strongest of them clean potatoes, &c. for their parents; girls to work in the plots of potatoes. Women work occasionally on the crofts. Almost the only servants employed are shepherds. All work at home except those engaged as herds. Some of the largest crofters have perhaps a big strong boy engaged.

83. *John McFarlane*, crofter and teacher, Southend parochial school.—Hardly any difference in summer and winter attendance; big boys cannot come in summer, and little ones cannot come in winter because of the distance, 1½ or 2 miles; the majority are within a mile, but the roads are bad. The case is exceptional; was in Islay, and it was very different.

Average attendance in July, 71. Holidays begin in second week of September, and go on six weeks; the children come in gradually, and the school is not full till January.

Average February attendance, 90. We had 20 new ones this year, but they will drop off in winter.

Would say there are three classes; winter class, summer class, and regular class.

In April if a great storm comes on lots of tangle is washed up, and children of 9 or 10 will be useful for a few days. But far more depends on willingness of parents; the children are no use at the burning time. A family can make a ton easily in a month, 4*l.* a month. The people are very poor here, but every cottage has two apartments. Every cotter has a bit of potato-ground, for which he gives perhaps a week's shearing in harvest. The people are all more or less related and friendly, and will always help one another, to put in a rigg of potatoes or shear.

A great deal of payment in kind. Am one of a company of 15, who join to take a herd, and pay him 16 bushels of meal, and a cow's grass. Gets two quarters and two bushels of barley and a cow's grass, which is worth at least 2*l.* 10*s.* the half year, a boy of 15. All have a common so are obliged to combine.

Every crofter has a pair of horses, will buy a young beast and sell him when the ploughing is over, would rather have a cow than a horse here. Even cotters keep a horse. Would hardly find a cow in a house. A horse is useful all the winter to bring up seaweed.

On roll.

	Boys.	Girls.	
Under 10	25	29	average per year, 46 boys, 40 girls.
10 to 13	23	24	
Over 13	41	18	

Girls leave earlier than boys; boys are not much use till they can do a good day's work; girls can go to nurse, or even do so younger for their parents.

Fees for the year 4*s.* for one child.

" " 6*s.* for two children.

" " 7*s.* for any number.

Will often take payment in kind, a great many will come to shear; I have only one horse, and sometimes will take a day of a horse from a farmer, but insist generally on money from him. From poor people

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are content with a day's potato-lifting. In the east end it is paid in kind altogether; so it was here before I came; one family would pay two barrels of potatoes or a bushel of meal; one family pay the same as one child.

No children hardly not at school anywhere.

Would say greatest regularity from 10 to 14, after that get hanging about, come now and then.

People often will not educate their children because they think they will go away; the best educated families are always the most scattered.

Have all the senior boys in a Gaelic class on Friday afternoon. Of course have to explain to the younger ones in Gaelic. Very often find them reading on, and not understanding a word. They use an English dictionary, Walker's or Johnson's which explains the word; Gaelic dictionaries are too expensive.

There are in Tyree—
2 Parish schools.
2 General assembly schools.
1 Female school, ladies association.
2 Ladies schools, free church.

(IV.)—COLL.

84. *Mr. Baxter, agent for J. L. Stewart, Esq., Coll.*—Most of the island consists now of dairy-farms. There are one or two sheep-farms also. Mr. Stewart himself has about 3,000 sheep. He has also a dairy of 60 Ayrshire cows. Boys are little employed, except for herding in the summer months; they would go to that at 12 or 13 years of age. Women get for wages 10*d.* a day; 2*s.* in harvest from 10 o'clock. Men 2*s.* 2*d.* There is a scarcity of labour, especially of men, many of whom go away to the south country. Farm-servants, if unmarried, are lodged in the farmhouse or stables; there is no case of women and men servants sleeping in the same room. Used to be done much down in Cantyre. There are few crofters left, except in the north extremity of the island, which does not belong to Mr. Stewart. As they fall in they are added to the larger farms, but the process of enlarging farms is very gradual. A good many of the people go away for sailors—they like to get on board the steamers. Some of the crofters' cottages have no chimneys, or only a hole in the roof; in some cases there are two such holes, which can be opened or closed, and are used according to the direction of the wind. In some the cows go in through the same door as the family. Two crofters will sometimes keep a plough between them: all have a horse and cart, some two horses; they work the land with the assistance of the family and of each other. One has a daughter, who works on his croft or takes a day's wage for a farmer, from 9 till 6. She will milk for the dairyman for an hour and a half in the morning, and come back and get a bit of breakfast before her other work, and will also milk again in the evening, not getting home till past 8. One hand can milk 10 cows; the dairyman employs two servants and two crofters' daughters, besides his own family.

Wages for ordinary men, 16*l.*, house and garden, cow's grass, six bolls meal, one ton of potatoes, four tons of coal. Wages for foreman, 22*l.*; other things the same. Wages for shepherd, 18*l.*

85. —— *Schoolmaster, Coll.*—Twenty-six boys on the roll, 14 girls. January, February, March, 44 boys, 26 girls. June, 26 boys, 14 girls.

The older children go away for the six months of agricultural labour, chiefly herding. The youngest who would go to herd would go at nine or 10, boys principally. Girls kept at home while mothers are out; some have a long way to come, as much as five miles, and if a wet day do not come.

Had three lads, aged 27, 26, 23 in winter, whose education had been previously neglected; had been away at sea. Came for three months. One of 15; next to that eldest 13. Had two of 15, one of 16, girls, but rest much younger than boys; generally kept by mothers, when able to do anything.

Age of boys present now 14 to 7; only one at 14: next about 11. Oldest girl, 13; vary from 13 to 7.

Are some children about the seaport who never come. Even about here the poorest people cannot afford clothes. I am not particular as long as they are clean. A great many never pay fees. Fees 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. The parochial board pays for some. Have no difficulty about books. Get them from Assembly school committee, and can grant them on minister's certificate that the parents cannot afford to pay. My great difficulty is that the inspector generally comes when many of the children are out herding, and even if I can get them to come to examination they will not be up in the subjects. I often go down where they are herding for a few days to get them up in the subjects.

From the heritor I have a croft and cows grass, 25*l.* from the assembly, and 20*l.* certificate; 5*l.* from the assembly for sewing: have a mistress for it. Fees 6*l.* to 8*l.*; a great part paid in equivalents: meal, potatoes, and horse-work, ploughing, &c.

Teach one lesson in Gaelic once a week. They learn psalms at home and read it here. A great many are children from the south country, and know no Gaelic.

86. *Mr. McLean, occupier, Coll.* — Gives his ploughmen 9*l.* the half year; all board in the house, and do so generally in Coll, except at Mr. Stewart's farm. Keep two ploughmen, who sleep above here and have a shepherd, a married man with a family, in cottages. Girls get 4*l.*, a good one 4*l.* 10*s.* Principally work on the breeding system here; have Highland cattle and a few Ayrshires. Women sleep in the house in a room off the kitchen.

In harvest and turnip planting get extra hands. Not easy to get at this end of the island. A crofter will send his family if he has a grown-up family; a shepherd's wife would come out when able. Women only work from 9 or 10 till 6; cannot get them out before; will be perhaps milking down with the dairyman, or want a bit of breakfast first. They get 10*d.* a day.

Have a boy herding now at 3*l.*; sleeps in the house. Would be aged about 15. Comes for the six summer months. Have hardly any fencing at all.

Five shift farming; six acres here this year, 12 corn, eight green crop, which is mostly turnip; hay, meadow; two-thirds of the green crop are turnips.

Before the famine people depended chiefly on potatoes; now it is chiefly oatmeal and cake. They get tea two or three times a day, same as they do in London. Very little whiskey drunk. They never drink water in summer time, man, woman, or child; all butter-milk and whey. No beer or porter.

There is a market at the town, but little hiring is done there. You know everyone in the island, and who have no situation, and who you can get.

APPENDIX II.—LABOUR, RETURNS, AND WAGES.

Home Farm, Poltalloch.

1. Extent of farm to which the returns apply:—
245 acres arable.
800 acres pasture, permanent.
600 „ hill.

Nature of soil, peaty. Course of husbandry, six course shift.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring - -	0	0	0	2	16	18
„ Summer -	0	0	0	3	20	23
„ Autumn -	0	0	0	4	18	22
„ Winter -	0	0	0	2	18	20

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
„ Summer	0	0	0	5	7	8	15
„ Autumn	0	0	0	2	1	3	4
„ Winter	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

2. *Robert Dickie*, farmer, Kellesnan, Campbeltown, North Britain.

Extent of farm to which the returns apply;—
260 Scots acres arable.

Nature of soil, clay, friable and blast, mould and loam. Course of husbandry, a six-shift course, one half in pasture, and the other half under a rotation of crops, alternately.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring - -	0	0	1	2	5	8
„ Summer -	0	0	1	2	5	8
„ Autumn -	0	0	2	2	7	11
„ Winter -	0	0	0	1	4	5

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	0	0	0	2	3	5	10
„ Summer	0	0	0	2	3	5	10
„ Autumn	0	0	0	2	5	5	12
„ Winter	0	0	0	1	3	4	8

3. Extent of farm—
150 acres arable.
1,250 acres pasture and heather.

Lieut.-Col. A. C. McNeill, parish of Colonsay and Oronsay.

Nature of soil, sandy in most parts.

Number and age of persons employed on the Farm.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring - -	0	0	0	0	7	7
„ Summer -	0	0	0	2	10	12
„ Autumn -	0	0	0	2	10	12
„ Winter -	0	0	0	0	7	7

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
„ Summer	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
„ Autumn	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
„ Winter	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Glebe Farm, Iona.

4. Extent of farm to which the returns apply—
20 acres arable.
40 acres pasture.

Nature of soil, partly sand and partly black loam. Course of husbandry, four rotations, partly black loam.

Labourers employed.

—	Males.					
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18.	Total Males.
In Spring - -	0	0	0	1	3	4
„ Summer -	0	0	0	1	3	4
„ Autumn -	0	0	0	1	3	4
„ Winter -	0	0	0	1	3	4

—	Females.						
	Under 8.	Between 8 and 10.	Between 10 and 13.	Between 13 and 18.	Over 18. Married.	Over 18. Unmarried.	Total Females.
In Spring -	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
„ Summer	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
„ Autumn	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
„ Winter	0	0	0	2	0	0	2

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5. *Extracts from engagement book on the Poltalloch estate, since the year* 1839, *showing the rise in wages.*

Iver Campbell, herd, 1839 :—

1 cow with follower; 2½ barrels of potatoes, planted; house, and 8*l.* money.

Farm servants engaged 1842 :—

John McTavish (overseer), 20*l.*; meal 6½ bolls; 30 barrels of potatoes; keep of a cow and free house.

John Smith, 14*l.*; meal, 6½ bolls; potatoes 30 barrels; keep of a cow, and free house.

Joseph Rutherford, 12*l.*; meal, 6½ bolls; 25 barrels of potatoes; use of a cow and free house.

William Campbell, 12*l.*; board wages 5*s.* per week.

William McNairn, the same.

Dugald Gillies, the same.

Donald McVicar, shepherd, 1850 :—

9*l.* per annum; 30 barrels of potatoes, or an equivalent of 2*s.* 6*d.* per barrel; keep of a cow, manure belonging to the proprietor; free house; peats to be carted home, but cuts them at his own expense; 6½ bolls of meal.

John McTavish, ploughman, 1852 :—

10*l.*; 6½ bolls of meal; 30 barrels of potatoes, or 2*s.* 6*d.* a barrel; free house; keep of a cow, manure to belong to the proprietor; and liberty to cut peat, the same to be carted home.

(1852.)	£	s.	d.
Money	10	0	0
Meal	5	17	0
Potatoes	3	15	0
House	1	10	0
Cow	3	10	0
	£24	12	0

The same man now gets (1870)	£	s.	d.
11*s.* a week	28	12	0
And free house	3	0	0
	£31	12	0

Duncan Currie, shepherd, 1860 :—

27*l.* wages, all in money.

Duncan Taylor, under shepherd (1866) :—

16*l.*; board and lodging with the married shepherd.

Shepherd in charge of Ashfield farm, North Knapdale.

	£	s.	d.
12*l.* money	12	0	0
Grazing of 3 cows and 4 stirks	10	0	0
5 sheep	1	5	0
All the braxy	2	0	0
6 barrels of potatoes (produces 30 bushels)	10	0	0
	£35	5	0

6. Wages of persons employed on the farm of J. Campbell, Esq., of Jura.

Donald Taylor, Cabrach, labourer.

May 26. *Debtor.* Date 1868.	£	s.	d.
2 st. 6 lb. braxey, at 4*s.* 6*d.* per stone	0	10	1½
2 barrels potatoes, at 5*s.* per barrel	0	15	0
2 bolls shop flour, at 19*s.* 3*d.* per boll	1	18	6
5 b. 7 st. oatmeal, at 20*s.* per boll	5	17	6
To cash paid in full	3	9	5½
	£12	10	7

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
37 days' work, at 1*s.* 9*d.* per day	3	4	9
44 do. 1*s.* 4*d.* do.	2	18	8
75 do. 1*s.* 6*d.* do.	5	12	6
22 do. of daughter Anne, at 8*d.* per day	0	14	8
	£12	10	7

Debtor.

Nov. 20.	£	s.	d.
1 stone laid wool, at 10*s.* per stone	0	10	0
2 bolls shop flour, at 16*s.* 9*d.* per boll	1	13	6
3 b. 7½ st. oatmeal, at 1*s.* 6*d.* per boll	3	10	10½
Cash paid in full	8	5	9½
	£14	0	2

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
134 days' work, at 1*s.* 9*d.* per day	11	14	6
18 ditto, at 1*s.* 6*d.* per day	1	7	0
28 ditto, of son Dugald, at 8*d.* per day	0	18	8
	£14	0	2

Alexander Gray, ploughman.

Debtor.

May 26.	£	s.	d.
2 st. 6 lb. braxey, at 4*s.* 6*d.* per stone	0	10	1½
1 st. 3 lb. beef, at 11*s.* per stone	0	12	4½
3½ barrels of potatoes, at 5*s.* per barrel	0	17	6
2 bolls shop flour, at 19*s.* 3*d.* per barrel	1	18	6
4 b. 3 st. oatmeal, at 1*l.* per boll	4	7	6
Cash paid in full	4	3	8
	£12	9	8

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
Allowances of meal to Whit-Sunday 1869, 3 b. 2 st.	3	5	0
Wages, Martinmas 1868, to Whit-Sunday 1869	7	10	0
27 days' work of daughter Mary, at 8*d.* per day	0	18	0
25 days' work of daughter Anne, at 8*d.* per day	0	16	8
	£12	9	8

Debtor.

Nov. 20.	£	s.	d.
2 st. 12 lb. laid wool, at 10*s.* per stone	1	5	0
2 bolls shop flour, at 16*s.* 9*d.* per boll	1	13	6
3 b. 1 st. oatmeal, at 18*s.* per boll	2	16	3
1 st. laid cheviot wool, at 1*l.*	1	0	0
Cash paid in full	7	12	5
	£14	7	2

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
Allowance of meal to Martinmas 1869; 3 b. 2 st. at 18*s.*	2	18	6
Wages, from Whit-Sunday to Martinmas 1869	7	10	0
101 days' work of daughter Mary, at 8*d.*	3	7	4
17 ditto of daughter Anne, at 8*d.*	0	11	4
	£14	7	2

Besides a house and five tons of coal, two pints of milk, one sweet and one skimmed; bit of garden.

Meal now given at 17*s.* is down in price; the above is 1868.

John Shaw, shepherd.

Debtor.

May 26.	£	s.	d.
1 boll 2 bushels old seed oats, at 20*s.* per boll	1	6	8
2 bolls shop flour at 19*s.* 3*d.* per boll	1	18	8
8 b. 4 st. oatmeal, at 20*s.* per boll	8	10	0
Cash paid in full	4	4	10
	£16	0	0

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
Allowance of meal to Whit-Sunday for self and servant, 6 b. 4 st. at 20*s.*	6	10	0
Wages, Martinmas 1868 to Whit-Sunday 1869	3	10	0
Wages of son Dugald to ditto	6	0	0
	£16	0	0

Debtor.

Nov. 20.	£	s.	d.
2 bolls shop flour, at 16*s.* 9*d.* per boll	1	13	6
12 b. 2 st. oatmeal, at 18*s.* per boll	11	0	6
One cow's grass, from Whit-Sunday 1869 to Whit-Sunday 1870	3	0	0
Cash paid in full	5	16	1
	£21	10	1

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
Allowance of meal as above, at 18*s.*	5	17	0
Ditto do. for shearers	1	7	0
Ditto do. for Fauks	1	4	9
Wages, Whit-Sunday to Martinmas 1869	3	10	0
Ditto do. of son Dugald	6	0	0
107 days' work of son Angus, at 8*d.*	3	11	4
	£21	10	1

Allowances :—Keeps two cows and a heifer and 15 sheep, and a bullock's hide to make shoes (gets a man to make them for him), five acres of arable land, free house. Asked to have an extra cow, and would have 3*l.* off his wages, which was agreed to. He has bought his sheep and cows, but has leave to feed them on the land and sell the produce. He sells the calves and the old cow, and then the heifer comes in to make up the number. His cows are worth 4*l.* a piece to him.

	£	s.	d.
Cows and heifer worth	14	0	0
Sheep	3	15	0
Money	4	0	0
Cottage	1	10	0
Meal	6	10	0
Hide	0	15	0
	£31	10	0

Cisty McKennel.

Debtor.

Nov. 20.	£	s.	d.
1 b. 3 st. oatmeal, at 18*s.* per boll	1	9	3
Cash paid in full	0	1	5
	£1	10	8

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
46 days' work, at 8*d.* per day	1	10	8

Flora Shaw.

Debtor.

Oct. 25.	£	s.	d.
3 st. oatmeal, at 18*s.* per boll	0	6	9
24½ pints milk, 1st. braxey (4*s.*)	0	8	1
Cash paid in full	0	2	6
	£0	17	4

Creditor.

	£	s.	d.
26 days' work, at 8*d.* per day	0	17	4

Women only come out after breakfast. These two women also gave 20 duty days in harvest, which they give on condition of receiving a free cottage and garden ; during that work they receive 2 st. of meal, worth 5*s.*, for performing the duty work.

Owing to the difficulty of getting meal, which comes from Ireland, Mr. Campbell has set up a store, where he sells it to the men at 15 per cent. below the retail price at the shop, charging only enough to pay the freight. The large tenants at the other end of the island buy it in the same way. It ends in little money changing hands.

All Mr. Campbell's labourers have a cow's grass, except one, who is a single man. It is a great boon to them ; of course not such an advantage to the landlord, but they will say, "How can we work on "bread and water?" All through the harvest they will go down to the Sound, the younger part of the families, to catch sethe and lithe, and later on herrings. They salt part of it for the winter, drying them in the sun, and hanging them in the rooms. They melt down the milt of the sethe and extract enough oil to last all the winter, and even sell some.

Argyllshire.

Mr. Boyle.

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APPENDIX III.—STATISTICS RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

1. Approximate number of children of the agricultural labouring class in attendance at elementary schools in the parish of Southend, exclusive of farmer's children employed in agricultural labour.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	32	27
Between 10 and 13 -	25	16
Total boys - -	57	43
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	26	22
Between 10 and 13 -	15	10
Total girls - -	41	32

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	31	26
Between 10 and 13 -	39	34
Total boys - -	70	60
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	25	18
Between 10 and 13 -	22	18
Total girls - -	47	36

2. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Elementary Schools in the parish of Coalhill, Campbeltown:—

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	30	26
Between 10 and 13 -	20	14
Total boys - -	50	40
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	20	16
Between 10 and 13 -	10	10
Total girls - -	30	26

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	36	28
Between 10 and 13 -	30	12
Total boys - -	66	40
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	30	16
Between 10 and 13 -	10	10
Total girls - -	40	26

3. Approximate Number of Children in attendance at Ardbeg School, Islay:

Summer.

1869, May, boys under 10 - - -	15
" " " 13 - - -	9
	24
1870, " " 10 - - -	19
" " " 13 - -	5
	24
Average for two years under 12 - -	17
" " " 13 - -	7
	24
1869, May, girls under 10 - - -	13
" " " 13 - - -	6
	19
1870, " " 10 - - -	13
" " " 13 - - -	5
	18
Average for two years under 10 - -	13
" " " 13 - -	5
	18

Winter.

1869, January, boys under 10 - -	22
" " " 13 -	15
	37
1870, " " 10 - -	15
" " " 13 -	18
	33
Average for two years under 10 - -	18
" " " 13 - -	17
	35
1869, January, girls under 10 - -	13
" " " 13 - -	11
	24
1870, " " 10 - -	10
" " " 13 - -	8
	18
Average for two years under 10 - -	12
" " " 13 - -	9
	21

4. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Elementary Schools in the parish of Kilmartin.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	21	19
Between 10 and 13 -	28	27
Total boys -	49	46
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	13	11
Between 10 and 13 -	6	5
Total girls -	19	16

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age	30	23
Between 10 and 13 -	42	35
Total boys -	72	68
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	13	10
Between 10 and 13 -	12	8
Total girls -	25	18

5. Female School, Poltalloch, for the year 1869–70.

In Summer.

—	Number on Register.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	6+4+9	4+3+8
From 10 to 13 - -	4+1	2+1
Total boys -	24	18
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	4+13+9	4+10+8
Over 10 - -	13+16	10+13
Total girls -	55	45

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	8+4+9	6+4+6
From 10 to 13 -	4+2+1	3+2+1
Total boys -	28	22
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	7+16+12	6+12+10
Over 10 - -	21+19	20+17
Total girls -	75	65

Number of attendances in :—

1st class	over	300=9.	Average age	12.
2nd „	„	300=8.	„	10.
3rd „	„	300=5.	„	8.
4th „	„	300=6.	„	6.
5th „	„	300=2.	„	4½.

6. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at the Parish School of Kilchoan.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	7	5
Between 10 and 13 -	12	10
Above 13 - -	6	4
Total boys -	25	19
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	6	5
Between 10 and 13 -	11	7
Above 13 - -	4	3
Total girls -	21	15

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	12	7
Between 10 and 13 -	22	10
Above 13 - -	15	5
Total boys -	49	22
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	11	8
Between 10 and 13 -	20	10
Above 13 - -	8	3
Total girls -	39	21

This is a more favourable specimen of attendance than may other schools in the parish, but not equal to the parochial school, which, situated in the village of Fortwilliam, is very regularly attended.

7. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Salen Parish Schools.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Salen P. School.		
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	22	22
Between 10 and 13 -	18	12
Total boys -	40	34
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	6	6
Between 10 and 13 -	3	2
Salen F. C. School.		
Under 10 years of age -	—	15
Between 10 and 13 -	—	17
Total girls -	9	40

Argyllshire.

Mr. Boyle.

II.

In Winter.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Salen P. School.		
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	22	22
Between 10 and 13 -	18	18
Total boys -	40	40
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	6	6
Between 10 and 13 -	3	3
Salen F. C. School.		
Under 10 years of age -	—	15
Between 10 and 13 -	—	23
Total girls -	9	47

N.B.—Many attend school at from 13 to 18.

8. Approximate Number of Children of the Agricultural Labouring Class in attendance at Elementary Schools in the parish of Iona.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	30	20
Between 10 and 13 -	20	15
Total boys -	50	35
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	25	17
Between 10 and 13 -	22	15
Total girls -	47	32

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	40	35
Between 10 and 13 -	25	23
Total boys -	65	58
Girls:		
Under 10 years of age -	35	33
Between 10 and 13 -	29	20
Total girls -	64	53

9. School at Carradale, Cantyre: best attendances, with the trade of parents, and the distance to which the children have to come to school attached.

No.	Attendances.	Age.	Parent's Occupation.	Distance.
			Boys.	
1	312	9	Gamekeeper - -	2 miles.
2	330	6	Farmer - - -	1 „
3	318	11	Joiner: but all this year has been working on pier.	3 „
4	306	12	Dealer, cattle and fish -	3 „
5	300	10	Labourer: fisher in summer	5 „
6	281	12	Do. and winter does what he can get.	¼ „
7	276	12	Farmer - - -	¼ „
8	280	18	Labourer, agricultural -	3 „
9	273	10	Brother to last - -	—
10	282	12	Shepherd - - -	2 „
			Girls.	
1	360	10	Farmer - - -	¼ „
2	293	12	Do. - - -	2 „
3	387	11	Do. - - -	2 „
4	343	10	Gamekeeper - -	1¼ „
5	361	7	Do. - -	1¼ „
6	284	13	Piermaster - - -	3 „
7	270	6	Farmer - - -	2 „
8	260	9	Labourer and fisher -	2½ „

Many labour in summer and fish in winter.

10. List of Schools in the Island of Jura, with the manner in which each is supported.

1. Parish School.—Salary paid by heritors, 35*l.*; school house and garden from heritors; also receives fees.

2. Knochrome.—Salary paid by Christian Knowledge Society, 20*l.*, and fees. Mr. Campbell gives house, schoolroom, cow's grass, and about six or seven acres of land.

3. Brosdale.—Christian Knowledge Society gives 20*l.* Proprietor pays school fees for children and gives house and garden, cow's grass, and school.

4. Lagg.—Mr. Campbell gives 5*l.* per annum, and master collects school fees; Mr. Campbell gives house and school. Attendance, 16.

5. Ardlupa.—Education Committee, Edinburgh, gives 10*l.*; school fees. Colonel McNeill, the proprietor, gives a house, and potato land, and cow's grass and school. Master boards with people in lieu of fees, and lets the house; a new school. Formerly people supported a master entirely. Attendance, 19.

Fees in highest classes, 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter; in lower classes, 2*s.* 6*d.*

11. Comparative Attendance of Children in certain Schools in Argyllshire, during the first six months of the year.

—	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
Parish School, Kilfinichen, Mull:—						
Upper classes - -	21	19	18	18	10	8
Lower „ - -	43	59	41	33	29	22
Brosdale School, Jura - -	39	36	36	34	29	28
Lochgoilhead School:—						
Boys - - -	—	28	30	26	21	16
Girls - - -	—	13	15	14	13	10
Ardbeg School, Islay:—						
Boys - - -	38	33	39	38	36	25
Girls - - -	18	17	21	24	24	15

EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. CAMPION'S REPORT.

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APPENDIX A.—DISTRICT BETWEEN FORT GEORGE AND HELMSDALE.

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

GENERAL EVIDENCE.

1. *Mr. D. Ross.*—I am secretary to the Wester-Ross Farmers' Society. Wester-Ross is chiefly under the plough, and the soil is of a rich alluvial nature, interspersed with patches of light land on the rising ground. I am speaking now only of the lowland portion of it. Easter-Ross is also alluvial, but much richer in its soil. The arable land in this neighbourhood is cultivated partly upon the four and partly upon the five course of tillage. I have heard great complaints of the scarcity of cottages, although some farms are well provided; but the scarcity of hands, especially of women, is very general. I do not think, however, that an increased accommodation for married men would surmount the difficulty, as the married women will not work and the younger ones almost always leave home young. Regular bothies are rare in the district, but temporary bothies for women during the turnip and harvest season are common enough. The women whom I once boarded in this way myself came from the west coast, and were very well behaved, and my experience generally is that no immorality results from the arrangement. This temporary bothy is generally an extra room attached to one of the ploughmen's cottages and occupied by him during the rest of the year. This creates great crowding at certain periods of the year. On the estate of the Duchess of Sutherland, under whom I hold, great efforts are being made now to increase the deficient cottage accommodation. What we require is more cottage room to accommodate job labourers in. The cottages about here are, in my experience, mostly two-roomed, and it is probable that if they contained three or four rooms the young men and women who now leave their homes to go out to service might stay at home and supply the deficiency of labour on the farms. It is the crowding which drives them out.

I get all my job labourers now from the small crofters. Their tenures in my parish (Fodderty) range from 4 to 30 acres. I have heard of the system pursued by Lord Lovat of placing the small crofters in the neighbourhood of the large arable farms, and the large crofters, whose land was sufficient for the support of themselves and their families, at a greater distance, and I consider it to be an admirable and a sagacious system. It is just the system which the country requires.

2. LETTER from *R. B. Macleod, Esq.*, of Cadboll.

DEAR SIR,

REFERRING to our conversation last week and to the accompanying printed form, which I have filled up to the best of my power, I may say in regard to the 19th question that the heavy and I may say unnecessary expenses attending an application to the Enclosure Commissioners for a grant of money for such a purpose as building labourers' cottages are a complete barrier to most proprietors, and act most prejudicially against their availing themselves of the intention of the Government and of Parliament.

I have laid out a very large sum in draining, under the Enclosure Commissioners' supervision, and I have seen much more expended by neighbouring proprietors. For myself, I never derived the smallest benefit from the advice or assistance of the drainage inspectors, though I have had to pay them large sums of money. I have seen on other estates vast sums most uselessly spent under their direct supervision and advice. They, in my opinion, are snares to proprietors; fancying that, holding Government appointments, they must know something of their work, some proprietors trust to them instead of their own servants, and are led completely wrong, and I have found that though they may be theoretically right, they are more often practically wrong. Proprietors should know through their own knowledge or that of their servants the best way of improving their own land, either in regard to buildings, drainage, or other improvement required and sanctioned by the Act. The great point is to let the proprietor have the full use of his loan, concurrent *with perfect safety* to the Government.

In most cases the ideas of the Enclosure Commissioners are far too extravagant. In these parts we do not require grand buildings and cottages containing cubical contents to satisfy a Lunacy Commissioner; we want useful good buildings suitable to our system of agriculture, and comfortable houses suitable to the

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

habits of the people and climate, durability being of course attended to. In all these cases there is abundance of skilled local intelligence to provide for these wants, and there is a growing desire amongst proprietors and tenants to do their work well. It is a perfect mockery to put these men under a drainage inspector. Their own interest is a far better guarantee to the Government that the money will be judiciously spent than any drainage inspector's certificate.

Of course the Government must have some certainty that the expenditure has been made according to proposals and for the improvement of the land; but I humbly submit to you that it would not be difficult to devise a method by which this might be secured at a very trifling cost. Plans might be submitted to the Enclosure Commissioners, and on approval the proprietors should be left to carry on their own work, and on making an affidavit before the sheriff that such a sum had been expended according to approved proposals, with vouched account, the sheriff's warrant should be taken as proof. Unless some expedient such as I have sketched be adopted, proprietors will not avail themselves of the Government offers, as is to be wished that they should do.

I believe that the cost of inspection, office charges, &c., amount fully to 5 per cent. on a loan. I took up 11,000*l.* about 14 years ago, and on that sum paid fully 550*l.* for what was not of the slightest use to me, besides the local superintendence necessary to see the work well done. Whilst proprietors may pay this for drainage, they will not do so for cottages, which in these parts pay no rent, but which it is most desirable that they should, in order to improve the housing of the labouring classes. Great improvements have been made and are making in this direction over the whole of Scotland; but it is most desirable that the thorough change should be expedited.

I have thus given you my views on the subject. I disclaim any personality in these remarks, but I feel that if Parliament wish us to use the public money on loan for the benefit of the country, they must devise a method by which the useless cost can be cut down to the lowest scale consistent with security to the Government.

I am, &c.
R. B. H. Macleod.

3. Letter from *Kenneth Murray, Esq.*, of Geanies.

Dear Mr. Campion,

In addition to the conversation which I had the pleasure of having with you, I make the following notes by way of memoranda:—

1st. The district of East Ross is purely agricultural, about two-thirds of its arable area being in farms above 100 acres in extent, and the other third in small holdings. Almost the whole of these, large and small, are held on lease of 19 years. The soil and climate are both well adapted for cereals, and even on the smallest crofts wheat and turnips are grown.

2nd. A very large extent of land has been rendered arable within the last 25 years, and the process of reclamation is still going on. Fully one half of this new land is let to cottars, and they are more or less assisted in building their houses, drainage, and other works. A great part, however, is done by themselves, and generally speaking they have a right by their leases to certain fixed sums for all buildings they leave in good repair at the end of the leases.

3rd. The result of this is that many of the large farms get their supply of outworkers among these cottars, an arrangement of a very satisfactory kind for both parties. This is not, however, so common as it used to be. There are fewer cottars with crofts of their own interspersed among the large farms.

The result is occasional difficulty in procuring outworkers and the necessity of providing accommodation about the farm for them. For this purpose families sometimes come from the west coast of Ross-shire and remain during the whole summer and autumn, and besides, there are usually some persons who are employed the whole year through, though only paid monthly, as day workers. The workers sometimes better their usual wage by contracting for the work; but there is no such thing as the gang system as you know it in England. Two or three women may join in company, but there is no "gang" with a nigger driver at the head of it. As a rule there is no excessive work in this district, and if the people were only a little better housed, I don't know that you would find healthier and more contented working people anywhere. As a general rule their employers take a sincere interest in them, and the best proof of that is that changes of service are less frequent in East Ross than in any district known to me. Things are far from being perfect, but I don't expect perfection, and I am sure the labouring classes on our farms are happier, healthier, and better off every way than the majority of operatives in the south.

4th. Besides those outworkers, there are, of course, a staff of hired servants on every farm, who are paid their wages quarterly or half-yearly, but whose engagement is for 12 months; you have ample notes of their wages, both in money and kind. I highly approve this mixed mode of payment. It helps to prevent wastefulness and to a large extent equalizes the wages and the prices of food. For it matters nothing to the ploughman who is paid in kind whether meal is dear or cheap, unless, of course, he exceeds the stipulated quantity. Wages have risen not less than 30 per cent. within the last 25 years, and I think you are safe to state that a ploughman now receives in money, meal, potatoes, and other supplies (including milk, of which the quantity given is often too small for large families) at the rate of 2*s.* per diem all the year over. I remember well when a very skilful labourer rarely earned 1*s.* 6*d.* per diem; but I am quite certain that the labourer of to-day at 2*s.* is the cheaper man of the two for the employer. Women's wages I remember to have been 6*d.* a day, but they have gradually risen till they are now 10*d.* a day on most farms.

5th. With regard to cottage accommodation, it may be laid down as the rule that few farms are as well supplied as they ought to be. But within the last 15 years there has been great improvement in this respect. Although the buildings are mostly thatched with straw, they are, generally speaking, comfortable, and whenever the wife is of a tidy disposition they are kept wonderfully clean and wholesome. No doubt this is one of those matters in which it is easier to find fault than prevent it; for with a large family and only two rooms and a closet it can't be easy to keep things tidy. I should say that quite three-fourths of all existing cottages have been built or thoroughly repaired and altered quite recently, and I have as little doubt that their improvement will go steadily on. It is no easy matter for proprietors of arable estates to renew their cottages; but I can answer for my neighbours and myself that we are doing our best. I think every cottage ought to have a garden attached to it, not too large, but sufficient to afford substantial assistance to those who are willing to cultivate it. These remarks apply to farm cottages only.

Lastly. With regard to education, I showed you at Tarbat parish school a specimen of the attendance, intelligence, and efficient teaching in this district. If any child is untaught here, it is the fault of the parents. There are abundant schools, and even the pauper children are carefully educated. Few or no children do any kind of out work until they are about from 11 to 12 years of age, and then only the lighter kinds of summer employment in the fields. I should say that amongst the agricultural labourers there are not 5 per cent. of the children under 14 who cannot read and write a little, while the majority can read, write, and reckon very well, as you saw.

If there is any further information you desire, please let me know.

I am, &c.
Ken. Murray.

LOCAL EVIDENCE.

DISTRICT OF INVERNESS.

4. *Mr. Hugh Fraser, Mr. Sinclair*, and *Mr. Forbes*, occupiers.—Children are very rarely employed under 8; occasionally they are in herding, and sometimes in summer work, which does not interfere with their education. They attend tolerably well from November to March, but from March to November very little, except those under 12. Parents are generally anxious to send their children to school, and never keep them at home, at least in the winter, for the sake of their earnings; sometimes they will keep them at school under great difficulties. Young men often attend school in the winter as old as twenty. There is no such thing as the gang system here. The women are employed in light work, such as hoeing turnips, haymaking, &c., and earn from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day; but they are often very irregular in their attendance at work. In harvest time they will earn from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, or perhaps 1*s.* would be the average. We have rather a scarcity of hands, and have to get women as labourers from the west coast sometimes. We hire farm labourers by the half year, chiefly at the feeing markets. The feeing markets produce great drunkenness and immorality; but we do not think that a register office would answer the purpose. All farm servants make it a condition to be allowed to go to the feeing market, which they look upon as a holiday to which they are entitled; they like to meet their equals then, and would not accept any other kind of holiday as an equivalent. The men change places very often—*i.e.* the bachelors,—the majority of them move every six months.

Bothies are not universal here, but unmarried farm servants are oftener boarded in them than in the kitchen.

There are some, but very few instances of female bothies here to our knowledge. The bothies in this district are well kept and do not lead to any immorality, and are decidedly preferable to the kitchen system. The men themselves prefer them. Cottages are generally good, and have almost invariably a good garden attached. None have less than two rooms and some as many as four. They seldom take in lodgers. The bondager system is unknown. The average cost of building a cottage in this county is about 30*l.*, and such a cottage would let for about 2*l.* per annum. Labourers are generally paid monthly, but the system varies. In harvest time sometimes they are paid as high as 21*s.* per week. The married men are taken for 12 months and paid by the half year, and get about 9*l.* and three bolls of meal, cottage rent free, an allowance of milk, and about 10 cwt. of coals.

They have no benefit societies; some of them put into savings-banks.

(*Mr. H. Fraser.*—A labourer in my service at 14*l.* per annum accumulated 100*l.* in less than 20 years, besides helping his father and brother occasionally.)

Proprietors do not like to build fresh cottages, for fear of ultimately increasing the poor rates, and farmers have consequently suffered for many years from want of accommodation, not for their married ploughmen, but for day labourers. We complain that we cannot get enough of the job men in consequence of the scarcity of accommodation for them, and the same remark applies to the job women.

Married men are generally hired by the year, unmarried by the six months; but there are a third class of job men who come upon an understanding that they shall be employed for a year whenever there is work for them to do.

The second class get about 9*l.* and the same allowance of meal and milk as the married men. They have also an allowance of coal. The third class get from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week, but no allowances.

PETTY.

Population, 1,671.

5. *Rev. Mr. Fraser.*—The parish is divided almost entirely into large farms of between 120 and 400 acres in extent, with the exception of some few small crofts on the moor of Culloden or Fearbuie. There are also a few small crofts in possession of fishermen, but as a rule the fishing population on this coast live in hamlets and have no land. There are two hamlets of this kind in the parish within 300 yards of each other, in one of which the fishers have land attached to their cottages, and in the other no land, and I should say that the latter seem to be fully as comfortable in their circumstances as the former. The unmarried farm-servants are all boarded either in the farmer's kitchen or in a bothy, but there are no regular female bothies. There is, however, one farm upon which extra women employed in harvest time are boarded in a bothy for a few weeks. I think that there is upon the whole wonderfully little immorality among the labouring classes, and cases very seldom come before me as minister of the parish for church discipline. This is a great improvement upon the state of things 15 years ago. During that period the bothy system has increased, but at the same time the farmers employ more married men than they used to. It is, however, still very difficult for a young labourer who wishes to marry to get a cottage where he can settle, and there is generally a great want of cottages upon the farms. Those which do exist are usually built of turf and stone and contain two rooms. I do not think that there has been any material improvement in the nature or extent of cottage accommodation within my experience. The tone of feeling among the parents upon the subject of education is very good, and they are most anxious to instruct their children and do all they can to accomplish this object. The adults are, as a rule, not well educated, but most of them can read and write. The children between 8 and 10 generally attend school regularly for the whole year round. After that age they begin to be taken away for herding and similar employment during the summer from May till Martinmas, but they are not often so employed in this parish. When they are employed in that capacity it is by the smaller farmers that they are engaged; upon the larger farms grown-up lads are required to look after the cattle. From 10 to 15, I should say, that most children get between five and six months' schooling in the year. Payment of school fees is not uniformly regular, and we never press those who are in straitened circumstances. I do not think that the children are ever kept away by the inability of the parents to supply them with proper clothing. I do not think any application of the principle of the Factory Act would be advisable in this district, as it is not by agricultural employment that the children are kept away from school, and even the poorest and most ignorant among the parents are anxious to do what they can to educate their children. The young people upon growing up usually leave the parish to go into trade or obtain situations. There is great demand for labour, and farmers often complain of scarcity of hands, but no doubt the deficiency of cottages drives the young out of the parish. Women are employed as field-workers upon all the farms at certain times of the year, but seldom regularly engaged for the whole year round. It is usually the unmarried women who are so employed. The work which they do consists of thinning turnips, weeding, and securing the crops, and there is nothing in their work in any way physically injurious to them. I have not either any personal knowledge of demoralizing effect being produced by the nature of the employment. The demand for female labour has decreased very much since the introduction of reaping-machines.

6. *Mr. Rose*, occupier; farms 300 acres arable.—I employ four regular ploughmen and a grieve; they are all married men. I prefer to employ married men, as I find that they have my interest more at heart than those who are unmarried, and I have ample cottage accommodation upon my farm, in which respect I am better off than my neighbours. I pay my ploughmen upon the average 17*l.* and perquisites. I

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

V.

also employ some women for three-fourths of the year; in the summer, from Whitsuntide till the end of harvest, as many as 25, and in the winter months on an average about five. I have a considerable village about one mile off and draw all my female labour from there. I never employ any children under 13. There is no employment of children under that age upon any of the farms in my neighbourhood. With very few exceptions all the farms are well fenced, so that there is, comparatively speaking, very little demand for herds, and when young children are so employed it is always upon the small farms or crofts.

The women who do squad-work are superintended by the grieve. Their work consists principally of hoeing turnips and also securing the crop at harvest time. There are now reaping-machines in most of the farms in the neighbourhood, so that there is much less demand than there used to be for female labour. I have often known cases of bad language being used by the women who work in the squad; they are partly married and partly unmarried. My ploughmen can all read and write and are very anxious for the education of their children, although there may be occasionally exceptions to this rule. My cottages have all two rooms and no more, which is little enough. There are four bothies for single men within a radius of three miles of my farm. I think that this circumstance is caused by an insufficiency of cottage accommodation, and most farmers would prefer upon the whole to employ married men if they could. I know of no female bothies in this district. I have no complaint to make of scarcity of labour upon my own farm in consequence of its being near a large village; but upon another farm in the next parish which I have charge of, there is great difficulty in procuring hands.

I pay women 1*d.* an hour summer and winter.

DORES.

Population, 1,506.

7. *Mr. Macdonell*, occupier, parish of Dores.—I farm 225 acres, arable. The soil is light and sandy and good for root crops, but we grow very little wheat. The land in the neighbourhood is generally rented at about 24*s.* an acre.

I have in my employ as regular farm servants, three ploughmen, a grieve, one shepherd, and one cattleman. The three ploughmen and the cattleman are single men and have their meals in a bothy, sleeping in a loft above the stables. I pay them 18*l.* to 15*l.* a year, with allowance of meal and milk. I require the labour of four women for almost the whole of the year, but find it very difficult to get them. I have arranged with my grieve and shepherd to supply me each of them with the services of a young unmarried man, boarding with them and assisting them in housework. This would be something like the "bondager" system, but it is the only alternative which I have for procuring women to do the necessary fieldwork. I intend to pay the wages of these women, 8*d.* a day, to the grieve and shepherd, who will provide them with board out of it, and give them perhaps 6*l.* a year a piece in money besides. The other women I just pick up as day labourers in the neighbourhood; but there is a great scarcity of them, and I find that often I have to go as far as two miles from the farm to get them. There are no crofters, or hardly any, in the parish, and I wish there were more, in order to supply us with labour. I have two good cottages for my grieve and shepherd, and one small one besides, which I cannot get any one to occupy, labourers are so scarce. I would prefer to have more married men if I had the cottages for them; they are more satisfactory, as they can be depended upon to stop for some time in the same place, whereas the single men are always shifting. I generally engage them at the feeing market, but I do not approve of that way of hiring. In turnip and harvest time I require four or five extra women, but cannot always get them. I employ no children under 13, and I do not think that there is any employment of them on the farms in the neighbourhood, but the small tenants occasionally employ a little girl of from 10 to 14 to herd. Their land is usually not enclosed, and therefore they are obliged to have a herd.

KIRKHILL.

Population, 1,757 - Cultivation, chiefly arable.

8. *Rev. Alex. Fraser*, F. C. minister.—Many boys and girls are employed from 12 years of age in herding cattle, and after 14 in field work in the summer. A good many unmarried women are employed in field and barn work. It is their only means of livelihood. Women and the young seldom go more than half a mile to their work. The hours are the same for all, viz., 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or exposed to any physical injury in their work. It is generally those females who are too young or too old for domestic service who take to agricultural employment, as they can get no other. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children in agriculture. The mode of enforcing school attendance prescribed by the "Printworks Act" is the best, and is the one which is practised here. There are three schools in the parish, and the children take advantage of them. There are a very small number of them neither at school nor at work. There is no evening school in the parish at present.

The cottages are too few, and are some of them overcrowded, but no evil results to morality are manifest. The bothy system exists only in a few instances, from want of suitable accommodation for labourers. It tends to coarseness and immorality. There is no other system of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously on education or morals. The cottages have not gardens or allotments. There is a deficiency in cottage accommodation, and no progress is being made to supply it. Only the foreman has a cow; the farm servants are generally allowed potato ground.

9. LETTER to the Assistant Commissioners from the above.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your letter making further inquiries regarding, 1st, the employment of the children of agricultural labourers; and, 2nd, the average amount of education possessed by the adult agricultural class in this parish.

1st. As to the children. When they come to 12 or 13 years of age many of the parents think they should now be able to do a little to relieve the burthen of the family; and since crofters and small farmers need some one to herd their cow or cows from May to November, many children are employed in this way. They are fed and get some wages from their employers, and return home in winter with a little money to provide them with some articles of clothing and to pay school fees, while the parents, with whom the potatoes are scarce in summer, are relieved from feeding them at that season.

It is not so much from indifference about education as from straitened circumstances that the parents act so. Day labourers in steady employment get from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week; those who have only occasional work have less, and of course have difficulty in feeding and clothing themselves and family. Small crofters are generally little better off than labourers, their crofts being too small and the land so poor as to make a miserable return.

There is therefore a strong inducement to send out some of the stronger children in summer to be fed and get a few shillings. It is not an uncommon thing for lads and girls of 14 or 16 years of age to come home from service for a winter to go to school again. We have a female school in a poor district attended by from 70 to 90 children in winter and from 40 to 50 in summer, and not half of them pay any school fees; the parents say they cannot afford to pay. It would be thought by such a hardship to be compelled to keep their children at school till they were 13 years of age, except for the winter.

2nd. As to the adults. Those who are natives of the parish under 50 years of age can almost all read and have been taught writing and a little arithmetic;

but many from want of practice are not proficient in the latter branches. The younger portion of them are better instructed; but strangers from the remote Highlands come as farm servants and as small crofters, and they frequently cannot read or write.

With scarcely an exception parents in this parish wish to have their children educated, and send them to school at a much earlier age than formerly—now at 5 to 7 years of age, formerly at 9 to 11 years. Where two or three of a labourer's children are at school they cannot be kept all the year in such good clothing as the parents think it respectable and fitting they should appear in at school, and prefer to take them away for a time than send them in tatters. Such parents are objects of sympathy, and it would be well if some plan could be devised to enable them to keep their children longer at school.

I am, &c.

ALEX. FRASER.

10. *Rev. E. Mackenzie*, E. C.—Girls are seldom employed under 15. Farmers do not like to employ them so young, on the score of their inefficiency. There is no scarcity of hands here. When it does exist it may be ascribed to the want of cottage accommodation. The supply of female labour comes mainly from the crofters, and when there are plenty of them there is always abundance of such labour. The bothy system, which does not, however, exist here, by preventing marriage may certainly tend to keep up this scarcity. Where there are crofts there is always an abundance of job labour; but in the flat district between this and Inverness the holdings are large; and the farmers have to procure some of their labour from the crofters who live on the hills. Upon Lord Lovat's properties and other properties in this parish the crofting system is kept up so as to supply the large arable farms with labour.

The parish school here is mixed, but we have also a girls' industrial school in connexion with the parish school. The children begin to attend as young as 5, and attend regularly in the winter up till 14 or 15, and after that some will come as old as 18, especially if thrown out of work for a time, when they are almost always anxious to attend school instead of idling at home. In summer the attendance of children under 13 is tolerably regular; but crofters are more apt to keep their children at home for odd jobs, such as herding, &c. At 13 they can read, write, and do a rule-of-three sum, and all the rising generation learn to speak English. After 13, when they attend only in winter, they forget what they have learnt a little, but easily pick it up again, and some of them carry on their own education at home and qualify themselves for higher positions. The parents are all anxious that their children should be educated, and it is considered a disgrace for parents to keep their children at home and not send them to school.

The school fees are from 2*s.* to 5*s.* per quarter, according to what they learn; but if a parent cannot pay he is never forced, and if it is a case of real inability I give, as minister of the parish, a certificate of poverty, and the child is taught for nothing. Practically, however, I have rarely done so, as the schoolmaster, in the exercise of his discretion, will not press those who are really destitute. There is a Free Kirk school as well as the Established school; there is also an industrial school under the same management, so that the means of education are abundant. Some of the children may have two miles to go, but not further, and they are seldom kept away by the weather.

11. *Mr. George Cumming*, occupier.—Farms 280 acres arable. There are four ploughmen's cottages and a grieve's house on the farm. I employ seven women regularly, three of whom occupy a bothy; of the other four two are widows and two young girls.

I have also a male bothy, with only one man in it at present; but there is room for four, and I have one extra man there in harvest time. The bothy used to be full, but now most of my men are married.

I get my extra hands from Beauly feeing market, and put them up in the bothy. I have three women who occupy the bothy regularly, are engaged by the year, and get from 4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* money, 5 bolls meal, one meal a day of potatoes and a chopin of milk, and coals as much as they want.

12. *Mr. Maclean*, occupier. — Farms 250 acres arable. I employ regularly four women, who are either the wives or daughters of my married ploughmen. I have no bothy, and am well supplied with cottage accommodation, better than my neighbours.

I have about 20 cottages upon my farm, with two rooms at least in each, and in some more.

I would not let a cottage unless the tenant would engage to supply, if necessary, from his own family the labour of a woman upon the farm. I employ regularly four ploughmen, only one of whom is a married man, and two other labourers, hired also by the half year, in addition to a boy and a herd. The occupants of the other cottages on my farm do not labour upon it. Some of them are upon the poor roll. In harvest and turnip time I get my extra hands partly from the cottages and partly from a distance, some of them from Beauly feeing market.

Those whom I hire from a distance I put up in a bothy during harvest.

Wages of married ploughmen by half-year.

9*l.* money.
3 bolls meal (at 1*l.* per boll).
30*s.* worth of coals.
3 bolls potatoes.

They also get an allowance of milk.

They are also allowed to plant some potatoes besides upon part of the farm.

KILMORACK.

Population, 2,852.

13. *Mr. Peter*, factor to Lord Lovat.—About here I think that married ploughmen are paid, on the average, 7*l.* by the half-year in money, 3 bolls meal, and 1 boll potatoes. On Lord Lovat's estate they get the produce of a quarter of an acre of potatoes or thereabouts, instead of being given their potatoes by the measure. The farmer plants the crop, and if the ploughman keeps a pig or a cow, he furnishes the manure. They also get half a ton of coals, and are either allowed the keep of a cow upon the farmer's land or 1*s.* per week for milk. They have also their cottages rent free. The cottages on Lord Lovat's estate contain generally two rooms and a closet, and I should put the rent of such a cottage at 2*l.* per annum. I should estimate the whole as worth to them about 27*l.* a year.

Lord Lovat pays his foreman 11*l.* 6*s.*, and the other men on his own farm varying from 9*l.* 6*s.* to 7*l.* 1*s.* This includes milk money.

I consider that the ploughmen in this neighbourhood are sufficiently paid, and I do not think that they are ever unable to send their children to school from inability to pay the school fees or provide proper clothing for them.

They attend regularly in the winter up to 14 or 15, when they begin to get regular work. After 10 they begin to do a little herding in the summer months. There is great difficulty in getting hands for the harvest and turnip seasons, especially women. At such times the arable farmers get their extra hands chiefly from the crofters on the hill side, and also in some cases from the daughters of the ploughmen, some of whom stop at home instead of going out to service.

Lord Lovat tries to place the small crofters, whose crofts are insufficient for their maintenance independent of other labour, in the neighbourhood of the arable farms, where they can supply the farmer with the extra labour which he occasionally requires and earn enough altogether for the subsistence in comfort of themselves and their families. On the other hand, in the case of those who are more distant from the arable farms, he makes the crofts sufficiently large to afford an independent livelihood for the tenant and his family.

There are very few bothies in this neighbourhood, and the ordinary labour of the farm is chiefly supplied by the married men. On some of the larger farms young men are sometimes boarded in a lodging

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attached to the farm steading, and have their cooking done for them by a female servant in a kitchen set apart for their use. This is an improvement on the bothy system, as, instead of the men cooking for themselves, their cooking is done for them and things are kept more tidily and in order. I do not think that this system leads to any immorality with the maid servants in the farmhouses.

I am acquainted with the systems of boarding farm servants adopted in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire, and consider that they lead to great immorality, especially when taken in connexion with the deficient accommodation provided there for the married men; but here there is comparatively little immorality, as there is more accommodation for married farm servants, and when the young men are boarded in the way which I have described they are better looked after.

Women are paid from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day. A few years ago they got only 6*d.* Crofters not unfrequently rise to take larger holdings and in some cases to occupy considerable farms.

14. *Rev. Mr. Mackenzie*, Catholic priest. — The cottages in the country have seldom more than two rooms, but I do not think that any immorality results from overcrowding. The girls and lads almost invariably leave their parents' homes in summer as young as 12, and sometimes 10, to herd cows and do other odd jobs for the crofters. The girls will earn from 10*s.* to 1*l.* in six months, and the boys from 30*s.* to 2*l.* at the age of 12. Amongst women employed in squads at hoeing turnips, &c., I have often known the most obscene language to be used, and I attribute much immorality to the squad labour, which has a depraving effect upon their minds. I think that if there was more cottage accommodation on the farms, farmers might employ a more respectable class of women in the squad labour, instead of hiring all sorts of characters from town. This is a comparatively moral county nevertheless. The Catholic children attend school regularly, but some of their parents cannot afford to pay the school fees, in which case we pay for them. The fees are 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. After 10 their attendance in summer is irregular, especially in the case of the children of small crofters or day labourers. The ploughmen who are engaged by the six months can better afford to keep their children at school all the year round.

Our school is a mixed one; the schoolmaster's wife attends two or three times a week and teaches the girls needlework. A boy or girl of 12 would generally be able to read and write well, and do a rule-of-three sum in arithmetic. Those children who can afford it have to purchase their own books, the others we supply with books.

15. *Mr. John Miller*, Free Kirk schoolmaster, Beauly.—My attendance is about equal in summer and winter. I attribute this to the fact that they are chiefly the children of small crofters who can afford to keep some of their children at school all the year round. They live on the hill-side within a mile of the school. Our fees range from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a quarter for the ordinary branches of learning. They are always paid in advance. The Parochial Board pays the fees of destitute children attending my school. I do not know of any cases of children being unable to attend this school in consequence of insufficient clothing. There may be such cases, indeed I am sure there must be, but none have come actually under my knowledge. The children buy their own books. They attend regularly as old as 14, and even older. At that age they are generally beyond Standard VI. I set tasks to be got up at home in which the children are examined next day in school hours, and I also make a practice of giving them passages of verse and prose to get by heart. This school is chiefly attended by the children in Beauly andt he district close to it, who are of a superior class to those of the ordinary agricultural labourers.

16. *Mr. John McLennan*, occupier.—I farm about 400 acres, all arable land, upon the four-shift course of tillage principally. I employ women in hoeing turnips, lifting potatoes, and in harvest work, chiefly unmarried from 16 upwards, or say 17, up to as old as 50. Very few married women work in the fields. I pay them 9*d.* a day, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in harvest time. I employ no boys under 16, and have only one on my farm under 18. Children between eight and 12 are employed in potato lifting, light, easy work, which only lasts for a week in the year, but with that exception there are few if any lads employed in this county under 18. They would not be fit for the work. The children of my ploughmen attend school regularly up to 12, after which they generally go to service, or get some situation in trade. They seldom if ever stop at home after that age. We are often short of female labour here for the summer work, and sometimes get women from the west coast for the summer. There is a sufficiency of male labour, in fact, at this season of the year there is hardly enough employment for them, and they have to go to a distance for jobs.

We have no bothies here, and the single men are generally boarded in the kitchen of the farm-house. I only board one myself, a lad of 17, as all the rest of my men are married. Most of the farm servants in the district are married. I pay my ploughmen by the half year and give them in money 6*l.* to 8*l.*; in meal, $3\frac{3}{4}$ bolls at 1*l.* per boll; an allowance of milk, coals and potatoes; cottage and garden rent free. I estimate the value of the whole at from 25*l.* to 30*l.* per annum in money. My cottages are all stone, with two rooms and sometimes an attic besides. The girls are sent out to service so young that I do not think inconvenience arises from there being only two rooms. There are no turf cottages in this immediate neighbourhood, they are all of stone, and none with less than two rooms.

17. *Mr. Chisholm*, occupier. — I hold 185 acres, all arable land. I employ from 8 to 12 women at 9*d.* a day, some married, and some young girls, but none younger than 20. The work they do is all light and easy, such as hoeing and lifting potatoes, steam thrashing, &c. I have only one lad on my farm of about 19. The others are all older; two of them are married and three single. One of the single men I board in the house, and two in a bothy. I prefer the bothy to the kitchen system, as there is less trouble about it. I employ no children upon my farm.

The children of my ploughmen attend school regularly from 9 years and upwards; none of them are older than 12, but they are all still at school.

I think it an advantage to have educated men to do my farm work, and this is the general feeling of the farmers in the neighbourhood.

I have only just begun a bothy, having previously boarded my single farm servants in the kitchen, but I found that it did not answer, and occasional instances occurred of immorality with the maid-servants, which was the principal reason I had for stopping it.

We are often short of hands, especially women, but sometimes of men too, and the scarcity increases from year to year. I cannot account for it, but I should like to see more cottages in the neighbourhood of the arable farms to accommodate the job-men. The small crofters on the hills are too far off to be of any use in that respect. My cottages never contain more than one room and a closet.

The girls generally go out to service after 12 in the summer time, but often come back to see their parents in the winter.

The cottage accommodation on my farm is inadequate to supply labour to the farm, not only in harvest time, but also at other times of the year. At such times I hire men from Beauly, but if there was no town there I do not know what I should do.

Strath-conan.

18. *Mr. Harper*, occupier. — I farm 200 acres arable near Conan Bridge. I have plenty of cottages for my regular labourers, and get all the job labour which I want from the crofters.

I employ no girls under 14, with the exception of one of 12, who works at potato-planting time. I have no boys in my employ as a rule. The children of my ploughmen attend school regularly, and their parents

are anxious to send them, but find the school fees heavy. The minister sometimes pays fees out of the church collections for children, whose parents are really incompetent to pay them.

19. *Mr. Bethune*, Dreim, occupier.—I farm 950 acres, all arable, and I have also a little sheep land. I employ women, all unmarried, of whom I have 15 on my farms; their ages range from 15 to 30, and one is as old as 50; most of them are under 20. I pay them 8*d.* a day, and employ them in light work, such as hoeing turnips, lifting potatoes, and thrashing, either by steam or water. I have two female bothies, four women in one and three in the other; and the other women live with their families. My cottages are slate and stone, and contain only one room.

There is often a scarcity of hands here, especially in harvest time, but at other times of the year also there is a scarcity of female labour.

I have plenty of cottages on my farm for my ploughmen, but little accommodation for job labour. I employ no children under 12. Till that age they attend school, and the parents are always anxious to send them there, and can always afford to pay the school fees themselves. I find it an advantage to have educated men in my employ. I have no bothies for men, as my labourers are nearly all married, but I board one or two, more or less, in my kitchen. I have never tried the bothy for men, as I do not require the unmarried men regularly, and therefore it would not be worth while, but can take them into the kitchen whenever I have occasion for their services. I hire my married men by the year, and give them 12*l.* in money, seven bolls of meal, six bolls of potatoes, the keep of a pig, and an allowance of milk, and coals, 30 cwt.

I have never heard of the bondager system. The women in my bothies are all well-behaved, and I have never known any instance of immorality between the lads in the kitchen and maid-servants. Some of the girls go out to service young, and some stay at home and work on the farm, but the cottages are not overcrowded and they never take in lodgers. The young men go out to service and never stop at home. The married women will not work except in harvest time.

The unmarried men I engage by the half-year and give them from 8*l.* to 9*l.*, and find them food and lodging in the kitchen.

There are no small crofters near enough to my farm to be available for labour upon it.

20. Letter from *Mr. C. J. Smith*, Factor, Strathconan.

Sir,

In reply to yours of 13th instant,—

1. Nearly all the children kept away from the school on this estate in the quoad sacra *parish of Carnoch* (Ross-shire) *under* 13 *years of age* are employed in herding their parents' cows or otherwise watching their small unfenced patches of land or "crofts," also in gathering weeds or stones, planting, and lifting potatoes, securing peats or turf for fuel, &c., not only for their parents but also for their neighbours, say from 15th April to 15th November. Children are, moreover, frequently taken from school *at all seasons* to assist in housework or in attending to their younger brothers or sisters, for, as a rule, crofters have large families. Boys and girls from 13 to 16 years of age generally attend school during winter, but are often engaged from 26th May to 26th November by farmers as herds or assistants in the house or dairy. If in a cultivated district they are usually employed in field labour at day wages for various periods during nine months in the year. It is not unusual to see children under 13 also employed in field gangs or squads; but in a comparatively pastoral district like this and other Highland straths and glens, the parents are chiefly to blame for the irregular attendance of their children at school. Still, although parents often do keep or allow their children to stay away from school for very frivolous reasons, they could at the same time hardly work their crofts without the occasional assistance of their own or their neighbours' children. While a few of the parents here are very careless as to whether their children attend school regularly or not, the majority are now beginning to see the value and importance of education.

As far as I can judge it could not be a great hindrance to agriculture to prohibit the employment of children under 13 years, either by farmers or contractors, in field gangs or squads; but I cannot see that it would be either practicable or advisable to endeavour to prevent crofters or small farmers from availing themselves of the assistance of their children in cultivating their small patches of land, or even from allowing their children to assist their neighbours by way of return for work done, but not for wages. This is the usual way crofts are worked. When working for their parents children have not usually to turn out at 6 o'clock on cold, wet, or frosty mornings, neither are their hours of work so long or so continuous as if employed on a regular farm.

(2.) The educational acquirements of adults are in a rather backward state; few are well educated, except such as have attended school in recent years; still some of the old men can read writing and sign their names; the young men who cannot read and write are now the exceptions. With the exception of a few very old people all here understand and can speak English. There may be some 60 or 70 householders. Newspapers are read in about a fourth of the houses, and books from the local library in a third.

I may add, the population here consists of two classes, crofters or general country labourers and shepherds.

Your obedient servant,
Chas. J. Smith, Resident Factor.

Dingwall.

21. *Rev. Mr. Fraser*, Established Church minister.—At the time when crofts were absorbed in the large farms, many crofters were driven into the town here, and their descendants live here now subsisting upon job labour, and being for the most part very poor. Their children have to be educated at the expense of the Kirk Session and the Parochial Board, as the parents cannot afford to pay the fees. The Parochial Board in this parish makes an annual grant of 10*l.* for the purposes of education, and the Kirk Session, from funds at their disposal for charitable purposes, another of about 24*l.* per annum. There is now an industrial school in connexion with the parish school. It was got up by subscription last year. Before that time I found that a large number of young girls were growing up to womanhood without knowing anything about sewing, knitting, &c., and quite incompetent to keep their houses in order as wives and mothers. This is one of the smallest parishes in Scotland, and the heritors in it are very poor. The children upon the roll attend pretty regularly, and there are hardly any in the parish who do not attend some school or other, at least for some period of the year. There is no want of schools accessible to the children.

Besides the parish and the Free Kirk school there is a private adventure infant school, on a small scale. I do not think that children are ever kept away from school by agricultural employment, except at certain very limited periods of the year. I should imagine that there are 320 children attending school of some sort in Dingwall out of a gross population of 2,100. Our school fees range from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. If children cannot buy their own books the cost of doing so falls upon the Kirk Session, but almost all of them buy their books themselves. They attend school regularly as old as 12 or 13, and some are taken away under 12. The parish school had till six months ago most inadequate accommodation, and a frequent change of teachers was caused by the badness of the buildings, but we have now excellent buildings and very good teachers. The school is a mixed one. It is attended by hardly any of the children of the regular agricultural labourers, this being chiefly a burghal parish, but by many of the job-agricultural labourers' children.

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

22. *Mr. Hosack*, occupier, and factor to D. Davidson, Esq., of Tulloch.—"Married ploughman's wages and allowances in the year as under.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Money from -	11	0	0 to	14	0	0
Oat-meal, 7 bolls -			-	7	0	0
Potatoes, 2 tons -			-	4	10	0
Coals, 2 tons -			-	2	0	0
Milk - -			-	3	0	0
Keep of a pig -			-	2	10	0
Free cottage and garden			-	3	10	0
About 800 yards of harvest potato ground - -			-	2	10	0
Total -				£36 or £39		

When ill the employer generally pays the doctor's bill, and the employer is obliged to keep any ploughman in bad health for six weeks, giving him all that time his full wages.

The children are sent to school when able to learn, say at 7 years of age, and kept there until they are about 10, when they are employed for half-time, in summer, picking weeds, or other light work about the farms. They afterwards go to school in the winter months, until about 13 or 14 years of age, when they go into farm work or house service. Their education costs from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* each per quarter of a year. Their wages are about 1*d.* per hour of work.

FODDERTY.

Population, 2,247.

23. *Rev. J. Menzies*, Established Church minister.—There are two Free Church schools in this parish, besides the parish school. I should think the parish was about 12 miles long by three broad. There is one small district where the school accommodation is not within reach of the young children. There used at one time to be a school there and about 50 children attended it. The people there are small crofters and very poor, and were quite unable to provide good enough clothing to send their children to school in. They were not asked for any fees, and the schoolmaster's salary was provided by the Royal Bounty Committee. Some of the children of this district come now to the parish school, which is a considerable distance for them to go, but some (very few I should think) must be wholly uneducated.

Throughout the rest of this parish the children attend regularly in the winter up to 13 or 14, and begin to come about 6 or 7. At 13 they can read and write well and do a rule-of-three sum.

There are a few cottages with only one room still, but they are disappearing rapidly, and great improvements have been made in the cottage accommodation during the last 10 years. The majority have not more than two rooms, but I do not think that any immorality results from this. We have squad-labour here, but the women all come from the small crofts in the neighbourhood, and I am not aware that the practice leads to any immorality or coarseness of language. The rate of illegitimacy here is comparatively low.

Farm servants in the neighbourhood always attend the feeing market at Beauly and Inverness whenever they are disengaged. I consider the feeing markets to be most demoralizing institutions.

The children in this school do not all purchase their own books—there is no general rule about it. Those who cannot afford to buy apply to some charitable person to assist them.

When I see a child who does not come to school, and the parents tell me that they cannot afford to pay the fees, I generally undertake to pay them myself. A great number of this class used to be sent to school at the expense of the late Mrs. Hay-Mackenzie of Cromarty. Our fees run from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* the quarter.

Most of the children above 9 and 10 years are taken from school in April and May and do not return again till the end of November. Some of them are employed by farmers at herding, and the rest assist their parents in working on their crofts and keeping their cows, &c.

There are a good many old people in the parish who can neither read nor write, nor speak English, but the most of those who are under 30 years of age can read, and write, and cipher, and understand and speak English. A good many of them have been taught English grammar and geography, &c. It is astonishing how well educated they are considering the short time they are at school. They must forget in the summer months a great deal of what they learn during the winter, and if it were possible to keep them closer at school, they would no doubt be far better educated than they are. But the parents of a great number of them are poor, and the most of them are very anxious to do justice to their children, yet they cannot easily dispense with their services in the summer months, and I cannot see how they could be compelled to pay for them at school, and to keep them regularly at it, unless they were assisted either by government or the heritors.

24. *Mr. Gunn.*—I am factor to the Duchess of Sutherland's estate in this district, which is partly arable, and partly hill pasture. There is sufficient cottage accommodation on the estate for the work of the arable farms at ordinary times of the year. The job labour for the harvest and turnip season is provided from the small crofters of whom there are a great many, and as a rule they are well to do. Those with crofts under 12 acres cannot support a family without doing other work as well. I should consider 15 acres, if good land and well managed, to be a large enough croft to support a medium sized family independently of any extra work. We have no bothies, and all our cottages, or nearly all, contain two rooms and a closet. The new ones have a kitchen, bedroom, and closet on the ground floor, and two good attics. They use the attics in summer, but prefer the kitchen in winter; there are fire-places in the attics. These cottages have been up since 1865, and they use the attics more now than when they were first put up. The boys and girls do not generally leave their homes for service until 17. The greater proportion of our cottages are old ones; we have not many of the new ones as yet, but the number is yearly increasing. The old ones have generally a kitchen, bedroom, and closet, all on the ground floor.

I am also factor for the Duchess's estates on the west coast in Cromarty. There are many crofters there on the coast occupying crofts from 3 to 12 acres in size, and possessing in addition a right of pasture for their cattle and sheep on the hill. From these, in addition to what they get fishing, they obtain a very fair subsistence. I have known some instances, but not in my experience, on the Duchess's estate of crofters occupying from 15 to 30 acres rising to occupy farms of 100 acres.

25. *Mr. Arras*, occupier.—I have no bothy, and I get my job labour from the small crofters, but I have nearly enough cottage accommodation for them. I have lately engaged a man as job man, giving him a cottage rent free upon condition that he shall supply me with two women as field workers, and engage himself to work for me whenever I require his service. The two women are his daughters. This is in one of the new cottages. I have great difficulty in getting "double men," *i.e.* a father and son working together, as the lads always leave their homes young. The Duchess has a number of spare cottages upon her estate, where the old labourers are taken in rent free after they are past work, and support themselves by job work.

26. *Mr. Middleton*, occupier.—I had a bothy once, but gave it up, because I found that I could not keep the men. I have now sufficient accommodation for my married men, but none for job labourers, whom I get from the neighbouring crofts and from the village. I sometimes arrange with my ploughmen to keep one of his family (a *girl* generally) at home to do work for me. I do not think that it is the state of the cottages which drive girls out to service. My cottages contain only two rooms as a rule.

ARDILLY.

27. *Mr. Sim*, occupier. — I farm 350 acres, all arable. I have plenty of cottage accommodation for the cultivation of my farm. Besides my ploughmen, whom I hire by the year, I have three men (two of them married, with families, and the third a single man living with his sister,) whom I pay by the week, and employ regularly on my farm. I have no regular bothy, but a temporary bothy for the women from the west coast in the summer months, of whom I usually have from 9 to 10. I have two bothies for their accommodation consisting of two rooms each, a sleeping-room and a kitchen which are not occupied at all during the winter. The cottage accommodation upon my farm is unusually large for this district.

KILTEARN.

Population, 1,634. - Cultivation, mixed.

28. *Rev. Alex. Maclean, D.D., E.C.* — Boys and girls are employed in agriculture from 10 to 12 years of age in summer and autumn. They have short distances to go to their work. Neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or exposed to any physical injury arising from the nature of their work. The cottages are sufficient, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded. Most of them have gardens or allotments, and progress is being made towards increasing the cottage accommodation. Farm servants do not many of them keep cows, but almost all can get milk and potato ground. The bothy system exists very slightly, and there is not, that I am aware of, any other mode of lodging farm-servants injurious to education or morals.

The means of education in the parish are adequate, and the young of both sexes generally take advantage of them in the winter and spring. There is no evening school in the parish."

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from the above.

29. " Many children are kept away from school by herding from the 1st of April until the end of November. The larger farmers get their supply of labour from the villagers and crofters, and the crofters employ their own children upon the crofts. An annual examination of schools takes place in spring, and I have noticed that when such examinations are appointed later than March, the teachers complain that the examiners will find the attendance much thinner than had it been sooner held.

" Of the older adults the educational acquirements are very defective. But material improvement has been in progress during the last 20 years, insomuch that the young of both sexes are (of course with exceptions) able to read and write. My parish is so situated that few scholars live much further from some school than two miles, the bulk nearer. And I think that if children under 13 years of age were prohibited from agricultural employment (except for a very limited annual period), unless they could read the New Testament and sign their name, it would be a good step in advance of the present system."

30. *Mr. Mitchell*, occupier. — " Boys are never employed under 13, except for herding, and even for that very rarely. I do not consider that it would be practicable or advisable to apply the provisions of the Factory Act to this part of Scotland. Married ploughmen often cannot afford to send their children to school, and even when the school is free, or the farmer pays the fees, they are often not able to supply their children with good enough clothes to go to school in. I give my ploughmen from 10*l.* to 12*l.* in money, 9 to 12 bolls of meal, an allowance of coals and milk, and the produce of a quarter of an acre of potatoes, which they plant themselves, but do not otherwise cultivate, except as my servants. If the crop fails they would of course suffer with the farmer. The custom is, I believe, general in my parish, and extends, I think, over the greater part of Wester Ross on the arable farms. I hire all my regular ploughmen by the year. The unmarried ones I give from 14*l.* to 16*l.* in money and six bolls of meal. I have no bothy, as my men are all cottars, the single ones either living with a sister or mother, or boarding with the married ploughmen, but the latter rarely. I have one or two job labourers in my employ throughout the year, and three or four extra ones in time of harvest and of turnip sowing and lifting, and get them from a large village close to me. My cottages have most of them two rooms, and some more. I never suffer from scarcity of hands, in consequence of being near a large village. I employ four or five women regularly, two of whom live together by themselves in a cottage, and the others are the wives and daughters of my ploughmen. The married women will seldom work, excepting those who are childless. In harvest time I employ five or six extra women, whom I get from the village. Formerly I had sometimes as many as 40 in my employ at that time, all from the village, but now I use reaping machines and do not require so many. I pay them 8*d.* a day excepting in harvest time, when they get 1*s.* 6*d.* or 1*s.* 8*d.* They work from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and are always engaged in light work. They have never more than a mile and a half to go to their work. Boys and girls in this country always leave their homes as soon as they are competent to do any work, for their parents cannot afford to keep them at home. I do not think that any immorality results from the cottages only having two rooms. The ratio of illegitimate births is lower in this county than in any other in Scotland. The holdings in my district are generally over 100 acres, and there are not many crofters. The crofts are generally under 12 acres in size, and the tenants upon them have to live from hand to mouth, and are not well off. I know no case of a crofter rising to a larger tenure. There is a great deal of emigration from this district."

ROSSKEEN.

Population, 3,766. - Acreage, 36,900.
Cultivation, mixed, chiefly moor pasture.

30*a*. *Mr. William MacKenzie*, factor to A. Matheson, Esq., M.P., of Ardross. Has the management of 1,300 acres arable, partly as occupier and partly as agent for the proprietor.

Nature of soil, medium light; course of husbandry, mostly five course.

Boys of 14 years old are employed in summer and harvest time, and girls of 15 in light field labour. Women are employed to a limited extent; they generally reside on the farms. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for all alike, and neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment in their work. In this parish females are under the care of their parents or guardians and their morals and domestic training strictly attended to. Agricultural employment has no bad effect upon their proper training for domestic duties. I should not recommend any restriction upon the employment of females, and children under 12 are not employed. The cottages are good and sufficient, conveniently situated and not overcrowded; they all have gardens, and in villages allotments follow the houses. Farm servants also get potato ground. Cottage accommodation is good, and improvement is annually made to meet the demand. The preliminary expenses of borrowing money under the Act 27 and 28 Vict. c. 114. tend to render the benefit of the Act not being taken advantage of. There are very few, if any, children of the agricultural labouring class who are neither at school nor at work. The parents send their children at the age of six and keep them till they are 13, though in many instances they find it difficult to pay school fees. An evening school is not necessary here. If compulsion were necessary, the mode prescribed by the "Printworks Act" would be the best.

This parish is about 15 miles long by 4½ in breadth, and contains eight schools. There is one shepherd's cottage in which the children have 4½ miles to go to school, but that is the longest distance which any children in the parish have to go. The parents are very anxious to send their children to school, and the only obstacle to education is the inefficiency of the teachers in two of the schools. In the other six the attendance is more than the accommodation. I con-

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

sider generally that in this county the school accommodation is inadequate to the wants of the population. There is always great anxiety on the part of the parents to procure education for their children.

Ploughmen's wages :—

£			
16	-	-	money.
7	-	-	7 bolls meal.
4	-	-	6 bolls potatoes.
2	-	-	allowance for milk.
1	-	-	harvest potatoes.
1	-	-	garden, $\frac{1}{8}$ acre.
4	-	-	fuel { 2 tons coal, 14 cubic yards of peat, firewood in plenty.
4	-	-	cottage, rent free.
2	-	-	keep of pig and hens.
Total 41			

These are the wages which I give to my own farm servants (as well as Mr. Matheson's), and I could not think of giving them less. It is with great economy that they can pay school fees and provide clothing for their children upon these wages.

In 1847 the population of Ardross altogether was only 118, and now it is upwards of 600, and the attendance in school of children belonging to the same districts 143.

[Witness attributed this rise in the population entirely to the extensive reclamation of moor land which has been going on for the last 20 years. C. W. C.]

31. *R. B. Macleod*, Esq., of Cadboll, owner.

Farms { 240 acres arable. 51 acres pasture.

Boys and girls are employed in agriculture from 12 years old and upwards in spring and autumn. Women are employed at the same times. They seldom go more than half a mile to their work. The hours of work are usually from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. for all alike. I never heard of either the young or females being liable to any ill-treatment or physical injury in respect of their work. The employment of females in agriculture is decreasing yearly, as they find domestic service in the south preferable. No restriction is required. There are sufficient cottages, convenient to the farms, and no evil results from overcrowding are known to me. Very many of them have gardens, and the villagers have allotments. The cottages are not altogether what are to be desired, but extensive improvement in this direction is being annually made. If the Act of 27 and 28 Vict. c. 114. is to be rendered useful, and generally taken advantage of for the erection of labourers' cottages, the preliminary and office charges must be reduced, and they might easily be done so with perfect safety to the government. The bothy system is unknown in this parish, except where extensive improvements are going on, when it is temporally used. There are abundance of schools in this parish, and with few exceptions all the children attend, except in spring and autumn. Average value of labourer's earnings in a year 30*l.*, besides house, potato ground, and garden.

Black Isle.

Cromarty.

Population, 2,300. - Cultivation, arable.

32. *Colonel Ross*, of Cromarty, owner.—Boys are not employed in agriculture under 13, except for herding rooks. Girls are seldom employed under 14. Women are never employed, except in light farm work; those employed generally live on the farm. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for both men and women. Neither the young nor females are exposed to any ill-treatment or physical injury in respect of their work. The females employed in agriculture are all very moral, and are generally trained to a certain extent to domestic duties. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children in agriculture.

The cottage accommodation is sufficient, and all the cottages have gardens or allotments. Farm servants are not allowed the keep of a cow, but milk is given instead, and ground is allowed them for harvest potatoes. The bothy system does not exist, nor is there any other mode of lodging farm servants, which acts injuriously on education or morals. There are two schools in the parish, the Established and Free Kirk schools, which are well attended.

33. *Rev. Mr. Russell*, Established Church minister.—Out of a population of 2,300 not more than 400 belong to the agricultural district. There is only one school in the county district, viz., the one at Navity, and four in the town, two of which are for girls only. From Cromarty town the parish extends west six miles; towards the south it stretches eight miles. No children have to go more than four miles to school. This would be too far for young children to go, but it has only been the case for the last 15 months. Before that time there was a school of the Christian Knowledge Society in the district in question, which has now been given up, and the salary withdrawn in consequence of the state of the buildings.

There is some difficulty in getting fees from the parents of children from the agricultural districts. I do not think that they are badly off, and they can afford to pay the fees if they manage well. Some of the parents are careless about sending their children to school. The cottages are some of them not very good, but there has been a good deal of improvement lately. Some have only one room, but I know of no instance of a young family living where there is only one room. The majority have only two rooms, as far as I have observed. I am not aware of any instance of immorality caused by crowding, but I am afraid that it is very conducive to lead to that kind of thing. Cases of actual immorality do not come before me so often as they used to, but I strongly suspect that there are many cases which do not come under my knowledge.

34. *Mr. Middleton*, occupier; farms 500 acres, arable.—I have about 20 cottages, which supply me with plenty of labour for all the year round, except harvest-time, when I get female labour from the small crofters in the next parish. I have some day labourers whom I pay 2*s.* a day; the old ones only get 1*s.* I give my ploughmen,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
10*l.* money - - -	10	0	0
6 bolls potatoes - -	4	16	0
1,600 yards harvest ditto -	2	8	0
7 bolls meal - - -	7	0	0
2 tons coal - - -	2	0	0
Keep of pig and hens - -	2	10	0
Milk, 1 pint a day in summer, and half-pint winter - -	2	0	0
Cottage, free - - -	2	0	0
Total -	32	14	0

My cottages have some of them two rooms and a closet, and some two rooms only. Eight new ones have two rooms and a closet; only one has one room only, and that is inhabited by an old man who is a pauper.

35. *David Mackay*, Navity.—Keeps a small school on his own account to instruct young children in. Has an average attendance of from 12 to 14. Two of the children are 12 and 11 years old respectively, the others younger, varying from 6 to 9. Mr. Murray, the tenant upon whose farm the school is situated, gives 4*l.* a year and he gets about 1*l.* more in fees from the children, but half of them at least pay nothing. They buy their own books.

36. *Alexander Mustard*.—Farms 80 acres arable. "I employ two men and a herd boy, who all live in the house with me. I give them 7*l.* and 6*l.* a year, and keep them. They are both unmarried. There are two girls in the house who occasionally work on the farm. They are engaged both for house and field work."

37. Evidence of a ploughman. Has five children the eldest being 8. Two of them are at school. Is

aid 10*l.* a year by his master, and makes 2*l.* more by his pig, "if she is a good one."

Yearly expenses.

	£	s.	d.	
Sunday suit for man, one every three years at 3*l.*	1	0	0	per ann.
Working suit	1	10	0	„
Shoes	1	11	0	„
Wife's clothes	1	0	0	„
„ shoes		(?)		
Clothes for two children at school	1	10	0	„
Shoes for children not at school	0	12	0	„
Grocery	4	10	0	„
Meal (in addition to his allowance)	1	0	0	„
School fees	0	8	0	„
„ books	0	0	6	„
Total	12	11	6	„

Last year, a bad one, he sold one boll of potatoes.

[These people, I am told, are never in debt. W. C.]

38. A cattleman in the employment of a large farmer in the Black Isle.—"I get 11*l.* in the year money. It's right enough upon us, but we must just do the best with it."

I spend on clothing:—	£	s.	d.
For myself	1	16	0
My wife	1	0	0
Shoes for self	1	8	0
„ wife	1	0	0
	5	4	0
Grocery	4	0	0
Total	9	4	0

Makes 1*l.* 10*s.* by his pig.

"When my two children went to school I paid *l.* 4*s.* in the year for fees."

Books would cost about 2*s.* 6*d.* a year for each child.

39. Foreman to a large farmer in the Black Isle.—"I get more here than I have done in other places, but it is pretty tight."

I have five children living.

Clothing for myself and family cost as follows by the year:—

For myself,—	£	s.	d.
Three suits in two years at 1*l.* 10*s.* a suit	2	10	0
Shoes	1	8	0
For my wife,			
Dress, &c.	1	10	0
Shoes	1	0	0
For two of the children, the other three being at work, clothing, &c.	1	10	0
Total	7	18	0

FEARN.

Population, 2,083. - Cultivation, chiefly arable.

40. *Rev. J. Macdonald,* Free Church minister.—There are three Free Church schools in this parish besides the parish school, and a fifth of the Christian Knowledge Society. Children generally attend regularly all the year round under the age of 13. I know of no cases of parents being disinclined to send their children to school if they can afford it. I do not think that the agricultural labourers in this district are sufficiently well paid, and I think that they are generally exceedingly poor. The cottages have been greatly improved during the last 20 years, but there is still much room for improvement. The great bulk of the agricultural adults in the parish can read and write a little. I think that the insufficient accommodation in the cottages and the crowding together of large families in two small rooms must have an injurious effect upon the morals of the people, but at the same time I know of no instance of actual immorality, for generally our people are exceedingly moral.

I have been minister here about 25 years.

41. LETTER from the above.

DEAR SIR,

IN terms of your note I now proceed to reply to the two queries which you were pleased to send me,—

(1.) If children are kept away from school (in your parish) during the summer months by "herding" what is the exact period during which their employment in that work lasts, and is it by farmers or by their own parents upon the crofts that they are usually so employed?

Ans.—As this parish is in a very great measure divided into large farms, all well enclosed, very few children under the age of 13 are employed in "herding" (perhaps, not half a dozen) and these partly by small farmers and partly by parents on their crofts. In so far as I can learn there are also exceedingly few, if any, who are employed, in any way, at that tender age, on the large farms.

It is clear, however, that there is a falling off in the attendance at our schools during the summer months of some children at the above age; most of these I apprehend are kept at home to take charge of the younger children of the family, and thus to enable their parents and the *older* children to be employed in field or other work.

In addition to the ordinary allowance of potatoes made by farmers to their servants a great many families of the agricultural and other working classes plant potatoes (more or less) on land got from the farmers at a certain price. Their livelihood in some measure depends on this, especially that of the fisher population, who having more spare time than the others, plant potatoes largely.

This keeps them actively employed in the fields in planting, cleaning, and digging up the potatoes, and in harvest, and consequently as I have already stated, the children referred to are useful at home, or in some cases help their parents in the fields.

The time during which they are absent from school is generally from the middle of April till November; from this period, however, the harvest vacation of five or six weeks should be deducted.

The parents generally speaking are exceedingly moral, well behaved, and very anxious to have their children educated.

Anything like a compulsory enactment for school attendance in whole or in part appears to me to be unnecessary here; such would entail great hardship on many of the parents, as it would compel them to make "bricks without straw," they being unable from poverty to clothe, feed, and keep their children at school all the year round.

(2.) What is the general state of educational acquirement possessed by the adults of the agricultural class in your parish?

Ans.—In so far as I can learn, the adults of the agricultural class generally can read and write; very many of them must have learned some arithmetic at school, but from want of use they may be sufficiently rusty in this branch.

I cannot, however, say as much of the fisher population in connexion with our church in this parish; they have laboured under the disadvantage of speaking the Gaelic language almost exclusively, and have English very imperfectly. Many of them cannot write, but most of them can read in Gaelic, and a few in English. The children, however, are now taught to read in the Gaelic and English languages; they are also taught to write and cipher, and are making good progress.

On the other hand I have to state that many excellent scholars have been trained at our schools; some of these have taken to the learned professions, some are engaged in the mercantile line, some are employed as railway clerks, and many have emigrated to distant lands and are doing remarkably well.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MCDONALD.

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

42. *Mr. Young*, factor to Mr. Macleod, of Cadboll; farms upwards of 700 acres arable, and also has 100 acres of natural grass land.—I have 22 regular ploughmen in my employ; the unmarried men board either with their parents or sisters. I have also about six other labourers engaged by the year, whom I pay from 9*s.* to 10*s.* a week, giving them also their cottages rent free, some harvest potato ground equivalent to three or four bolls of potatoes, and liberty to keep a pig and six hens. When it is possible some of the ploughmen as well as labourers have gardens. Two rooms and a closet is the general accommodation provided in my cottages; those with only two rooms are the exception. I have about 20 women regularly in my employ, most of them are the daughters or sisters of labourers and ploughmen. It is always the rule that every child attends school from 6 to 13 years of age, and there are very few exceptions to it. I have had occasion to keep a temporary bothy during the harvest time for women from the west coast, but I have no occasion for it now, and the few extra women whom I require I procure from the neighbouring fishing village. I have plenty of cottage accommodation on my farm, and at the present minute I have four cottages empty.

Logie Easter.

Population, 932. - Acreage, 2,710.
Cultivation, chiefly arable.

43. *Rev. A. Mackenzie*, E.C.—The cultivation is of the best description, for the farms are very large; the parish consists of eight large farms, besides a few crofters. Boys are employed in agriculture in the parish generally from 14 to 18 years old, chiefly in summer, spring, and harvest time. Girls about 14 are also employed in gathering quickens, hoeing turnips, and at all field work when strong enough for it. Women are also so employed, in the proportion of three or four to one of boys. The above go from half a mile to a mile to their work. The hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., for about eight months in the year, both for young and old, men and women. Neither the young nor women are exposed to any ill-treatment or physical injury in respect of their work. The employment of females in agriculture is generally considered not favourable to their proper training for domestic duties, yet from among such ploughmen choose their wives, who seem to be on a par with their husbands in morality and economy. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children, they are not overworked and are well paid, and as far as this parish is concerned, restriction would lead to their discomfort by diminishing their income.

The cottages are good, conveniently situated, and not overcrowded, neither have any evil results to morality come to my notice in consequence of their deficiencies.

They generally have gardens, but no allotments. Farm servants are not allowed a cow, but they have potato ground to the extent of 1,000 yards in drills, producing from three to five bolls, or from one ton to one and a half tons.

The mode of enforcing school attendance prescribed by the "Printworks Act" is the most suitable of the three modes proposed by the Commissioners, as the children can attend school in winter and part of spring when there is not much to do in the fields. There is a parochial school and a general assembly one, within a convenient distance of all the children, and they are taken advantage of greatly. The exceptions arise from the carelessness of parents. I do not know of any children in the parish belonging to the agricultural labouring classes who are neither at school nor at work. There is no evening school in the parish.

The bothy system does not exist here.

44. *Mr. John Douglas*, Logie, occupier.—Farms 350 acres arable, and 50 acres natural pasture.

I have 14 cottages upon my farm, and these supply me with labour for the whole year round, with the exception of a few extra men in harvest time. Women's labour I have plenty of. I employ five women, all unmarried, as regular field workers, and give them 1*d.* per hour. In winter they do rather less than in summer, but are seldom paid less than 9*d.* per day. I hire all my men by the year. The labourers I undertake to give a free house and some potato ground, cart their fuel for them, and pay them in money according to the current rate of wages. They are now getting from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per day. They are bound to attend to my work when I require them, and when I do not want them they may take work wherever they can get it. I consider the labourers in this district pretty well off altogether. Their diet consists of oatmeal, milk, potatoes, and fish. They seldom get any bacon, as they usually sell their own pig. My cottages have only two rooms, and I think that they ought to have a closet too. There are a good many bad cottages in this district, but they are improving rapidly, and a good deal has been done in that way lately.

I have known a good many cases of children not being sent to school—the parents often have an aversion for it—they think that they have gone through the world without an education themselves and their children should just do the same. It is not because they cannot afford to clothe the children, for they run about at home quite decently clad, but a very frequent excuse is that they want them to assist at home.

I should like to see compulsory education. They never do any field work until they are 13 years old at least. I had a bothy once in this district upon another farm but I did not like it all. The men were discontented, and often changed. They had no inducement to keep them home at nights, and were always wandering about, and sometimes got tipsy and were unfit for work the next day. I have now two unmarried men in my employ, but each has a home. One lives with two aunts, the other is to be married shortly. [This witness also stated that no farmer in the county would have a bothy unless the proprietor refused to give him sufficient cottage accommodation.]

Tarbat.

Population, 2,269.

45. *Rev. Mr. Campbell*, Established Church minister.—I have been minister in this parish for 25 years, I have also lived in Fife for 10 or 12 years. From my experience of both districts I should say that the Scotch agricultural classes are very proud in the matter of education, and make a point of sending their children to school before sending them out into the world for any employment, and if instances occur of the children being kept at home, it is attributable to the inability of the parents to provide their children with clothing and shoes, and occasionally to the severity of the winter in the Highlands. These instances are, however, rare, and as a class I consider the labourers to be well enough off. The schools are accessible, except in some districts, and the instruction is in every case suitable. There is one spot in my parish which is 3½ miles from any school, and I consider that too far for children to go in the winter. A large proportion of the cottages are very bad, and when I contrast them with those which I have seen in East Lothian, they are comparatively very uncomfortable, not being well floored, and in most cases not floored at all, and generally comfortless. It has been suggested to me that the education in the parish school is too advanced, and that if it continues there will be a difficulty of getting hands to do the squad work. The girls in this district always make a point of going to the south for service as soon as they are old enough to do so, and are sufficiently well educated to obtain good situations there. The morality of the district is unexceptionable, and I am not aware of more than one case of illegitimacy having occurred for the last few years out of a population of 2,500. A great proportion of the adults among the Gaelic population are unable to read or write, which shows that 50 or 60 years ago education was not accessible, inferior, or unappreciated. The boys leave their homes to go to sea, emigrate, and for other lines of life, in the same way as the girls, and do not generally take to agricultural labour. I

have no doubt that if the cottages were better, a great many of them would stay at home to labour on the farms. I think that a compulsory system of education would be very advisable. It would be required in my parish for the fishing villages more than for the agricultural district. There is never any difficulty about the children of Free Church parents attending the parish school and vice versâ. The question of which church they belong to is never brought before them in any shape by the teachers, and the bulk of them go to whichever school provides the best teaching.

46. *Mr. Forbes Sutherland*, farms 240 acres arable.—"I have three ploughmen's cottages, and one shepherd's, upon my farm. I cultivate the land upon the 5-course tillage system, viz., turnips, barley or wheat, grass, grass, oats or wheat. I employ from four to six women regularly as squad-workers. They are all unmarried, and are the daughters of small crofters living in the neighbourhood. I pay them at the end of every month at the rate of 10*d.* a day. I always employ the same women, and when they are not working for me they are employed upon their parents' crofts. I find that whenever there is a particular pressure of work, it is difficult to get enough extra hands. I sometimes get them from the fishing village near, and sometimes employ women from the west coast whom I board in a spare room in one of my cottages, giving them furniture, blankets, meal, milk, coal, and everything which they require. The ploughmen seldom change ; I have only changed one in the last 5 years."

Wages given by this witness to his ploughman, and the estimate of their money value.

	£	s.	d.	
Money	10	0	0	(average)
Bolls of meal 11	11	0	0	
1,200 yards of potato ground	6	0	0	
3 pints (English) milk per day	2	10	0	
$2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal (or an equivalent in brushwood for the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton)	2	10	0	
Keep of pig and a few hens	4	0	0	
Rent of cottage	2	0	0	
Total	£36	0	0	

GOLSPIE.

Population, 1,615.

47. *Rev. Mr. Mackenzie*, F. C. minister.—"I have very little to complain of the bothy system as it prevails here. It is upon the whole very well managed, and I do not know that it has a bad effect upon morals. I am only speaking of the phase of the system here ; generally I should condemn it strongly. It is an iniquitous system. The farm servants' cottages in this parish are pretty good, but some of the crofters' are not so good. They contain generally two rooms and a closet, and sometimes more. I should certainly say that the limited accommodation must sometimes have a bad effect upon their morals, but we do not have many cases of illegitimacy in the parish, indeed very few. The village is crowded to excess, and there are many day labourers in it who have miserable accommodation ; perhaps a large family with only one room. Boys may occasionally be kept from school by agricultural employment, but it is hardly to an appreciable extent. It would be most likely to happen in the case of the small lotters' children. I am inclined towards a compulsory system of education, especially as applied to the fishing population in this place."

48. *Mr. Fraser*, parish schoolmaster.—"Very few of the children attending this school are agricultural, not more than a tenth ; but I was schoolmaster for six years at Rogart, where they were all agricultural, chiefly lotters. That was from '38 to '44. There was great anxiety among the parents to get education for their children. The effect of education there was that I should think two or three out of every family left to push their own way in the world, and afterwards when they got on they would send money home for their parents, and perhaps get brothers at home to come and join them.

An average agricultural boy entering this school at 6 and going away at 12 can read and write well and do the simple rules of arithmetic, but not more. This class of boy will generally become a farm labourer ; the more promising ones we push on, and they become shop lads or clerks, or something of that kind."

49. *Alexander Cumming*, grieve to Mr. Sellar, near Golspie.—The farm consists of 478 acres arable. There are seven cottages upon it occupied, and one spare one. The cottages are all occupied by married labourers, who are hired by the year and get—

12*l.* to 14*l.* money.
6 bolls meal.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ bolls potatoes.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ tons coals.
Pint of milk a day.
House and garden.

There is a bothy on the farm, with five men in it, the ploughmen, who are paid 20*l.* apiece and boarded free.

Mr. Sellar gets extra labour for harvest time, chiefly from the lotters at Rogart.

DORNOCH.

Population, 2,885.

50. *Rev. Mr. Kennedy*, F. C.—"There are nine schools in this parish, two of them for girls only, which is sufficient to bring education within the reach of all the children, with the exception, perhaps, of one locality containing seven families, which is a little shut out ; they are $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the nearest school. In the winter they used to employ a boy teacher for the younger children and pay him themselves ; he was in connexion with the Free Church. Now that there are no children quite young, they have no longer any occasion for him. There is also another place where they used to employ a boy teacher, but I do not think that there was any occasion for it. The children begin to herd at about 10 years of age. This lasts mostly during the summer months. Sometimes they have charge of cattle during the winter, but they are generally taught to read, write, and count before they are sent out at all. After they are sent out to herd they usually attend school in winter and continue to do so up to 14. They are very remiss in paying the fees, but the attendance is very fair, and I should think that children are rarely kept at home by the inability of their parents to supply them with proper clothing. The parents often cannot afford to buy the school books, and the want of the proper books throws a great deal of additional trouble upon the teachers. 2*s.* a day are the average wages of an able-bodied labourer, out of which he has to pay everything, including the rent of his cottage. The regular farm servants are better paid, and are not at all an ill-off class. Most of the large arable farms have a bothy. I consider that the system works badly in a moral point of view. The mixed labour of men and women in the fields also conduces to immorality. The women acquire coarse habits and lose their modesty by being constantly with the men at their work. The bothy system is bad because the men get into drinking habits, and sometimes women employed in squad work will get into the bothy at night. I do not think the bothy system is a necessity here. It results from a want of cottage accommodation, but the duke is liberal in that respect, and if the farmers chose they might put an end to it. Most of the cottages have two rooms and very generally a closet ; there are some with only one room occupied by a family. It is quite a common thing for the tenant of a cottage to sublet a room, and the consequence of course is that he has to crowd his own family into a very small space. I am not aware of any immorality being caused by this. I have not seen crowding to such an extent here as to cause immorality, so far as I am aware. A vast deal has been done lately in the way of improving the cottages.

The great want in this county is the holdings not being sufficiently large to enable the people to live,

District between Fort George and Helmsdale.

Mr. Campion.

v.

and their having no leases. The lotters are not badly off in this parish; they are always willing to take work if they can get it, but the great want is there being no work for them.

The rising generation among them usually leave their homes and go south to look for better employment.

This is a result of the education which they all receive.

There is great competition for the lots whenever one falls vacant; the people like the independence of it."

51. *Cottar* on Mr. Barclay's farm, Skelbo.—Holds direct from the proprietor and pays 3*l.* rent. Gets 1*s.* 6*d.* a day wages, not regularly, but only whenever Mr. Barclay wants him. Has one boy at school, for whom he pays 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter fees. Two girls at home, one 12 years old, the other older. Has also a boy of 15 working on the railway, who comes home on Saturdays and sleeps in the same room with his sister; in fact, all the children sleep in the same room, the parents occupying a very small closet downstairs. The other room, the kitchen, with no bed in it, but hardly large enough to hold one. A good-sized garden attached to the cottage.

52. *John McKay.*—Farms 33 acres, arable, under a lease for 19 years, for which he pays a rent of 20*l.* a year. Cultivates his land upon the five-course shift, Has a lad of 16 or 17 years old who boards in the house, and is paid 10*l.* a year. The servant girl in the house also works occasionally upon the farm.

53. *Donald Sutherland*, lotter, Embo. — Holds eight acres as yearly tenant, and has also a right of pasture over some moor land. His nephew lives with him and helps him. Cultivates his land upon the five-course shift. Generally sells some potatoes, but only made 8*s.* by them last year; has made 13*l.* this year. Sometimes sells a few bolls of barley-meal, but often none. On a good year sells a little hay. Will also make a little money in the course of the year by his cattle.

Clyne.

Population, 1,886.

54. *Mr. Lawson*, occupier; farms about 250 acres arable, and has also about 60 acres wood pasture.—"My farm is rated at about 25*s.* per acre for the arable land, and about 5*s.* an acre for the wood pasture. I have a bothy for five men, and have found it work very well altogether. The woman who works for the men has a room in the bothy, but I have never had any case of immorality in consequence.

Some of the men wander at night. We have a rule that they should all be in by 10 o'clock, and the foreman (one of the bothy men) is responsible for the observance of the rule. I pay them 24*l.*, 22*l.*, and 20*l.* a year; they are all engaged by the half-year, and generally stop with me about three or four years. I have no married men on the farm excepting my grieve. I used to have two, but have less trouble with them in the bothy. Besides money I allow the bothy men 6½ bolls meal, 1*s.* 2*d.* a week for milk (= 3*l.* a year), about 10*s.* worth of potatoes, and all their fuel and bedding, besides the attendance of the woman who wait upon them. I allow her 7*l.* 10*s.* a year, six bolls meal, and 1*s.* a week for milk. All the other labour which I require (with the exception of the grieve) I get from the lotters in the neighbourhood, and pay them from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day. They are always willing to take work when they can get it. At present they are employed a great deal on the railway. The worst of it is that we cannot depend upon them; they only come when it suits themselves, and the time when we want them most is just when they are most required at home for the cultivation of their own lots. I am chairman of the parochial board. There are about 64 paupers on the roll; many are from the lotter class, and chiefly the widows of men who have occupied the lots. In such cases the proprietor allows the widows to remain in the house rent free, and gives the land to some other tenant. Many of the lotters depend a great deal on the herring fishery for support, especially the women, who can earn from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day on a good year. The last two years the fishing has been very bad, and the lotters have felt this a good deal. There is a great demand for labour now in consequence of the railway which is being constructed; but before it was begun there was very little demand. There is only one other large arable farm of about 200 acres in this parish. There are only three middle-sized farms, which vary from 30 to 50 acres, and there is nothing else between the lotters and the large walks or sheep farms. I employ five or six women at certain times of the year, and in harvest and peat-cutting time as many as I can get. They all come from the lotters, and I pay them 1*s.* a day, including boys of 12 years old. They work from 6 to 11, and 1 to 6."

55. *Rev. Mr. Calder*, Established Church minister.—"There are seven schools in the parish, viz., the parish school, a general assembly school, two female schools, a Free Church school, and a shepherd's school up the Strath. None of the children that I know of have more than three miles to go. Some of the lotters are so poor that they cannot always keep their children in shoes, and this keeps them away from school when the weather is bad. They seldom pay any school fees, and I think that in general they cannot afford it. The fees vary from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a quarter. There is great crowding in the lotters' cottages in the neighbourhood, but not so much as there was, and the crofts are being thrown together a great deal whenever there is an opportunity on the death of a tenant, so as to create large holdings. I am sure that this improves the condition of the people. I think that education is also producing an improving effect upon them. When I first came here scarcely a Free Church man would enter the doors of the parish church, and now I have seen as many as 150 of them there, so that the old sectarian bigotry is disappearing.

The number of illegitimate births is small; I did not hear of one case last year."

56. *Hugh McKay*, lotter. — Occupies a slated house built by himself at a cost of 60*l.*, which he had saved from his earnings as a sawyer. Holds eight acres, for which he pays a rent of 2*l.*, and a right of pasture in the neighbouring wood, for which he pays 1*l.* 12*s.* per annum; pays 7*s.* a year poor rate. Has one milk-cow, and sells a little milk sometimes; keeps the calves till they are 18 months old and then gets from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* apiece for them; cultivates his land upon the five-course shift, and made nothing out of it last year. Is a married man, but without any family. Takes other work sometimes, and could hardly get on without it. Is a member of the parochial board, and knows the circumstances of all the people well. There are 64 paupers on the roll in the parish out of a population of 2,000; most of them have been lotters. The Board used to allow 3*d.* or 4*d.* a week to such paupers, and allow them to keep their lots, but so many applied for the help that now a condition is made that they shall give up their lots before obtaining relief, and they then get 2*s.* a week; the number on the roll has since fallen from over 80 to about 64. Most of the lotters hold from two to three acres. School fees are very low, and they don't pay them, so that the children mostly go to school for half the year. There is not a child in the parish that is not educated more or less.

Loth.

Population, 610. Cultivation, mixed.

57. *Rev. G. McMillan.*—The arable ground is let along with the sheep walks, and the cultivation which is of the best kind is accordingly mixed. Quantities of turnips are grown to be eaten off by sheep.

Very few boys and not many girls are employed: the former are employed at the age of 13, and the latter at 14, in singling turnips and gathering stones. Women are principally employed in haymaking, turnip-singling, and harvest work. The workers, others than regularly hired ploughmen, are for the most part living upon the farms on which they are employed, but have crofts of their own. The hours of work

for men and women are from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or physical injury in their work, nor have I any restriction to recommend upon their employment. The cottages are good and have gardens. The grieve has a cow to himself, and two married ploughmen have one between them. The young men who are boarded with the married men get a Scotch pint of warm milk daily. All the men get potatoes as part of their "cost," besides the garden in which they grow harvest potatoes. There are no bothies, neither is there any other mode of lodging farm servants which is injurious to morals or education. The children of the labouring classes attend school generally till about 13 years of age, and during the winter months even beyond that age. They are all, with very few exceptions, pretty good scholars.

Helmsdale.

58. *Rev. Mr. Clarke*, E.C.—"There is no large arable farm in this parish; the largest is not over 100 acres, and that is a solitary instance, the greater part of the arable ground on the face of the hill being held by lotters. There are three schools in Helmsdale, the parish school and two free-church, one of them being a species of industrial school. We have not many of a pure fishing population; the lotters subsist partly upon the produce of the herring fishery and partly upon the cultivation of their lots, and a good many of them do odd jobs about. They depend chiefly upon the fishing, which has been very bad for the last two years, and caused a good deal of destitution among them. There must be some of the children who do not attend school at all, and of those who attend some are very irregular. They are kept at home a good deal to assist their parents, at the end of April for potato-planting and sowing which lasts about a fortnight from the middle of July till the middle of September for the fishing, and from that time till the end of October for harvest work and potato-lifting. This leaves a short six months for full attendance in school. Many do not pay their fees. They generally make no difficulty in buying their books, but cases of alleged inability do occasionally occur. Women are employed a great deal in the fishery, and will make, if they work well, from 4*l.* to 5*l.* in a good year. There is a winter fishery too, beginning in January and ending in March, and women are employed in it, but not children. Some of the lotters' cottages have only one room, and I know instances of families occupying them; the majority I should say, have two rooms, and some three. Illegitimate births have been rather on the increase during the last two years, and during the same period the proportion of marriages to the size of the population has been very low; I attribute the latter circumstance to the poverty which has been caused by two bad seasons both for the crops and the fishing."

59. *Mr. Campbell*, parish schoolmaster, Helmsdale.—School fees are 3*d.*, 2*d.*, and 1*d.* a week; about half the children pay. There is not much difficulty about their buying their own books. Children come as young as 3 or 4 and stay sometimes as late as 15; the majority leave between 11 and 12, and begin to help their parents in the cultivation of the lots. A great many of the lotters, children leave their homes to push their own way in the world. At between 11 and 12 they vary between standards IV., V., and VI.

EVIDENCE APPLICABLE BOTH TO HIGHLAND AND LOWLAND DISTRICTS.

60. *Mr. Dudgeon*, occupier, Loth.—Farms 500 acres arable, and has also a sheep farm rented for 3,500 sheep. The new sheep-leases are granted at from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* a sheep.

"I employ 9 or 10 women as hirers upon my arable farm; they come from the lotters near, and are mostly unmarried. I pay them 9*d.* a day, winter and summer, and call them out as I need them. I am pretty well off for labour in the winter, but require more in the summer, and am going to set up a bothy for women from the west coast during the summer time. I used to have a bothy with 9 men in it but I did not like it, and have done away with it now. The lads never attended to their horses and harness, and used to wander at night. The lotters in the neighbourhood of my farm are pretty well off, as they have goodish lots and get full employment when they like. We have had reaping machines now for 9 or 10 years, and this saves us more than half the number of hands.

I have only four cottages upon the farm at present, but the proprietor is giving me a new lease this year, and is going to build four new ones. The present cottages have two rooms and a closet, but they are bad ones. I give my ploughman 18*l.* to 20*l.* money. 7 bolls of meal; 3 bolls of potatoes; ½ a cow, *i.e.* one between two families; 3 tons of coal; 6 loads of peat; cottage and garden.

These are hired by the year. I have also four labourers who are paid monthly, at the rate of from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week, but who get almost constant work. I employ boys as young as 9 to keep birds at seed-time and harvest, and girls at from 10 to 12 in potato-raising and other light work of the same kind. Both the boys and girls attend school regularly for the rest of the year. The parish of Loth has a sea-board of about six miles long, and the population lies all along the coast; it contains two schools, one at Loth and the other at Port Gower, both on the coast.

On my sheep farm I have four married shepherds' cottages, and no other habitation. Each shepherd boards a lad, who has his own "hirsel" outside the shepherd's ground. The married shepherds club together to get a tutor for their children, who goes week about first to one house and then the other. My shepherds have 20*l.* a year money, seven bolls of meal, one acre of potato land, keep for 20 sheep and two cows, and house free. I have offered shepherds as much as 8*l.* apiece for such cows as they would give up, but they stood out for 12*l.* The lads get 18*l.* to 20*l.* money, 6½ bolls of meal, and their board in the shepherd's house, for which he is allowed an extra cow."

61. *Captain Houstoun*, Loth; farms 300 acres, arable.—"I have four men in a bothy, which consists of a sitting-room and two bed-rooms. The wife of the grieve cooks for them and makes them comfortable, and I have never found the system work badly. I have no cottage labourers. The only cottages on my farm are occupied by lotters who are all paupers. They are there on sufferance, and I have to get labour from another parish if I want it. There are no young people capable of work among the lotters. The girls and boys both leave their homes when they get to be 15 or 16, and go south for service. I should say that this was mainly owing to the improved education which they obtain. The lotters generally hold from one to two acres. I have also a large sheep farm in the interior of the county rented for 4,600 sheep, and about 10 miles long by 6 to 8 broad. The shepherds have clubbed together and built themselves a school, and this is the general system in the interior.

Caithness.

Mr. Campion.

v.

APPENDIX B.—CAITHNESS.

GENERAL EVIDENCE.

62. Abstract showing the Number of Persons in the County of Caithness occupying Lands, the Rents or yearly Value following, viz. :—

Parishes.	Rents above 200*l.*	Rent between 100*l.* and 200*l.*	Rent between 100*l.* and 50*l.*	Rent between 50*l.* and 20*l.*	Rent between 10*l.* and 20*l.*	Rent under 10*l.*	Total of each Parish.
1. Bower -	8	8	23	38	32	105	214
2. Canisbay	2	7	13	23	70	246	361
3. Dunnet -	8	1	8	18	16	191	242
4. Halkirk	12	20	24	46	41	83	226
5. Olrig -	6	9	9	26	19	116	185
6. Reay -	9	9	3	15	22	99	157
7. Latheron	6	8	18	52	166	639	889
8. Watten -	5	9	14	27	23	66	144
9. Wick -	18	22	36	108	143	279	606
10. Thurso -	11	14	23	33	44	103	228
	85	107	171	386	576	1,927	3,252

Collated and certified by
J. W. Mackay,
Assessor of the county of Caithness.
Thurso, 27th May 1870.

63. Agricultural Condition of Caithness.

Paper supplied by *James Purves, Esq.*, occupier, Lochend.

In round figures the area of the county is 455,000 acres, whereof 78,000 acres are cultivated; 22,000 acres meadow and permanent green pasture, and the remainder 355,000 acres moor land, either flow moss or mountain heath.

The following table shows the different proportions of each section estimated at present rental:—

	Acres.	Total Rent.
1. Total acreage under cultivation - -	78,000 at 15*s.*	- £58,500
2. Meadow and permanent green pasture	22,000 at 15*s.*	- 16,500
3. Flat moor and flow moss - - -	162,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.*	- 12,150
4. Mountain heath -	184,000 at 2*s.* 6*d.*	- 23,000
5. Fresh water lakes and burns - - -	9,000	
	455,000	£110,150

There are 2,667 occupants holding an average extent of 38 acres each of the 100,000 acres of arable and pasture ground; 523 of these paying 20*l.* and upwards each of yearly rent, hold 50,000 acres of the arable land, and 2,144 paying under 20*l.* each of yearly rent hold the remaining 28,000 acres.

The corn crops grown are principally oats and bere. The climate is unsuitable for wheat and barley, as there is too little sun heat, although the summers on account of the prevailing moisture are very forcing during continuance. Of the 34,644 acres under corn crop last year 32,734 acres were oats, and 1,778 acres were bere. The average yield per acre, varying with the seasons, is from 28 to 32 bushels of oats and from 30 to 36 bushels of bere. The green crops grown are turnips and swedes, of which there were 12,831 acres last year. The soil and climate of Caithness are as suitable for growing turnips as those of any county of Scotland. The highest weight of swedes tested last year was 28 tons per acre, and of yellows 35 tons per acre. The oat straw never being over ripened is always fresh and sappy, and makes excellent fodder for cattle, which along with full turnip crops and the extensive proportion of waste ground, adapts the county for rearing store cattle and sheep. The success of Caithness farming depends more on the disposal of live stock than of corn crops. The number of cattle of all ages in the county last year was 20,279, and of sheep 92,643.

The material improvement of Caithness within the last half century will stand favourable comparison with that of any county in the United Kingdom, tested either by the criterion of produce, rental, or population. The tourist Pennant describes Caithness about a century ago as little better than an immense morass, with here and there some fruitful spots of oats and bere, and says at that time there was neither a made road nor wheeled conveyance in in the county. Now the communication with the south and throughout the county is opened up by 270 miles of excellent macadamized public roads. 50,000 acres of the arable land is scientifically laid out into 523 farms, paying from 20*l.* up to 1,000*l.* each of yearly rent. Every farm is subdivided into square and suitably sized fields, completely enclosed, thoroughly drained, and cultivated according to regular rotation of cropping with the land in good order. The farm steadings are substantial and commodious, having steam or water power thrashing machines, and every other modern improvement in the implements of husbandry is in general use.

Last year's statistical return to the Board of Trade, compared with Henderson's statistical account of Caithness, published by the Board of Agriculture in 1812, supply the data for the following statement of the material improvement of the county :—

Extent of cultivation in 1869	- 78,000 acres.
Do. do. 1811	- 50,000 ,,
Increase - -	- 28,000
Rental landward in 1869 - -	- £110,153
Do. Burgh of Wick - -	- 21,768
	£131,921
Rental total in 1811 - -	- 26,000
Increase - - -	- £105,921
Produce of stock and crop, exclusive of seed and feed, in 1869 - -	- £300,000
Do. do. 1811 - -	- 80,000
Increase - - -	- £220,000
Farming capital in 1869 - -	- £614,168
Do. in 1811 - -	- 223,000
Increase - - -	- £391,168
Population in 1869 - -	- 44,187
Do. in 1811 - -	- 23,769
Increase - -	- 20,418

	1869.	1811.	Decrease.	Increase.
Horses	- 5,157	- 5,234	- 77	- —
Cattle	- 20,279	- 14,833	- —	- 5,446
Sheep	- 92,643	- 12,748	- —	- 79,895
Swine	- 1,334	- 1,232	- —	- 102

The mains or large farms were generally occupied by resident proprietors up till 1830. The proprietors

at that time were a most intelligent and liberal minded class of men, who practically understood the business, and being satisfied that the improvement of their properties was of vital importance used every endeavour to accomplish this object. What they managed to do was truly extraordinary taking into account the produce and rental of the county previously. Since 1830 260,000*l.* has been expended on drainage, enclosures, and buildings, to which may be added 80,000*l.* on roads. Farming under leases became general about 1840, and the principal rise of rent has been since then. One striking evidence of the appreciation of improvements both by proprietors and tenants was that the applications from this county for outlays under the Government Loan of 1848 were only restricted by the provisions of the grant, and whilst England and many of the more favoured Scotch counties held back, Caithness was amongst the first to apply. The tenant farmers pay the whole rent charge for principal and interest, and the period of payment will shortly expire when the principal will fall in, a complete boon to the proprietors. This grant was the most successful measure ever gone into by any Government. It should have been extended in scope so as to apply to all permanent agricultural improvements, and it should have been made continuous. The benefit to this county proves that to have such a resource for enabling needful proprietors to carry out the improvement of their properties, as well as being a benefit to proprietors and tenants, would be an inestimable advantage to the general community by increasing the food supply. The scheme as now conducted under the Drainage Commissioners by private companies is rendered impracticable and injudicious by preliminary charges, increased interest, and extended period of payment.

The improvements in this county, as has been shown, were initiated by the proprietors, and have latterly been carried out by the larger occupants, holding under leases of 19 years and longer continuance.

The statistical references show that the cultivated area has been increased since 1811, from 50,000 to 78,000 acres. But the extent thoroughly improved is only yet 50,000 acres, which embraces about 25,000 acres of the new land, and 25,000 acres of the land formerly in cultivation, leaving 3,000 acres of the new land and 25,000 acres of the old land, still unimproved, that is to say, although in cultivation still undrained and uninclosed. 25,000 acres of the flat moor and flow moss section, and about as much of the mountain heath section, might be profitably reclaimed. The whole improvement would take, say—

28,000 acres of land at present in cultivation.
25,000 „ of the flat moor section.
25,000 „ of the mountain heath section.

78,000 acres drainage and enclosure at 7*l.* 10*s.* - - - -	£585,000
Which at 6½ per cent. would be -	38,025

of yearly interest or rent charge, and the area of the county would then be rented in the following proportions:—

	Acres.	Rental.
		£
1. Total acreage under cultivation - -	128,000 at 15*s.* 10½*d.* -	101,525
2. Meadow and permanent green pasture crop - - -	22,000 at 15*s.* -	16,500
3. Flat moor and flow moss - - -	137,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.* -	10,275
4. Mountain heath -	159,000 at 2*s.* 6*d.* -	19,875
5. Fresh water lakes and burns - -	9,000 - -	—
	455,000	£148,175

The opening up of the county with roads was the basis of the improvement already effected and railway extension, which is now only a question of time, will undoubtedly give a great impetus to further improvement. The disposable produce of the county has been quadrupled within the last 60 years, and from the foregoing statements it is evident that by a judicious expenditure of capital it can be doubled again along with the present rental in a very limited period.

There is no investment for capital that can give a larger return or be more beneficial for the whole community than an investment in agricultural improvement. The field for such investment in the United Kingdom may even yet be said to be almost unlimited whilst British labour seeks an exodus to the colonies, and British capital an investment in every sort of questionable foreign loan. It is certainly one of the first duties of the Government of a country to promote its agricultural prosperity by every possible means, and by removing all restrictions on the application of capital to the development of the resources of the soil to foster home produce and increase the home trade of the country.

The Crofting System.

64. The 28,000 acres of extent of arable land held by 2,144 occupants paying under 20*l.* each of yearly rent is worst conditioned in every respect, and yet from the demand for holdings caused by the rapidly increasing population, whilst the average rent of the whole arable land in the county is 15*s.* per acre, the average of this portion is fully 17*s.* 6*d.* per acre. The larger sized of these holdings, say from 20*l.* to 10*l.* rental, prevail in the interior of the county, whilst the crofting system, pure and simple, prevails along the coast. One striking circumstance in connexion with this location of population is, that whilst in the inland parishes of Bower and Watten, there is yet no legal assessment for support of the poor, and in Halkirk the assessment is only 1*s.* per pound of rental, the assessments in the shore side parishes vary from 4*s.* to 2*s.* per pound.

60 or 70 acres of land, according to quality, are required for maintaining a pair of horses sufficiently strong for cultivating the soil properly, and it is therefore evident that this is the least extent of holding that can be economically farmed. The yearly rent of such holdings in this county is from 40*l.* to 50*l.*

The arterial drainage and subdivision, by open ditches, of the crofts in each township should be executed simultaneously as a whole. This has been done in one or two instances with very beneficial effects. But in general the drainage done by the crofters themselves is very inadequate, and the wetness of the ground nullifies the amount of manual labour bestowed on it. On this account, along with too light cultivation, the average return of produce under the crofting system is about one-fourth less per acre than the general average of the county. The improvement of the area occupied under the crofting system would cost as much as the reclamation of the same extent of waste ground, and on account of the exhaustive system of cropping which it has undergone is would not afterwards afford more profit than the reclaimed land, But both subjects would give a return of 9*l.* or 10*l.* per cent. on the capital invested, besides the benefit to the country at large in keeping the increasing population constantly, as well as profitably, employed for many years to come.

Condition of Agricultural Labour.

65. Until within the last 15 years the labour of the large farms was executed by single ploughmen, and as many single women as were necessary for the regular work of the farm, feed by the half year, to live at the steadings, in separate bothies for each sex. The extra labour of turnip hoeing, hay-making, &c., was done by the supply of female daily hirers from the families of the neighbouring crofters, and corn harvesting by feeing men and women at fixed wages for the period of eight weeks, and where the supply in the neighbourhood, which could go out and home, was not sufficient, taking them from the more populous districts to live in bothies at the steadings. Before

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feeing markets were established the single men and women feed for the half year were drawn from the neighbouring crofters, and thus were not entirely removed from family influences which controlled them to a certain extent. But latterly they seldom remain more than six months in one place, and have become throughly demoralized and difficult to manage in every respect. This has caused a desire for married servants by judicious employers which would be extensively gone into if cottage accommodation could be obtained on reasonable terms. The improvement and complication of agricultural implements whilst it has lessened the amount of manual labour on the farm, has increased the necessity for steady men of more thorough training and skill. This can only be acquired by holding out the prospect of a competency and comfort in all the family relations as the reward of good conduct and expertness. Harvesting the corn crop was previously the heaviest extra labour of the farm. Reaping machines have already rendered harvesting perfectly practicable with the ordinary farm servants. And there can be little question but were married servants fairly established, with families of all ages, the work of the farm could be accomplished without having recourse to such an iniquity as the bothy system. The difficulty is want of cottage accommodation and its solution obtaining it. Many of the proprietors of this county, as elsewhere, have enough to do to meet their obligations. Tenant farmers under current leases cannot judiciously erect the necessary cottage accommodation and leave it at expiry without compensation. But many farmers would gladly pay 4*l.* or 5*l.* per cent. interest on the outlay in addition to their rents, and others would erect it themselves on being repaid the cost at outgoing. Substantial cottages would enhance the value of the property which certainly might be made responsible for the cost of erection by sanction of Government.

66. *Alexander Henderson, Esq.*, of Stemster.

1. *The Bothy System.*—It appears to me that what is known as the "bothy system" does not exist in Caithness, that is, the employment of unmarried people to the exclusion of married. In my own case the statement furnished shows the proportions, and mine is much like others in the county.

It requires no argument to prove that unmarried people of both sexes must exist and must be employed, and if, as is said to be the case in some districts, all the ploughmen are married, it is obvious that the young and unmarried must find employment elsewhere.

In theory, the families of married servants should afford a supply. But it is obvious that a ploughman cannot furnish a ploughman son for the first 18 years of his married life; and the system of putting a single man to lodge with the married man, unless where relationship exists, or some special circumstance, has been abandoned. Again, families grow up and leave their parents, and the result is that in practice the amount of labour from married servants is singularly small. Some sons go to trades, some emigrate; daughters go into domestic service, &c.

As a rule it may be held that the more comfortable you make your servants the more desire their families have for advancement and to go into other lines. Hence you must have unmarried servants living in lodgings—"bothies"—to a greater or less extent as may happen; and with the feeling which prevails of independence from control, except as regards the hours of labour, I do not see how it can be otherwise.

2. It is certainly a great advantage to be able to draw a supply of labour from the families of crofters. The supply is not adequate to the demand, and many labourers come in from the adjoining county of Sutherland, and even from the Lews.

3. There is no special increase of demand for the labour of women and children, which is fortunate, as the supply does not exist. Machines are now much used for reaping. Farmers of 50*l.* rent are now taking to them.

4. The cases of the children of farm servants making their way in the world are very common. As noticed, the more intelligent and more comfortable the parents are the more desire their children have to go out in the world.

Examples.

J. M.—Family of six. Two sons in Australia; one enlisted in Life Guards, dead; one daughter married in Australia; one, domestic servant, Edinburgh; one at home.

C.—Family of four. One daughter married a wood merchant in a seaport town; one son in draper's shop, Glasgow, married respectably, and has now shop on his own account in London; one son, carpenter, earning good wages in London; one daughter, lady's maid.

H.—Three daughters, domestic service; one son, coachman; one, shoemaker, gone to Canada; two daughters and one son at home, son going to school, and amongst other branches enumerates "multiplication of decimals."

5. The desire for education is so general and so strong that no compulsion, even if practicable, is required.

6. Feeing markets are not without an element of evil, but I do not see how they are to be abolished. The evil would exist quite as much on a holiday, and there are advantages in master and servant meeting prior to engagement.

Upwards of 20 years ago a register for farm servants was established, but I do not think a single case of hiring took place through it.

67. Estate interior of Caithness, rented at 1,892*l.*, contains 67 holdings, of which the following are below 15*l.*:—

Names.	Rent. £	*s.*	*d.*	Extent of Farm. A.	R.
F. Forbes	11	6	0	32	0
Mrs. Barnetson	10	14	0	29	0
Wm. Campbell, Sen.	8	5	0	22	0
B. Sutherland	3	0	0	7	0
John Ross	2	3	0	7	0
Geo. Doull	2	0	0	3	0
Helen Campbell	1	10	0	5	0
Wm. Campbell, Jun.	3	10	0	15	0
John Dunnet	12	0	0	29	0
David Swanson	13	0	0	37	0
Alex. Rosil	10	0	0	24	0
Donald Budge	6	0	0	13	0
Henry Begg	4	0	0	12	0
Jas. Sutherland	2	16	9	6	2
Jas. Bremner	1	10	0	5	0
D. MacRay	1	0	0	6	0
John Stephen	5	0	0	12	0
Margaret Henry	4	0	0	10	0
D. Henry	7	0	0	22	0
Geo. Sinclair	4	10	0	11	0
Niel Swanson	12	0	0	28	0
G. Campbell	2	10	0	3	0
Jas. Bain	1	16	8	20	0
G. MacKay	7	8	11	17	0
W. Williamson	1	0	0	1	3
M. Keith	1	9	9	2	3
D. Miller	6	0	0	9	3
A. Gunn	2	9	0	3	2
M. Dumeet, J. Durran	5	11	7	12	1
W. Clyne	7	0	0	11	0
Jas. Waters	1	0	0	1	1
Jas. Leitch	3	0	0	3	0
T. Andrew	6	0	0	14	0
H. Bremner	0	10	0	2	2
A. MacKay	3	0	0	8	0
W. Hamilton	7	10	0	15	0
D. Sinclair	3	3	7	5	0
D. Manson	4	4	4	8	2
D. Miller	7	10	0	16	2
£	199	8	7	494	1

The above shows the number of small holdings, the average rent of which is 8*s.* per acre. The larger proportion of the land has been improved out of waste within the preceding 40 years.

Several holdings on this estate are rented from 30*l.* to 70*l.* per annum, one at 529*l.* 10*s.*, one at 310*l.*, and one at 170*l.*

Some of the cottagers are tradesmen, others labourers, and the gradation of farms seems to work well.

ALEX. HENDERSON.

Stemster, 8th July 1870.

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68. *Dr. Mill*, Thurso.

1. *Condition of cottage accommodation in Caithnessshire.*—The cottage accommodation in this county was universally bad and insufficient till within the last 30 years, but since then a gradual and beneficial change has been going on. They are of a better class, and more ample accommodation than formerly, and the people separated from the cattle sheds and stables. However, in several districts there is no improvement, and cows, horses, and the family enter by the same door, and are imperfectly separated. The dung heaps are allowed to accumulate close to the dwellings, rendering them anything but favourable to health. Notwithstanding the crofters and labourers generally enjoy good health, though fevers are occasionally generated when, from the want of segregation, the whole family are often attacked; and a few years' ago the worst cases of diptheria occurred in such places as I have mentioned. The diseases prevailing most commonly among agricultural labourers, as well as all others in this changeable climate, are those of the respiratory organs, bronchitis, &c. Pulmonary consumption though frequent is not so common as in some other counties among our agricultural labourers and farm servants. Rheumatism in the aged and worn out is common. The purely agricultural labourers and farm servants are as a rule temperate, and only indulge to excess perhaps once a year at a hiring fair. Illegitimacy is most common in the larger farms where the young men and women live in bothies, and away from all control or moral restraint. It is comparatively rare among the better class of crofters.

2. *Comparative well-being of agricultural class in different districts and under different circumstances.*—The sea board of this county contains a mixed class partly small crofters and partly fishermen. The land is rented beyond its intrinsic value from its advantages in respect of locality, and is seldom of an extent sufficient to support a family. When prosperous at sea they are well off, but when unfortunate their privations are considerable. Of late years their houses are generally much improved, and on the whole their position is better, but from their mixed occupation the land has not the attention it should have; no doubt the uncertainty of their gains makes them in too many instances thriftless and less steady in their habits than the purely agricultural labourer. The crofter and agricultural labourer, who depend solely on their exertions at home, are generally steady in their habits, and on the whole comparatively comfortable. Labour is at all times abundant, either in the large slate quarries or in the arable farms, at wages from 12*s.* to 16*s.* a week. The farm servants are fairly paid, and are generally steady respectable men.

3. *Health of women employed as field workers.*—The women employed as field workers are particularly healthy, whether as hired servants on the larger farms or as occasional workers supplied by the small crofters. Bronchial affections are frequent, but pulmonary consumption is very rare among them. Within the last 10 years their wages have been doubled, and they are frugal, well dressed, and in every respect much improved of late. Out-of-door employment seems to tell even more favourably on their health than on the men servants and labourers.

4. *State of feeling among crofters and farm servants as to the education of their children and ability to send them to school.*—There is a strong and universal desire among crofters and farm servants to have their children educated, and they will make the most strenuous exertions to obtain the best education for their children. It is a rare, and indeed an almost unknown occurrence in this country, for either to neglect sending their children to school. Schools are everywhere accessible at a very moderate rate of fees, and if the parents plead inability the schoolmaster never hesitates to admit their children gratis. Farm servants with large families have a hard struggle, but education for their children is what they desire above all things. No compulsory clause in an education bill is necessary for this county.

5. *Habits of Life.*—The crofters and farm servants are, as a rule, a steady, industrious, well-behaved, and moral class. The existence of bothies for young men and women is a great misfortune, and undoubtedly tends more than anything else towards demoralising the farm servants. They are freed from all restraint and superintendence, and, as might be expected where there are few or no opportunities of improving their minds, fall into loose and careless habits. This is the chief blot in our agricultural condition, and though efforts have been made in some properties to remedy the state of matters by having suitable cottages for married servants, and with marked success, still the want of such cottages compel occupiers to continue the bothy system. With a little more liberality on the part of landowners this moral nuisance would, I feel, soon be remedied.

I make these remarks after an experience of this county for 43 years as a medical practitioner and as an extensive occupier of land.

Mr. J. Henderson, Thurso.

69. My personal knowledge has been for the last 19 years confined to the Freswick estates, in the parishes of Latheron, Wick, Canisbay, and Dunnet.

The educational facilities on or near these estates are ample and fully made use of by the tenantry; the desire to give education to their children is indeed a marked characteristic of the rural populations of the country generally,

On Dunbeath estate there are a Government school for boys and girls, a free school for boys and girls, an industrial school for girls, to the support of which the proprietress, Mrs. Sinclair, is a large contributor.

In Canisbay there are three schools on the estate, one in connexion with the Free Church, and two with the Church of Scotland.

The tenants on the Wick estate have access to a Free Church School on an adjoining property, and to one of the estate schools.

The parish school of Dunnet is situated in the centre of the tenantry in that parish.

At all these schools the fees are moderate, and offer no impediment to the attendance of the poorest classes. During winter and spring, the schools are better attended than in the summer months.

The tenantry number about 500, of which about 200 pay rents from 5*l.* and under, and 130 from 5*l.* to 20*l.*, and usually the rents are well paid. When the fisheries, with which the tenantry are all more or less connected or dependent prove unsuccessful, payments are more irregular, but usually the arrears are of small amount, and the irrecoverable arrears for the last 15 years have been very trifling.

I do not consider the crofts and small farms high rented, but it is certain that but for the fisheries the present rents could not be paid, and on the Freswick and other estates situated along the sea coast the rents are probably higher than in the more inland parts of the county.

Of late years much has been done in the county to improve the houses of the smaller tenants; on the Clyth, Mey, and Ratten estates there are large numbers of excellent slated cottages, and generally

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throughout the county much has been done in this way, although much remains to be done.

The agricultural condition of the county as regards farmers properly so called is satisfactory; in no county in Scotland are there more energetic and improving farmers. The condition of the crofters is generally much less satisfactory, and with holdings limited to a few acres it cannot be otherwise. No tenant wholly dependent on agriculture is able to live in much comfort with less than 20 acres of land.

I consider farm servants to be much better off as a class than crofters.

The wages of ploughmen range from 8*l.* to 14*l.* yearly according to their capabilities, with 8 bolls of meal, and from a mutchkin to a choppin of milk daily. Married ploughmen are frequently allowed a cow, the money wages in such cases being 8*l.* or 9*l.*, also about 60 chains of potatoes equal to 1*l.*, with house and fuel free.

Female farm servants get from 4*l.* to 7*l.* with from four to five bolls of meal.

The wages of male agricultural labourers vary from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.* a day; females get from 9*d.* to 10*d.*

There is much waste land in the county capable of profitable tillage, and attempts are frequently made to improve such ground by giving it off in allotments of a few acres, but although leases of from 7 to 14 years have been given, the result has not in general been satisfactory, the crofters being unable to work the ground themselves or to pay others for doing so. I have, after considerable experience, come to the conclusion that the better course is for the proprietor to plough or spade-trench the ground as circumstances require, and then only to let it, and there will be no difficulty in getting rents yielding 7½ to 10 per cent. on the outlay.

70. *Mr. Mitchell*, chief constable for the county.—"I have been chief constable for 12 years, and during that time have had considerable experience of the condition of the farm servants. At the fishery-time, single women congregate here from the four northern counties and the Orkneys, and remain till after harvest, *i.e.* from the beginning of July till the middle or end of October. During the harvest they are lodged in barns, sometimes as many as 20 or 30 together, and it is the practice for the young men in the neighbourhood to visit them nightly. This system prevails throughout the county, and is even more general in the interior than in the neighbourhood of Wick, where much of the extra labour which is needed can be drawn from the town itself. Great difference has, however, been made lately by the introduction of reaping machines, which are now generally used throughout Caithness. The bothy system prevails with few exceptions upon the arable farms, and is attended, in my experience, with great looseness of morals. I consider that great hardships to the unmarried labourer often arise from the Scotch law in affiliation cases, which entails heavy expenses upon the defendant, as contrasted with the English system. These expenses, amounting sometimes to 30*l.*, hang like a millstone round his neck, prevent him from marrying, and frequently make him abscond."

71. *G. Swanson*, chief-constable for Pulteney Town, Wick:—"I was for 15 years serjeant of police for the county, and during that time had great experience of the condition of the farm servants. The feeing-markets used to be attended by many cases of assault and breaches of the peace, but this is not the case nearly so much now. The markets are better managed than they used to be, and the labourers are better paid. I have known instances of bothies where the men and women both slept in the same room, but some improvement has taken place in this respect lately. I should say, however, that in most of the bothies in the county the men and women enter their respective apartments by the same outside door. In some cases one room is inside the other. I saw a great deal of the mode of living in the bothies, and it was very bad, especially at harvest time, when extra hands, both men and women, would often be crowded into the bothy. I have known a number of cases of assault arising from this mode of living."

72. Notes of 15 Bothies visited by the Assistant Commissioner.

1. Women's bothy.—Two rooms, one sleeping, and one for meals; two beds in the former occupied by four women. Tolerably comfortable as bothies go.

Men's bothy.—About 150 yards from the women's, on the other side of the high road; two rooms for four men. These two bothies form the only labour accommodation for cultivating an arable farm of 400 acres.

2. Male and female bothies under the same roof, but entered by different outside doors. Four men and four women—the only accommodation for labourers on a farm of 300 acres or thereabouts.

N.B.—In this case, as in No. 1, there is extra accommodation for the grieve.

3. Men's bothy consisting of two rooms on the ground floor occupied by five men. Two women sleep in a loft above, and a corner on the landing opposite the door of their room is occupied by a shakedown tenanted by a decrepit old man, who does odd jobs on the farm. The women take their meals in the men's sitting-room.

No cottage on the farm except the grieve's;—this for 300 acres.

4. Women's bothy containing six women on the opposite side of the "square" to the men's.

Men's bothy consists of a sleeping-room fitted up with beds for five men, one above another, as in a ship, and small kitchen, or sitting-room.

5. Three men living in one room; one woman (a young one) occupying a room by herself entered by the same outside door as the men's. She was employed when I visited the bothy in preparing the supper for the men, and evidently took her meals with them.

6. Two males sleeping in one room, one aged 20, the other 16. A single woman aged about 23, in the adjoining room entered by the same outer door.

7. Three rooms for the men, of whom six or seven: two are on the ground floor, and a loft above. Women's bothy, of two rooms, under the same roof, but approached by a different outside door, about 20 yards off.

8. One room for three men; another for four women, under same roof and close to each other, but not entered by the same outside door. Bedrooms small.

9. Men's bothy some little way from the women's, but the accommodation in both bad. In the women's one narrow bench, 3 or 4 inches broad, was the only thing for them to sit upon except their boxes.

10. Same outside door to male and female bothy; four men in the first, two girls in the latter.

11. Bothy for five men, with two rooms in it, furnished in the usual comfortless manner; the men at dinner when I entered (11.30 AM.), and one of them reading a book. Bothy for three or four women under the same roof, but with different outside door, only a few yards distant, however, from the door to the men's bothy.

12. Bothy for four men and one woman. The accommodation consisted simply of a one-roomed cottage which had been partitioned as follows:—A little less than half was appropriated for the common sitting-room. The rest was so arranged with wooden screens or partitions rising about as high as the wall of the cottage, that the four men slept in two beds at the back. The room occupied thus by them left only a very limited space in front for the woman's sleeping apartment, which had in fact the appearance of a mere strip of passage (about 4 ft. wide) to the left of the outer door as we entered, and totally unprovided with any door of any kind whatever. The bed was let into the wooden partition, thus encroaching upon the men's bedroom, and the planks of the partition were in one place so ill-fitted that the men could certainly have seen the woman in her bed, and, I

should think, have even put their hands through and caught hold of her. The outer door was the only door in the building.

13. Bothy for men; three men and four lads in two rooms; accommodation good enough as far as space was concerned, but furnished in the usual comfortless manner.

Nothing that could strictly be called a bothy for women on the farm, but about 100 yards off the dairy-maid and her assistant lived in one room entered through the byre, and separated from it only by a partition as high as the walls, the rafters being open.

14. Women's bothy of two rooms, sitting-room on ground floor and bedroom above. The women when I entered, at about noon, were all engaged in working either at sewing or knitting. Men's bothy in a different building some way off, every man provided with a separate bedroom, and the common sitting-room looking orderly and comfortable.

15. Bothy for men consisting of a sitting-room and six separate bedrooms, inhabited by three men, two of whom preferred sleeping together to occupying separate rooms. One of the rooms was occupied by the bothy woman, who having to come late at night and early in the morning to attend to the bothy does not like to live farther off.

Female bothy for six women, some distance off, consisting of two rooms, a sitting and bed room, occupied by six women, and rather crowded.

73. *Mr. W. Grey*, factor to the Duke of Portland.—It is more difficult for farmers to procure female labour in the interior of the county than along the coast, where there is a thick population of small tenants. I think that where there are many of the latter, female labour might be dispensed with. In a farm at Watten, which the Duke has just bought, I am going to do away with the bothy and board the young women who work on the farm with the ploughmen and their wives. I think that the bothy which exists there now must have led to a great deal of immorality, The practice prevails a good deal all over the county of boarding men and women employed in harvest-work indiscriminately in barns. We have no need to do so because we can get extra hands from the lotters. Reaping machines have considerably diminished the number of extra hands required for this purpose. The bothy system might be diminished by increased cottage accommodation for married men, but I do not think that it could be dispensed with altogether. In my experience the agricultural children attend school regularly in the winter season, and the parents are always anxious to send them, but sometimes they are unable to pay the fees, which are often too high.

LOCAL EVIDENCE.

Latheron.

Population, 8500. - Cultivation, mixed.

74. *Mr. Douglas*, Clyth Mains, occupier. Farms 300 acres under the plough, besides pasture.

"I employ in connexion with the arable land, a grieve, four ploughman, and a cattleman; the latter goes to the fishing in the summer, and is employed on the farm only for six months of the year. Three of the ploughmen and the cattleman are married, and the single men also live in cottages of their own.

I have no bothy, and there are only two in the parish of Latheron, both of them for men only. I have about six women as regular field-workers, both in summer and winter, all of whom come from the crofters in the neighbourhood. In the fishing season it is difficult to get them; but they come on days when there are no fish, or few fish on shore. Some of the women in the district and a good many of the men go to the Lewis fishing, which begins about the end of May. There are a great many of the small crofter class here and many of them are very poor; they are not decreasing in number along the coast. Their holdings range from 2 to 20 acres, and I should think that 10 acres would represent about the average size. The crofts are highly rented, on the "sea-rent" principle. Our poor-rates in Latheron are very high. I am paying as much as 3*s.* 8*d.* in the pound for the current year. In the summer season I get as many women as I can, sometimes as many as 25 from the crofters, and also, from the same source, about six young girls of 12 years old and upwards, who are employed in thinning and hoeing turnips in the squad during the months of June and July. The women and girls all work together under my grieve, who superintends them. The women do not often work with the men, generally by themselves. If the girls are thought able to do the same work as the women, they are paid the same wages, viz., 9*d.* a day, and most of them get this; but one or two of the younger ones may get 1*d.* or 2*d.* a day less. I employ no boys. There are not more than 10 farms of any size in the whole parish, the rest of it being held by crofters, and the population lies almost exclusively along the coast. Latheron is the great market of labour for the other parishes of Caithness, and many go during harvest time to districts in every part of the county. Children under 12 years of age, mostly boys, are often engaged at a distance for herding from May to Martinmas, and chiefly by small farmers. Children still younger do herding for their parents or neighbours in the crofts; but there is not much of that, as the cattle are generally tethered, especially upon the small holdings. I attribute the high rate of illegitimacy in Latheron a good deal to the herring fishery, which I think has a generally depraving effect upon the morals of the district. Some of the married women do a little work at harvest-time, and generally go to the fishing, but at other times they scarcely do any.

I have three shepherds, whom I allow 20*l.* a year, keep of cow, and four sheep, nine bolls of meal, one fifth of an acre of potato ground, house, and fuel."

75. *Rev. Mr. Davidson*, Free Church.—The crofters send their children pretty regularly to school, and I should say that there are close upon 800 scholars in the Free Church schools alone. The parish covers an area of about 350 square miles. Generally speaking, the children are absent from school from May to Martinmas, and for the rest of the year attend with tolerable regularity. In the parish school the fees are seldom paid, but I should mention that this is partly the fault of the schoolmaster, who originally took children without any fees in order to increase his number when he was competing with the Free Church school. Since the Schoolmaster's Test was abolished, we have given up our Free Church school here, and the children all go to the parish school, but the parents had been accustomed to non-payment of fees, and consequently the schoolmaster now finds it very difficult to get them. The crofters in Latheron are a very poor class, the accommodation of fishing is such that the rents are very high, being laid half upon the fishing, and hence when the fishing fails the people are in a very indigent state. They are very anxious to educate their children, but many of the children are kept at home from the poverty of the parents and inability to supply them with proper clothing. Young lads of from 12 to 15 often come back to their parents from service in order to attend school in the winter months. There is no night school at present, but I think that it might answer for lads between 16 and 20, and Mr. McCulloch, my colleague,

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has the intention of shortly setting one up. The climate is not very suitable for such schools in winter, which may account for their being so uncommon in the north of Scotland. I attribute the high rate of illegitimacy here chiefly to the fishing, which renders the young women very loose in their habits. They do not take home the dresses which they use in gutting the herrings, and consequently have to change their dresses upon the shore. It is, however, to be remembered that the illegitimacy in the parish also arises a great deal from the circumstance that the young women go to work in the summer upon farms up the county where the bothy system prevails, and then come home and are delivered of their children here. The cottages in the parish have improved very much during the last few years. I should not be averse to a compulsory system of education, but at the same time I must say that the parents are very desirous of getting schooling for their children to the best of their ability, and I do not think that they could generally afford to keep the children at school all the year round.

76. *Rev. J. McCulloch*, F. C., Latheron.

1. The condition of the crofter population, and their ability to provide education for their children.

They are generally very poor. Their crofts are far too small and high rented, all their holdings being incapable of producing subsistence for half the occupiers, and the rents, though nominally on the lands, being in reality the price paid for the convenience of contiguity to the fishing stations; whence it happens that, there being no other industry, when the herring fishing is not successsful, as during the last few years, hardships, and, in not a few cases, worse is endured.

The crofters are consequently not able to provide education for their children, that is, they have not wherewith to pay the fees necessary to obtain a good general education, and are under the necessity of hiring them as herds, &c., during the summer half year.

2. The influence of the herring fishing upon the morals of the parish.

(1.) The work in which women are engaged at the curing stations is such as renders it necessary to change clothing before and after the day's work. There is no accommodation for dressing with sufficient regard to decency. The intermingling of men and women in such circumstances destroys delicacy of feeling, and too often results in illegitimacy.

(2.) When there are large takes of fish, the work at the stations is heavy and long continued, as there can be no cessation until all the fish caught is cured. To enable the hands to bear the consequent strain, whiskey drinking is thought necessary, and freely indulged in. This produces evil effects at the time, and in many cases a habit of drinking is formed which is not left off when the fishing ends. Habitual drinking rather than drunkenness is what we have to complain of.

(3.) Though it may not be in the line of information which you prosecute, I may mention another very manifest influence of the fishing, which certainly affects the morals of the parish, viz., that it, to say the least, weakens the sense of obligation for debt. This effect is owing to the system of "advances," or loan of money by curers to fishermen, who have no capital to enable them to prosecute the fishing. Indeed, all fishermen, whether they have capital or not claim an "advance" as their right, and looking on the money so received as the curer's share in the speculation, feel nowise burdened when unable to repay him. Other debts come to be looked upon with the same indifference.

I am glad to say there are not a few among the fishermen themselves who see and deplore the evil influences of the herring fishing which I have mentioned.

3. "The feeling of parents of this class with reference to education."

I may say that they are anxious to have their children taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; some seek and use all means to obtain a higher education.

But as to any system of education, national or other, I have no reason to suppose that many among them have given the subject so much consideration hitherto as would beget a preference.

4. "The state of educational acquirement usually possessed by the adult population."

They can read and write tolerably well.

5. "The practicability and expediency of night schools."

I know nothing that would render night schools impracticable, and, if limited to males, nothing to render them inexpedient. As there are many young men employed at the fishing during summer who have nothing to do during winter, I have no doubt such schools, under proper management, would be well attended and most beneficial. I should rejoice to see the experiment made.

77. *Wife of John Sutherland*, ploughman.—"I have six children; four at home, and two daughters away; one of them married to a groom, and the other a housemaid in London. I cannot read and write myself, but my gudeman can, and often reads the Bible to me. I am very anxious that my bairns should get education, and they all go to school when they are old enough. I do not know what the boys will be when they grow up; it will be just according to their fancy. We could not get on very well on the gudeman's wages alone, but I work out sometimes myself, and go to the fishing in the summer. That be a book that the boys are reading at school, [a "History of the British Empire"]." This cottage consisted of two rooms and a closet, all very clean, orderly, and well kept.

78. *Mrs.*—, wife of ploughman.—Has four children, two of them quite young, and a boy at school. The fourth is a girl, who ought to be in school too, and generally goes, but her mother wants her at home just now, to take care of the little ones, while she works in the fields herself. Her cottage consists of one large room and a small closet—very limited accommodation for an increasing family.

79. *Francis Sutherland*, crofter.—Has seven of a family, aged from 19 to a new-born child. The eldest, a girl of 19, is with a small farmer, and works in and out; wages, 2*l.* 15*s.* for the half year, with board. The second, a girl aged 17, does the same with 5*s.* less wages. The third, a boy, aged 15, herds in summer; wages, 2*l.*; goes to school in winter. Girl, aged 13, at home working, and goes to school in winter. The next child is a boy, who is going to school; they can all read and write. He pays the school fees, viz., for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, and for reading only 1*s.* 6*d.* Is idle himself nearly all the winter; goes generally to the Lewis fishing for eight weeks; wages 6*l.* with board. Is always at home fishing for seven weeks; wages 6*l.* to 7*l.*, with board. Does harvest work in the autumn; wages 2*l.* 10*s.*, with some meal and milk. Has no lease; has been in the place for 10 years. Pays rent for five acres, 5*l.* Has no stock of any kind. Unfortunately lost three cows within two and a half years. Complains much of the want of a good school for his children, and regular work for himself.

This man bears a high character for industry and thrift.

80. *James Adamson*, crofter.—Holds 9 acres arable, and 3½ moor pasture, under a 14 years' lease, and pays a rent of 17*l.* 5*s.*, besides "road money."

"I have nine children: the eldest 19, and the youngest 1½ years old. Five of them go to school, and I have to pay school fees for them of from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a quarter. I can read and write myself, and so can my wife, but not very well though. My eldest son is at Glasgow, learning ship-building. My children leave off attending school in April, and do herding sometimes for myself and sometimes for other people, and they do not go back to school till Martinmas. I have got a herring-boat along with

four others, but the most of it belongs to me. Some years we make very little money at the fishing; in a good year perhaps I will make 20*l.* or 30*l.*, but may be the year before I will have lost money by it. The last two years were very bad, and I had to get advances from the curers. I cultivate my land on the five-course shift, and have got two cows and a horse. I might sell may be one young queagh in a year, and would get about 7*l.* for her. I do not sell any corn or potatoes; or anything else off the land. I was bred and born a gun-shot from here all my lifetime."

81. *John Monroe*, crofter, holds six acres arable, for which he pays 7*l.* rent, besides road money.

"I have got four sons and two daughters, all grown up. They are not good scholars; they never had the chance. There is no schoolmaster here between Bruar and —— (?), and there are between 60 and 70 bairns here who cannot go to either. We can't pay a schoolmaster, and we are that poor that we cannot build a house. I want to have a school just in the middle of the place for the coarse weather. There is a school here close by, but the schoolmaster is not fit for his work; he is just crankit, and has no sense. We had a school once only one mile off, and we promised the schoolmaster 9*l.* in the half-year, and never got nothing for it; but now that has been taken away. One of my sons is in the police at Glasgow, another is a cooper at Montrose, a third is a fisherman close by, and the fourth lives with me with his wife. I cannot read and write myself; I never had the chance."

To the question of "How does your son get on in the police, if he is a bad scholar?" he replied, "Oh, but they can all read, write, and count."

His grievance about the want of schools was not a very serious one, for the school at Bruar can hardly be over two miles from his house.

His cottage consisted of two rooms, one inside the other, the inside room being occupied by his married son, who will, I presume, have to bring up his family there. The entrance to the outer room was through the "byre," a plan which seems usual in crofters' cottages of the old type.

Wick.

Population, 12,841.

Rev. Dr. Lillie, E.C., Wick.

82. "The large arable farmers in this neighbourhood depend upon women from the town for a great deal of their labour, and send their own carts to fetch them. The small lotter-system prevails in some parts of the parish, viz., in the N.N.W. and S.W., but in the remaining portion of it there are few small tenants. There is considerable variance in the size of the holdings. There are bothies in the neighbourhood; but I have not much experience of the system, and I should say that it is more common here to cultivate the large farms chiefly with married servants. I do not think that the bothy system is a good one, but the alternative lies between it and the kitchen system, and if a proper supervision were exercised over the bothies I do not think that there would be any necessary evil connected with them. I consider the kitchen system preferable to the bothy; but I do not think it generally practicable. The difficulty arises from the superior refinement now attained by the farmer class, and the distance which there is, socially speaking, between them and their servants. I do not think that the plan of boarding unmarried lads with the married labourers ever answers, and it would be obviously impossible to employ none but married servants in the cultivation of the land; neither do I consider it desirable for a young labourer to settle and become master of a house before his character is formed. The great object should be to adjust the proportion between the married and unmarried servants, so that the bothy men might be able to look forward to a fair probability of obtaining in due time and as opportunity offered, a chance of marrying and settling in the neighbourhood.

The lotters here depend upon the herring fishery to eke out the subsistence derived from their lots; they do not engage as hirers to any extent.

There is no child in this parish but may receive education if its parents choose, but there is a good deal of neglect in that matter on the part of the parents. This, however, is chiefly in the town, and I do not think that any such neglect is prevalent in the agricultural district. It hardly ever arises from poverty, for in most cases, by application to the minister or others, they could obtain education gratis. There is little agricultural employment of young children, and there is nothing in my opinion to be complained of in respect of the hiring of children under the age of 13. They are sometimes employed in herding, but only in summer time. I do not think that it would be necessary or advisable to extend the provision of the Factory Act to this district. I have never heard of such a thing as the "gang system" in Caithness. I have seen as many as 40 or 50 women working together in harvest time, but they are all separately hired, There are feeing markets throughout the county, and every farm servant claims a right to attend them. They are not good things, but cannot very well be avoided, and have much improved of late. I do not think that register offices would succeed. The servants like the holiday, and also enjoy the opportunity which it affords them of comparing notes as to the current rate of wages, so as to claim the utmost which they are likely to obtain."

83. *Mr. Macpherson*, occupier. Farms 300 acres, arable, rented at about 30*s.* per acre.—"I employ six men, of whom only the grieve is married; the other five live in the bothy. There is no cottage on the farm except the grieve's. The bothy-men get 16*l.* a year, except one who only gets 12*l.*, and are hired by the half-year; they never go off to the herring fishing in the summer. They also get seven bolls of meal and one pint of milk daily, and occasionally some potatoes; they also have as much fire as they like to burn. I employ four women regularly, two of them live in the bothy, sleeping in a room above the men, the only access to which is through the men's room, and taking their meals downstairs with the men. The other two board in the farmhouse. The bothy-women I pay 6*l.* 10*s.* and the other 6*l.* per year. They all get five bolls of meal, half pint of milk daily, and potatoes and fuel the same as the men. I allow my grieve—

14*l.* money.
Nine bolls of meal.
Keep of a cow.
Six to eight bolls of potatoes.
Peat-fuel as much as he wants.
House, free.

I get my extra hands for harvest at the feeing-markets, engaging them for five weeks, both men and women, and put them up in separate outhouses. No immorality has to my knowledge taken place in the bothy since I have been in the farm. In the farm where I was before I had a bothy with four men and four women in it, and two or three cases of the bothy-women being with child occurred during the six years in which I lived there."

84. *Mr. Gill*, occupier. Farms 300 acres arable.—"I employ five men engaged by the year, only one of them married, viz. the grieve; the others live in the bothy. The grieve has 18*l.* and "cost." I have at present four single women, hired by the half year, in regular employ, two of them living in the bothy, and the others belonging to families in the neighbourhood. These families live in cottages with no land attached to them, which they hold from the proprietor, and subsist partly upon job-labour, and partly upon the fishery.

The women are employed in tending cattle, pulling turnips, cleaning the land, dressing grain, and harvesting work.

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The bothy consists of three rooms, one for the girls to sleep in, one for the men to sleep in, and a sitting-room in which they take their meals together. The rooms are all entered by the same outside door, the men's sleeping apartment being upstairs. I have no other cottages on my farm except a shepherd's house in the steading."

85. *Mr. John Scott*, occupier.—Farms 420 acres arable, 250 natural pasture. "I employ nine men regularly on the farm, of whom the married men are hired by the year, and the unmarried by the half-year. Four of them are married and the rest are single and live in the bothy. I also employ six women who live in a bothy. With the exception of the grieve, only two of the married men occupy cottages on the farm. The bothy men I pay 5*l.* to 8*l.* the half-year, four bolls meal, and one pint milk daily. The bothy women get 3*l.* the half-year, two and a half bolls meal, and half pint milk. They all have fuel and furniture in the bothy. I should prefer to have no bothy if I had enough cottages for married labourers, but as it is I cannot do without it. I do not consider it a good system."

86. *Married ploughman*, near Wick.—Occupies a two-roomed cottage. Gets 13*l.* a year money.

6 bolls meal.
1,300 yards potato ground.
1 pint a day milk.
Fuel and house free.

Expenses.

	£	s.
Man's clothes - -	2	9
,, shoes - -	1	0
Wife's clothes - -	?*	
Buys 3 bolls meal -	3	0
Grocery - - -	4	0
Total -	9	9

Has three children all too young for school. Says that, "he didn't see butcher's meat within the door "these two years."

87. *Rev. Mr. Stobie*, E. C., Keiss, Wick.—"Keiss is an ecclesiastical or parliamentary parish, and contains five schools, viz., (1.) parliamentary under the established Church; (2.) female industrial; (3 and 4.) Free Church; (5.) private adventure. Every child in the parish has abundant opportunity of going to school, and almost all of them attend, but there are a few exceptions, partly arising from neglect and partly from poverty on the part of the parents. There is, however, a very general good feeling on the subject. In the case of inability to pay the fees, I always offer to give them education free or at a reduced rate, so as to meet their circumstances. The schoolmaster is very indulgent on the subject of fees. The greater part of the land here is held by small tenants, varying from four or five to 30 acres, who combine herring fishing with the cultivation of their lots. Many of them have considerable difficulty in making both ends meet, especially in a bad herring year. The rents are chiefly what is called "sea-rents," *i.e.*, high in proportion to the intrinsic value of the land on account of the advantages conferred by a position near the fishing stations. The children of these small tenants attend school very regularly during winter, perhaps, for half of the year, and I do not think that their employment in agriculture is sufficient to interfere materially with their education. The cottages are not very good, but have usually two apartments, and sometimes a closet too. There has been a great improvement in them during the last 20 years.

I do not approve of the bothy system, and I have no doubt that by increasing the number of cottages on the arable farms, female bothies might be dispensed with altogether, and the system restricted to a small bothy upon each farm for two or three of the unmarried ploughmen. There is plenty of labour here in harvest-time as well as at other seasons; the large farmers get their extra hands partly from the lotters and partly from the village of Keiss. The lotters are generally a moral class, and there is less of antinuptial immorality than there used to be."

* Says she never has any.

88. *Rev. Mr. Gunn*, F. C., Keiss.—"Children attend school from four to five months in the year. It is not want of interest on the part of the parents which keeps them away, but the labouring character of the population both by sea and land. Herding lasts from the end of April till the 22nd of November, and keeps them from school during that period. The population is poor compared with that of the southern counties of Scotland. I should say that the lotters are decidedly a moral class. We have only three bothies in this parish, but I consider the system a most degrading one. I think that the evil of it might be remedied by a more careful supervision on the part of the farmers; but at present they do not take sufficient interest in their servants. I consider that the evil might also be partially modified by the proprietor increasing the cottage accommodation for married men. I believe that the rate of illegitimacy is low in this parish. Within the last two or three years I can only remember four or five cases amongst a congregation of 300."

89. *Mr. Bankes*, F. C., schoolmaster, Keiss.—"Children come to school as young as 6, and stay till 14 or 15. They generally attend regularly from December to April inclusive, but for the rest of the year the attendance is small. They all buy their own books, and there is not much difficulty about it. Our fees are from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter; there are very few exempted altogether, but many do not pay the whole amount."

90. *Mr. Archd. Morrison*, E. C., schoolmaster, Keiss.—"Children come at 5 or 6 and come and go till 15 or 16. Young children are often kept away during winter by the inability of the parents to supply them with good enough clothing in which to face the severe weather. I should call four months the average attendance of most of our scholars. Children are beginning already (April 7th), even the young ones, to be employed in herding, and in July the fishing will follow and then the harvest, so that they will not return to school till the middle of November.

At the age of 12 they vary between Standards III. and IV., most of them being in Standard IV. The payment of the fees is very irregular."

91. *Mr. John Burch*, occupier, Keiss.—Farms 120 acres, arable; 80 acres, permanent pasture at one time under the plough; 1,800 acres, moor. "I employ regularly two ploughmen, a lad of 16, and one single woman. One of the ploughmen is married and the other single. They are all paid by the year except the woman. The single man and lad and the woman live in two separate rooms in a bothy. The man gets,—

11*l.* 11*s.* money.
7 bolls of meal.
1 pint of milk daily.
Fuel and furniture.

The woman, who is hired by the half-year, gets,—

2*l.* 15*s.* money.
2¼ bolls of meal.
½ pint of milk daily.
Fuel and furniture.

I have also a shepherd, engaged by the year, who gets,—

13*l.* money.
9 bolls of meal.
Keep of a cow.
1,320 yards potato ground.
Fuel.
House, free.

I also allow him the keep of two sheep, but this is no part of the agreement, and he is allowed to keep poultry.

I employ two or three male day labourers regularly who live in the neighbourhood, and give them 2*s.* a day for 10 hours, and I also employ three women regularly as day labourers, and give them 1*d.* an hour in the summer.

I have three cottages on the farm, one in the occupation of paupers.

I can get all the extra hands that I require in the neighbourhood."

92. 1. *Lotter*, Keiss.—Occupies a cottage containing two rooms, one inside of the other; the outer room with peat fire in the middle of it, and hole in the roof for the smoke to escape by. Has a family of two grown-up daughters and two young children at school.

Holds 13 acres. Is partner with five others in the fishery; they have a boat between them, and in a good year will make 80*l.*, or perhaps 100*l.* [This evidence was taken from one of his grown-up daughters, the man himself being absent.—C. W. C.]

2. *Lotter*, a bachelor.—Occupies thatched house built by himself; holds 17½ acres, rented at 23*l.*, which he cultivates himself without assistance, except that sometimes he gets an extra hand from the village. Does not now go to the fishing.

93. Table showing comparative attendance of children in summer and winter, at five agricultural schools in the parish of Wick.

A.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	23	—
Between 10 and 13 -	13	—
Total boys -	36	—
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	10	—
Between 10 and 13 -	16	—
Total girls -	26	—

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	20	—
Between 10 and 13 -	12	—
Total boys -	32	—
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	12	—
Between 10 and 13 -	12	—
Total girls -	24	—

B.

In Summer.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	20	17
Between 10 and 13 -	8	5
Total boys -	28	22
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	6	5
Between 10 and 13 -	7	4
Total girls -	13	9

In Winter.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	25	18
Between 10 and 13 -	17	11
Total boys -	42	29
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	7	5
Between 10 and 13 -	10	8
Total girls -	17	13

C.

In Summer.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	31	25
Between 10 and 13 -	10	8
Total boys -	41	33
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	12	10
Between 10 and 13 -	6	4
Total girls -	18	14

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	30	24
Between 10 and 13 -	17	14
Total boys -	47	38
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	15	12
Between 10 and 13 -	10	7
Total girls -	25	19

D.

In Summer.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	13	10
Between 10 and 13 -	15	12
Total boys -	28	22
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	6	4
Between 10 and 13 -	6	4
Total girls -	12	8

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	20	16
Between 10 and 13 -	41	35
Total boys -	61	51
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	12	10
Between 10 and 13 -	24	21
Total girls -	36	31

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E.

In Summer.

	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	14	12
Between 10 and 13 -	2	2
Total boys -	16	14
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	7	6
Between 10 and 13 -	3	3
Total girls -	10	9

In Winter.

Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	14	10
Between 10 and 13 -	18	17
Total boys -	32	27
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	11	9
Between 10 and 13 -	10	9
Total girls -	21	18

WATTEN.

Population, 1491. - Cultivation, mixed.

94. *Mr. Hugh Davidson*, occupier.—"There are scarcely any children under 14 employed in agriculture in this county, except that the boys do a little herding between the ages of 10 and 12 in the summer months. This herding lasts eight months, from April to November, and there are always one or two employed in it upon every large farm. This leaves too little time for school; but we seldom take them before 12, as they would not be up to the work of tending the number of cattle upon a large farm. The small tenant, or crofter, however, takes them much younger. There are 18 families on this farm of labourers in my employ, and many of them are too poor to keep their children at school when they can make a little money by hiring them out to herd.

I pay the married men 12*l.* and cost. Some of them send their children to school the whole year round; but those who have large families cannot afford to do so. Most of the married men can read and write, and most of them take an interest in the education of their children. Some are very particular about it, and as they are able to get the children into merchants' shops on growing up if they have received a good education, they have a strong inducement to be so. The children are receiving a far better education than their parents did, and this I attribute chiefly to the change of public feeling in the matter among the labouring classes. It is also to be remembered that all the best educated of the same standing as the parents have emigrated or obtained situations at a distance, so that it is only the most ignorant of their generation who are left to labour as farm servants. I consider that in the case of the crofters a compulsory measure of education would be advisable; but the number of children employed in herding upon large farms is very small, *e.g.*, upon this farm of 1,000 acres, there are only two so employed, who are from 12 to 14 years of age. I have a bothy for six women, but no male bothy.

From June till the end of the harvest I employ 30 extra hands, two-thirds of whom come from the families of my married labourers, and the rest from the neighbouring crofters. For harvest I also have six or seven extra women, and four or five men from Latheron parish. I have 18 cottages, all occupied by married couples except two. All have as much as two rooms and some three. There is great difficulty in procuring job-labour, as so many of the sons and daughters of crofters leave their homes and go out to service, and this difficulty is increasing. None of them go to the herring fishing from this quarter.

Ploughmen's wages :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - -	12	0	0
7 bolls meal -	7	0	0
5 bolls potatoes -	3	0	0
Cow or milk -	6	0	0
Garden ground -	0	10	0
House and fire -	4	10	0
Total -	£33	0	0

Women's wages :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money - -	6	0	0
5 bolls meal -	5	0	0
2 bolls potatoes -	1	4	0
Milk, quarter gallon daily -	2	10	0
Fire and house -	0	15	0
Total -	£15	9	0

Labourers; men get 2*s.* per day of ten hours, women and boys of 14 get 10*d.* a day, or 1*d.* an hour."

95. *Mr. Brown*, occupier, farms 500 acres arable; rental at about 1*l.* per acre.—"I have nine yearly servants, all of them married except two, who are young men living with their parents. I have a female bothy for six women engaged by the year, and there are also three women engaged by the day who live in the bothy; there are three rooms between the nine. I employ also on an average five or six women from the neighbouring lotters cottages. In harvest time I get about 20 extra women, and five men from the coast, generally from the parish of Latheron, and put them up, the women in two rooms and the men in one; the men's and women's room are under separate roofs. The married ploughmen I give 9*l.* a year money, and cost. The bothy women get 6*l.* a year and cost. I employ no children under 14.

The women are employed in hoeing and pulling turnips, spreading dung, cleaning the land, attending to the threshing-mills, and other light work.

I think that the ploughmen are very attentive in sending their children to school, but they sometimes find it difficult to pay the fees if there are many in the family. There are not many crofters in Watten parish. In Reay, where I have another farm, there are a good many, and I get a good deal of job-labour from them.

I do not think that the bothy system is a necessity; we have much less of it in Watten than used to be the case. With increased cottage accommodation it might be dispensed with altogether for men, but not for women."

96. *Rev. Mr. Gemmell*, E.C.—"I think that all the people in the parish keep their children at school as long as they can; defective attendance arises from the poverty of the parents. In general they are all, both farm servants and small crofters, very anxious to educate their children. Most of the parents can read and write fairly, and often help their children over their tasks as far as they can. There is a great deal of hostile feeling between the Free Church and Established Church here, and children who attend the school of a denomination to which they do not belong are the exception.

I have not much experience of the bothy system and have no complaint to make in respect of it as far as this parish is concerned."

97. *Rev. Mr. Gunn*, F.C., Watten.

1. A good many children from eight to 13 years of age whose parents are crofters or small farmers, are employed in herding cattle and thinning turnips on their father's farms during summer and harvest, and a few are similarly employed as hirers on large farms.

Women are employed in thinning turnips and other light work during summer and harvest work in autumn; a few are constantly employed as hirers on large farms all the year.

2. These women and children, with very few exceptions, can read and write tolerably, and generally know something of arithmetic, but the proportion of the year spent at school by the young is often too little,—some entering about the new year and leaving in April.

There may be cases in which small crofters or farm servants with large families find it difficult to keep their children longer at school, though school fees are very low here, being 1*s.* 6*d.* per quarter for reading, with 6*d.* additional for writing, and the same for arithmetic.

But it is to be hoped that provision will be made for such cases in the forthcoming Education Bill, and if so I see no objection to making it imperative that every person hired for regular work should have passed an examination in reading and writing; after they have fairly entered on regular work, few add much to their educational attainments.

3. The greater part of this parish is occupied by large farms, one of 1,000*l.* rent, three of 500*l.* one of 200*l.*, and seven or eight of 100*l.* On all these the bothy system has been displaced either wholly or in part by cottages for married servants, good and sufficient in some cases but not in all. This point should be looked into and provided for by the Legislature.

The system of large farms now so general, among its other disadvantages, is most unfavorable to education. When the great bulk of the population consists of farm servants, the children cannot be kept long enough at school to be fitted for pushing their way and rising in the world; consequently they pass their lives for the most part in the same monotonous and ceaseless drudgery which has been the lot of their parents before them, as if bound by the fetters of Indian caste.

98. *Wm. Micklejohn*, F.C., Schoolmaster.—"I think that $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles is the longest distance which any child in the parish need have to go to school. On an average they begin to attend at the age of seven. When they live quite close to the school, or when older members of the family attend with them, they sometimes come as young as six. Of those between the ages of seven and 10, about one-half attend regularly, this half generally representing the children of the farm servants. The crofters in general withdraw their children during the summer months as young as eight, and keep them away from the middle of April to the beginning of November.

Fees are 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. The farm servants pay better than the crofters, who are very irregular. In most cases they make an effort to provide books for the children. The children generally leave altogether at about 12 years old. At the age of 10 they can usually read, write, and count, and at 12 have acquired a little knowledge of geography and grammar. With very few exceptions they usually continue in the same line of life upon growing up. I never press the fees in case of inability. There are a few, but very few, cases of parents keeping their children at home altogether, partly from inability to provide good enough clothing for them, and partly from not appreciating the value of education."

99. *G. Moodie*, lotter.—"I could not say how many acres I have got, but I pay 2*l.* 10*s.* a year rent. I have one horse and one cow. Now I have only one lassie living with me, who is not my own bairn, but the daughter of one of my sons. I had four sons and two daughters, but they are all away south and married in Ayrshire, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and all doing well. One of the sons has had a situation in the post office at Edinburgh for 20 years or so. They all used to go to school regularly. I cannot read and write myself, but I took care to educate my children, and they are all well scholar'd, but it was a hard time for a poor man. I am 70 years old now, and have been here 20 years. Before that I was a farm servant. I could not say whether I was better off as a farm servant than I am now. The lassie goes to school; she is lame and uses a crutch, but has very little way to go. I manage to cultivate my croft without any assistance."

I was informed that he held about eight acres arable and seven of moor pasture, so that he is rented very low. The entrance to his cottage was through the byre, where the horse and cow were; and the accommodation consisted of two rooms, one inside the other, the outer one being used as kitchen and sitting-room, and the inner for sleeping. The kitchen was provided with a chimney, and a little pig was lying before the hearth. The walls were plastered, but there was no ceiling in either room. One or two books, very old and tattered, lay upon a shelf in the corner. The room was tolerably clean and sufficiently warm. In the bed-room, which was quite blocked up with a press and two box beds, sufficient division was made through these means to provide for decency.

Halkirk.

Population, 2864 - Cultivation, mixed.

100. *Rev. Mr. Maclean*, E.C.—"I have been for five years minister of the parish. The school is attended principally by the children of feuars in the village of Halkirk, whose parents work at the quarries in the neighbourhood. There are also a good number belonging to the agricultural class who come, these are chiefly the children of crofters. The attendance in winter is pretty regular, but in summer very irregular; very few of the elder boys attend from the beginning of April till after Martinmas. Their absence from school during that period is caused principally by their employment in herding on the smaller farms and crofts, and their engagement in that capacity is generally for seven months. They begin to be employed in this way as soon as they are about 10 years of age. I do not suppose that boys of over 10 years of age attend school for more than four months in the year; but till that age they are kept at school pretty regularly. I have no doubt that in a good many cases the parents are too poor to dispense with the earnings which their children can obtain from herding during the summer months."

The *Rev. Mr. Fraser*, F.C., assents to this, but adds:—

"There are a great number in this parish of the middle-size class of farms, *i.e.*, rented at from 40*l.* to 80*l.*, a larger proportion, I should say, than in any other parish in the county.

There are an immense number of young men and women too who emigrate or move south every year in consequence of there being no outlet for them in the parish. This is the case particularly, speaking of the labouring class, with the children of crofters. The farm servants are far below the crofters, both intellectually and morally. Of course they are recruited out of the crofter class, but I have seen young men from the latter class who, after taking farm service, seemed to deteriorate considerably. The bothy lads and lassies especially are very backward, both intellectually and morally.

We have plenty of schools of one kind and another, but few of the children stop long enough to acquire so much education that they will follow it up in any degree in after life. Their absence in summer is so long that they lose a great part of what they have acquired in the winter. Parents as a rule are persons anxious for the education of their children, and there has been considerable improvement in the public feeling on the subject lately. Many of the

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adults cannot read, but all the young can read, and with very few exceptions write too. This improvement in education has taken place within the last 20 years.

I do not think that any compulsion in the matter of education is required in this parish, as the parents are sufficiently anxious to provide schooling for their children to the best of their ability."

101. *Mr. Gunn*, occupier. Farms 400 acres arable, and about 200 acres pasture.—"I employ 10 men regularly, including one grieve, one miller, three day labourers, and five ploughmen, all married except one, who lives with his mother and sisters, two of whom are employed as field-workers. The others inhabit cottages on the farm. The cottages near the steading are new ones and have two rooms and a closet. One cottage, four miles off, contains only one room, and is occupied by a man and wife, who had a large family, but have now only two of their children left at home. I have no bothy.

The married ploughmen I give—

10*l.* money by the year.
7½ bolls meal.
30 chains potato ground.
A cow between two families.
House and fuel.

I have three shepherds and a lad during the winter months who lives in my own house. The shepherds get—

	£	s.
Money by the year - -	15	0
6½ bolls meal - - -	5	10
1½ acres for potatoes - -	4	10
Keep of a cow - -	4	0
Keep of 10 sheep - -	2	0
House and fuel - -	3	0

I estimate it at 34*l.* in money value. I do not require much extra labour in harvest time, and what I do want I can get in the district."

102. *Mr. Swanson*, farms 300 acres arable, and some moor pasture.—"I have six men engaged as regular farm servants by the year. Three of them are married, and the other three live in a bothy. I have no bothy for women, except that the dairy woman and her assistant occupy a cottage together. I employ five or six women as regular field-workers, who come from the village, and I can get all the extra hands when I require them from the same place. I never employ children under 12, unless they come up to learn for a short time. Singling turnips is rather a nice thing to do well, and consequently the children have to learn something of it before they begin regularly. It is very light work. I pay my farm servants as follows :—

	£	s.
1. Grieve or farm manager -	16	0
2. Ploughman, with separate house and fire and other perquisites - -	12	0
3. Do. with separate house, &c., and a cow - -	10	0
The above are married men.		
4. Single ploughman in bothy -	12	12
5. Do. do. - -	11	0
6. Lad - - -	6	0

I also pay a cowherd at the rate of 3*l.* per annum, and a herd for other cattle at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Women I give from 55*s.* to 60*s.* for the half-year, seldom engaging them for longer time, and on some occasions this is long enough. Farm servant accommodation is not so ample as it should be. There is great desire among all the parents to provide education for their children, and in many cases they make great sacrifices to attain that object."

103. *Mr. Mill*, farms about 120 acres arable and a good deal of waste land.—"I employ regularly a man and a lad about 15 or 16. The man is unmarried, gets his meals in the house, and sleeps in an out-place with the lad. I have two single women boarding in the house, who work in and out. The man I give 7*l.* by the half-year and his board. The lad has 2*l.* 10*s.* the half year. I generally get my servants at the feeing market in Thurso, when I have occasion to change: but I do not like changing them when they are doing well. I seldom require extra hands, but may occasionally get a hand or two for a few days in harvest time from the village of Halkirk. I have got a reaping machine, and therefore do not require the number of hands that I did formerly. There are a few crofters along the roadside; but they are not sub-setted. Most of them are old people, and their sons and daughters are away in Australia and different places. There are not the fourth part of the women required on the large farms that were before the reaping machine. Those that are required come chiefly from Latheron and the West Highlands.

I employ a boy aged usually from 12 to 14 in herding from May to Martinmas. A very weak boy would not suit me, so that I never take them under 12."

104. *Donald Tait.*—"I am a contractor, living in Halkirk, and supplying occasional labour to farmers in the neighbourhood. I do this especially at the time of the harvest, when I employ the labour of men and women, but I have never employed any children. I never take them under 16. I am paid according to the number of hands which I employ, and not acording to the amount of work which they perform. I go with the men and women, and superintend them in their work. The only profit which I make is in the wages which are paid to me for my own personal labour, and which amounts to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. The men whom I supply get 2*s.* 6*d.* a day in harvest time, and the women 1*s.* 6*d.* Their wages are generally paid through me, but I do not make any deduction. I employ sometimes as many as 20 men and women on these occasions. They work 10 hours a day."

Thurso.

Population, 5561.

105. *Mr. Hay*, Scrabster. Farms 1,000 acres arable, and 600 moor pasture. Holds under the Crown.—"I employ nine married men, and two unmarried as regular farm servants. The unmarried are lads between 17 and 20, and live with their father, who is a labourer on the farm. These are all engaged by the year or half year, but I have also two labourers in constant employment who live in cottages on the farm, and who are on day's wages, 2*s.* for 10 hours, and 1*s.* 8*d.* for the short days during about three months of the year. I have also a dairymaid and her assistant, hired by the half-year, and never less than 12 women in regular work. These 12 women all live in cottages on the farm; four of them belong to the families of my ploughmen, and the others are the wives and daughters of men who inhabit cottages held under me, and work in the neighbouring quarries.

I give my married ploughmen—

8*l.* money.
Eight bolls, meal.
Keep of a cow.
One ton potatoes =3⅙ bolls.
Three tons, coal, and 3 loads, peat.
House and garden.

The unmarried lads get 14*l.* to 18*l.* according to age, 6½ bolls meal, a choppin of milk a day, and some potatoes. The women on day's wages get 8*d.* a day during the winter half year, and 9*d.* during the summer, and during harvest-time, 1*s.* For about four weeks in June and July I get 40 or 50 women as extra hands, chiefly from the town of Thurso. They come out from the town daily to their work, having to go a distance of one and a half and two miles. The women regularly employed are paid monthly, the extra ones weekly. There are very few crofters in Thurso parish. There is about an equal proportion of land in the parish held by farmers above 200*l.* rent, and farmers under 100*l.* The fishing is chiefly conducted by a fixed population living in the town, and the semi-agricultural and semi-fishing class which exists in Latheron is unknown in this neighbourhood. There is a strong feeling in favour of education for their children amongst all my married farm servants, and

the children attend school regularly. I occasionally employ three or four children of 11 and upwards in thinning turnips, but never for more than a fortnight at a time, and principally in order to train them to the work. My fields are all enclosed, so that I rarely, if ever, have occasion for herds. In the neighbourhood in general the larger farms are well fenced, but the smaller ones not at all. The Crown is one of the most liberal landlords in the county as regards fencing and building, and has expended nearly 2,000*l.* on my farm for those purposes within the last 10 years.

The cottages of my married farm servants all contain two rooms and a closet. Those of the cottars have one large room, in which they make divisions with their box beds. These latter were originally built by the crofters who used to live on the farm, but are now entirely done away with."

OLRIG.

Population, 2059. - Cultivation, chiefly arable.

106. *James Smith, Esq.*, owner.—Boys are employed in agriculture at about 17 years of age. Girls are also employed at about 17 or 18, except at turnip thinning and cleaning, when sometimes younger girls are partially employed. About half the women are employed, except at turnip time and in harvest, when the proportion is much larger. The young persons and women employed generally and upon an average go three-quarters of a mile to their work. The hours of work for men and women are 10 hours in summer, and eight in winter. No children are employed.

Neither the young nor females are subject to any ill treatment or physical injury in their work. The cases of illegitimacy among females employed in agriculture are not more numerous than among those otherwise employed; but I am not satisfied with the unrestricted and promiscuous employment of men and women without sufficient supervision and control. The system cannot be avoided, but the moral tone of the women is lowered in consequence. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the agricultural employment of females or children.

The cottages in the agricultural district are good, sufficient, and convenient. In the village of Castletown they are lamentably evercrowded. The bothy system exists, and although I prefer the married system, I have erected a bothy with a separate bedroom for each man; and such a bothy is in my opinion unobjectionable, except that a married and not a single woman ought to be employed as "bothy woman." I do not approve of women's bothies, but it is in some cases absolutely unavoidable, and then they should be at a distance from the men's bothy, and in connexion with the grieve's house, who should have them under his immediate supervision. The cottages generally have gardens.

An ordinary married farm servant gets in the year:—

About 12*l.* money.
House, fire, and garden.
Liberty to keep a pig, and sometimes hens.
60 chains of a drill of potatoes, or four bolls.
Eight to 10 bolls oatmeal.
Cow's keep; sometimes only a cow to two men.

Single men get:—

14*l.* to 16*l.* money.
House (bothy), fire, 1 pint milk a day.
Eight bolls meal.

There are five or six schools in the parish, well attended. In respect of compulsory school attendance, it is quite unnecessary to legislate in any way whatever as respects this parish, for education is thoroughly attended to, and the parents are fully sensible of its importance.

107. *Rev. Mr. Phin*, E.C.—"In the agricultural part of the parish there are four large farms of various sizes, from 600 acres to 1,300 acres; about 15 of an intermediate size, between 50 and 200 acres; and perhaps 30 crofters, between 10 and 20 acres. There are few holdings in this parish under 10 acres. The whole parish is under cultivation, with the exception of 350 acres in the Links, and 50 acres, or thereabouts, of moor pasture. There are about seven bothies, all of them on the large farms. The number of illegitimate births have increased of late years, but not to a large extent. Cases have occasionally, but not very often, come under my knowledge of immorality in the bothies. I should say that on the large farms about half of the men employed are married men, and the other half bothy men. At the parish school the scholars are about equally divided between the county district and the village [the village of Castletown]. The children are very regular in their attendance for six months in the year, viz., from the beginning of November till the end of April. There is great irregularity on the part of parents in payment of fees. From 90 scholars the schoolmaster only gets 10*l.* in the year.

The parents in the country district pay better than those in the town, and I daresay that rather more than half of them pay fees. I should like to see a compulsory system of education applied to the children in the town, but I do not think that it would be necessary for them in the country district. I think, however, that there is no disinclination on the part of the parents, either in town or country, to send their children to school, and the sole cause of irregularity in that respect is to be found in the inability which many parents in the town labour under through poverty, to dispense with the earnings which their children can get at the pavement manufactories. In the country district the parents are better off.

Children are employed at a very early age, as young as 12, in the pavement works, and this is a great inducement to the parents to keep them from school for that purpose."

108. *Mr. Wm. Purves*, occupier. Farms 1,000 acres arable, 350 acres pasture.—"I have three single men, two ploughmen and a shepherd, living in a bothy. I have also three women in a bothy at the other side of the steading, and there are two rooms in each of the bothies. I have nine cottages on the farm; one with three rooms, two with one room, and the rest with two rooms apiece. Those with one room are both occupied by families, one of seven children, and the other two children, but they make divisions in the room with their box beds. I am going to build myself three new cottages with three rooms in each, in the place of these last two. The cottages have all gardens attached to them. I have sometimes as many as 26 extra women in harvest time from the west coast and put them up in an outhouse, which in the winter time is used as a byre. I have also generally five extra men from the surrounding district. The holdings in my immediate neighbourhood vary between 50*l.* a year and 600*l.*; a little further off there are a good many small crofters, but very few of them go to the herring fishery; they most of them have leases and range from five acres upwards. I have never heard of such a thing as the gang system in Caithness. Parents are generally anxious to educate their children and there are plenty of schools in the parish. When my new cottages are finished I intend to do away with the men's bothy, but I shall have to keep the women's. The crofters cannot be depended upon sufficiently to draw a regular supply of female labour from them. All the large farms in the parish have bothies, but I know of no instance of the men and women both sleeping in the same room."

109. *A Grieve.*—"The bothy men don't do anything in the evenings; they don't wander and are well-behaved, but they never try to keep up their education in the evenings; they just do nothing."

110. *A Shepherd.*—Has three children, all boys; the eldest 18, is in a shop at Thurso; the next, 16, attends school during winter, and the youngest, 14, has hitherto attended school regularly all the year round. He complained that the schoolmaster was not far enough advanced; he could teach reading and writing and counting and geography and grammar well enough, but no Latin! To the question, "Why do

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"you want your boy to learn Latin," he answered, "Oh, because if he knows Latin he'll just get to the "root of the English language, and then he'll no "forget it."

DUNNET.

Population, 1861. - Cultivation, mixed.

111. *Rev. D. Campbell*, F.C.—Boys and girls are employed in agriculture in summer and autumn from 12 years old and upwards. Women are employed upon all the farms. They go about half a mile to their work. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for all alike. I do not know of females or young persons being subject to any ill-treatment or physical injury in respect of their work. Females employed in agriculture are in general immoral. I should perhaps be prepared to recommend that the hours of labour for females and children should be shortened, and that they should not be allowed to do men's work. The cottages are in general in good condition and sufficient. The bothy system exists and has a bad influence upon morals. With reference to the modes proposed by the commissioners for enforcing school attendance, I think that a combination of one or more of them appears preferable. General education is provided here, and children of the agricultural class take advantage of it in winter and part of spring.

112. *Rev. Mr. Jolly*, E. C.—"The great difficulty about education in this country is that our schools are all what we call "winter schools," *i. e.*, more attended in winter than in summer. The more advanced class of scholars attend in winter, but in summer they are absent, and are replaced by a younger class. The smaller farmers, those, that is to say, who are rented at from 30*l.* to 80*l.* by the year, employ a good many boys in herding during the summer, as their fields are not enclosed. I suppose that there are about from 8 to 10 holdings of this size in the parish. There are not more than six large farms in the whole parish. I do not think that children between the age of 8 and 15 attend school for more than four months in the year. There are many sailors of 20 and 30 years old who come to school for three months in the winter to learn navigation. These would be all the sons of crofters along the coast. This class are all very badly off, being rented at a rate out of all proportion to the value of their land. Some of them labour at the quarries, and a great many are employed in job labour in the neighbourhood. The cottages which they inhabit are greatly improved from what I can remember, and the generality of them have now two rooms. The parents do not seem to know the value of education ; they can generally just read and write, and sign their names themselves, but not more, and they do not appear generally anxious to send their children to school. I do not think that it is poverty which renders them reluctant, for the schoolmaster never presses them for payment of fees. The best young men among them usually become sailors.

All the large farms in the parish have bothies. I believe that there is a great deal of obscene language used by the women who work in large companies together at thinning and cleaning turnips, and I think that this leads to more immorality than the bothies themselves. I should say that there is a great deal of ante-nuptial immorality among the labouring classes in the neighbourhood.

I think the bothy system a bad one. The only way that I can see in which the system could be remedied would be by the farmers getting more accommodation for married servants."

Letter from the above:

"DEAR SIR,

"IN reply to your note of yesterday regarding the usual period of attendance at school in this parish, I believe that the only explanation of the discrepancy between the length of attendance at the Parochial and Assembly schools and the other schools is what you conjecture, namely, that attendance is not so long or regular at the schools near the coast as those more inland. My two teachers report to me that of 224 scholars enrolled in the year only 46 attended more than three months, and 30 for six months.

"In each of the schools there may be a few who attend during the whole year, but they bear a very small proportion to the numbers enrolled.

"Yours faithfully,

"PETER JOLLY."

113. *John Johnson*, F. C. schoolmaster.—"Children begin to come to school as young as six, and from then till eight years old they attend regularly in the summer, but not so well in the winter. After eight they are more regular in winter than summer. There are now (April 18th) about half of my scholars away, employed in farm work; most of them will be as old as 14, and they will not return to school till November. I think that the greater number of my pupils attend school during some portion of the year till they are 16, and often older. They all pay the fees with the exception of one or two special instances. An average boy of 12 would be able to read and write pretty fair, and do a sum in fractions, and would also know a little grammar and geography."

114. *Mr. Darling*, occupier. Farms 225 acres, arable; 400 acres, pasture.—"I have three ploughmen, one married, and two unmarried in a bothy, and also a lad of 17 who lives in the bothy. There are four rooms in the steading, two of which are occupied by the married ploughmen, and the other two are inhabited, one by the bothy men, and the other by two girls, who also live in the bothy, and work regularly for me on the farm as yearly servants. I get all the extra hands which I require from the crofters in the neighbourhood, of whom there are plenty. There is no gang system in this neighbourhood. The crofts in the interior of the parish vary from 10 to 30 acres in size, but along the coast they are much smaller, and range, I would say, from four to 12 acres. The crofters on Mr. Traill's estate all have leases for 15 years ; on the Freswick estate they are in general yearly tenants. My bothy men can all read and write, and this is, I I think, generally the case with very few exceptions, but they never do anything to continue their education after they come to the bothies. This is my experience of 32 years acquaintance with the county. I should like to dispense with my bothy if I could get sufficient accommodation for married servants on the farm, and I think that I should profit by the change, as I should get my things better taken care of. I employ a few children—10 perhaps—for about four or five weeks in July in thinning turnips, but never under the age of 12—they are not able to officiate below that age. I pay them 9*d.* a day."

115. *Mr. James Purves*, occupier.—"The croft system in my neighbourhood is gradually dying out, and there is an increasing tendency for the land to fall into the hands of large cultivators. I have a farm of 530 acres, 270 of which have been reclaimed by myself ; the remainder at the time when I entered on the farm was held by about seven tenants paying about 80*l.* between them. My labourers live in the old crofter's cottages, the position of which is inconvenient for the cultivation of the farm. I reckon my labourers now are much more comfortable than the old crofters were. I look upon the bothy system as an abomination, and as far as I am concerned I would not have a single man in a bothy if I had sufficient cottage accommodation to do without it. I do not think that I could do without a female bothy at present, but in course of time with plenty of cottages, I should expect to get enough female labourers from the families upon the farm. Upon the coast I think the crofter-system answers well enough, as the small tenants can get enough out of the sea to support themselves, but in the interior of the county crofters holding less than 10 acres cannot support a family upon their land. In this county the large and small holdings are so much intermingled that there is generally a plentiful supply of labour. The bothy

men are now to a great extent a class who wander from one farm to another, seldom staying for more than six months in the same place, whereas they used formerly to remain more constantly in the same place, and the consequence has been a decided increase of immorality in the bothies."

116. *Small Crofter.* Holds six acres, as yearly tenant, and pays rent of 5*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.*, besides which he has to pay 5*s.* 4½*d.* for poor rates.—"I have seven children, the eldest about 18, and the youngest quite little. Four of them are at school, and they attend for about four months in the year; the rest of the time they are just helping about the house itself. Sometimes they will herd, either for me or for the neighbours. The school fees are 1*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, but he does not take any payment from me. I keep one horse and one cow, and sell nothing off the land. I have to buy instead. I go to the fishing in the summer; have no boat, but hire, and sometimes I will make some money, and often none. I do work whenever I can get it, but find it difficult to get."

117. *Joseph Dunnet,* crofter.—An old man of 74, holds about 13 acres arable, and pays a rent of 8*l.* His son and daughter both grown up and unmarried, live with him, and cultivate the land. Sells nothing off his croft, except may be occasionally a young "queagh." The old style of cottage, with entrance through the "byre," two rooms, one inside the other, and peat fire on the flag stones in the middle of the room, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof at one end of the room.

118. *George Stephen,* crofter, Lochend.—"I have got about eight acres arable land, for which I pay a rent of 4*l.* I have three bairns, the eldest is a lassie 10 years old, and she goes to school regularly in summer, but not in winter; she is not strong enough. The school is 1½ miles off. The other bairns will not be old enough to go to school yet. I sell nothing off the land. I have to buy instead. I work as a day labourer. I can both read and write myself."

This cottage contained only one room, which was divided, sufficiently for decency, by box beds. Of two books which I opened, one was a Bible and the other "Memoirs of the Rev. Mr. McDonald."

119. *Wm. Coghill,* crofter.—"I have about 18 acres, and pay 11*l.* 10*s.* rent. My son and daughter (both grown up and unmarried) live with me. I sell, may be, a few quarters of oats occasionally, and a one-year old beast some years, when they thrive well, but last year we lost two. I was never at school myself, but I taught myself to read and write. I think that children are much better educated now than they were when I was young. My son and daughter are both good scholars."

Another specimen of the old style of cottage with entrance through the "byre." When I visited it at mid-day I found the tenant himself, an old man of about 70, sitting at a small table and reading a book, which proved to be the "Beauties of Erskine." In the middle of the room was a low stone wall, about 3 feet high and 4 broad, which constituted the fireplace, the smoke escaping through a hole in one end of the roof as in the previous case. On one side of the hearth was placed the old man's table and chair, and behind him one of the flagstones of the county, raised on end, probably about 5 feet high, formed a sort of rude screen, and, connecting the wall of the house with the wall of the fireplace, cut the room in two, leaving only the interval between the other side of the fireplace wall and the opposite wall of the house, as a passage from one part of the room to another. Behind this screen the other members of the family, viz., the son and daughter, assisted by an old woman, probably a neighbour, were engaged in the process of cutting up and salting a pig which had been recently killed, and some of which was to be sold, and some retained for domestic use. The cottage contained one other room divided as usual by box beds. The arrangements were rude but not comfortless, and left upon my mind a general impression of tolerably easy circumstances.

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CANISBAY.

Population, 2730. - Cultivation, mixed.

120. *Mr. John Smith,* occupier. Farms, 150 acres arable; 160 acres pasture.—Boys and girls are employed from 15 years old and upwards, in spring, summer, and autumn. I employ on an average about eight women, who go about a mile to their work. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for all alike. Neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or exposed to any physical injury in their work. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon their employment in agriculture. No evil results to morality have come under my notice in consequence of the over-crowding of cottages. The bothy system exists, but I have no remarks to make upon it. Cottages generally have gardens or allotments, and farm servants are allowed to a limited extent the privileges of a cow and potato ground. The average earnings of a farm servant in the course of a year amount to about 30*l.* money value. There are plenty of schools in the parish, well taught and well attended.

121. *Rev. Mr. Macpherson,* E. C.—"I have been three years minister in this parish. Nine-tenths of the children go to the school in connexion with the Established Church. As a rule the attendance of children is not very regular. I account for it by the fact that school fees are not exacted from them, and are consequently very indifferently paid, and what they pay nothing for they do not seem to value. There is a great deal of carelessness among the parents upon the subject of regular attendance, while at the same time they are all very anxious that the children should be educated. The great majority of children who come to school are the children of crofters. Many of the parents of this class are unable to provide proper clothing for their children and are also too poor to pay the school fees. There are a very small proportion who attend over 100 days in the year, and extremely few who attend over 200. They are absent from the end of April till about the 1st of January. A few may come in in December; but the great bulk do not return till the beginning of the new year. During this time some are employed in herding at home, and some are regularly hired for the summer half year on the small farms, and a good many are kept at home for little or no purpose at all. I should like to see a compulsory system of education, provided that when the parents were unable to provide clothing or pay fees, some provision could be made for that purpose by a local board. The state would have to provide the fund. Before I became a minister, I was a teacher for seven years at Nigg, in Easter Ross, and I found that ploughmen's children attended better than crofters' children, which I attributed chiefly to the fact that the ploughmen paid the fees more regularly than the crofters.

A good many cases of ante-nuptial fornication occur in the parish, accounted for in my opinion by the circumstance that so many of the single men and women go to Wick in the summer for the fishing, and are there habitually crowded together in very small rooms. I think that the employment of women in squad-work on large farms tends to immorality by promoting immodesty and looseness of language among them.

I think that the bothy system is decidedly a very bad one; but I have not personally had much experience of it."

122. *Dr. Wm. Kennedy.*—"I have been in practice here for five years, and during that time have had considerable experience of the habits of the agricultural classes throughout this parish and partly also in Wick and Dunnet. There has been a great deal of typhoid fever of an epidemic character during the last winter, especially at Huna, where the houses are bad and very dirty and the people are generally uncleanly in their habits. It is usually the case among the male crofters in the district over which my experience extends that the people will not keep their houses or

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persons clean, and cases of fever occasionally occur in consequence. Two rooms is usually the accommodation provided in the average sized cottages, and there are a good many cases of cottages containing only one room. Great evil often arises from members of the family marrying and afterwards continuing to live with their parents, which causes great overcrowding. The box beds are the most unhealthy things which people can sleep in; but sometimes, perhaps, they are necessary, when the houses are not sufficiently well built to keep out the cold. There is a great deal of marrying in and in, especially in Stroma; but it is very much the case all through the parish, and partly, I think, from that reason the people are very scrofulous. As a rule, though, the people are decidedly healthy, and we have such pure air here that they do not appear to suffer much from the overcrowding. I believe thoroughly in the qualities of peat, when burnt, as a deodorizer and disinfectant. I think that there is a good deal of "ante-nuptial fornication" in the parish."

123. *Mr. Keith*, factor to the Earl of Caithness.—"Crofters, in the interior of the county, generally occupy the inferior land on the edge of the moor, the older and better land having been thrown into the large farms. In almost every case I should say that their holdings have been originally taken into cultivation and improved by themselves, with a little assistance from the proprietors. The old cottages upon the small holdings were built in the first instance by the tenants or their predecessors, and the present occupiers have a claim for valuation for the wood contained in the building. It is a legal claim and almost invariably supported by an "amelioration paper." in the possession of the occupier, and transmitted to him through his predecessors, which at the time when the cottage was originally built, was signed by the proprietor or his agent. This is always renewed to the incoming tenant upon a change of occupation. When crofters build themselves new houses they almost always receive some assistance from the proprietor, sometimes a little money, but more usually stone and lime, finding the wood and labour themselves. Very often in such cases of improvement by the tenant he is granted a lease, usually for 10 or 14 years. Upon this property leases are always granted under those circumstances. I am certain that a lease is a beneficial thing for a small crofter, and leads to his directing more attention to the cultivation of his croft, but I think that a longer term, say 21 years, would be better. Very considerable improvement in this respect has taken place lately upon Lord Caithness's property. There has also been a tendency lately to amalgamate the small crofts, but there is considerable difficulty in carrying out this policy. The people are very unwilling to leave, even when they are getting on badly or half-ruined, and any system of eviction on a large scale is a most unpopular measure. I think that 20 acres is the smallest size of croft upon which a man can bring up a family with any comfort, and it would be a very good thing if all smaller holdings could be done away with. The people would be better off as farm servants than they are upon the small holdings, and they would also do better as fishermen in villages along the coast, if they confined themselves to the fishing instead of dividing their time between the sea and land. In Canisbay parish I should say that about one-fourth of the land is under cultivation, *i. e.*, there are about 16,000 acres of moor and 5,000 arable land. There are only five farms rented above 200*l.* a year, and the demand for labour bears a very small proportion to the supply. I should say that a comparatively smaller number of young men leave their homes to procure employment at a distance here than in any other parish in the county. The Canisbay people have always been considered more behindhand in efforts at self improvement than those in any other parish, but they have made considerable strides within the last 10 years, and are now quite as far forward as many of the coast districts."

124. *Mr. Munro*, Freswick, farms 200 acres arable and some moor pasture.—"I employ four ploughmen and two herds, who are about 16 years old, and three women as field workers; all these are engaged by the half year. One ploughman, viz., the grieve, is married, and the others live in a bothy; of the women one lives in the bothy, and the other two board in the kitchen, and work in and out. I have no accommodation for married labourers on the farm, with the exception of the grieve's cottage, which is in the steading. I can get all the extra female hands whom I require from the neighbouring crofters at 8*d.* a day, and I never require any extra men. There is no large farm within four miles of this."

125. *Wife of a Grieve.*—"I have six children: the eldest is a girl of 13, and helps at home; the second, also a girl, is ill and weak; the two next are at school, but have not been very regular of late, the weather was so severe. I cannot read or write myself, and my gudeman cannot make much of the writing. I would like to send my children to school more, but its hard for a poor man, and we have to pay the fees."

126. *John Dunnet*, crofter. Inhabits a cottage with two rooms, both very dirty and untidy; occupies four acres, and is rented at 5*l.* 10*s.* per annum.—"I've sitten 40 years on this hillock. I built the cottage myself. There are eight of us—the old woman and me, my son, and his wife and four children. I dinna sell nothing, but I buy, and that's what ruins me, buying. I'm clear away from the fishing now; my son goes to it, but he's been very unfortunate these two years. He has one boy of 7 years old at school; the others are all too young to go. The laddie is beginning to write and count already, and he's every day at school. The schoolmaster is very merciful about fees. My son is a volunteeer in the naval coastguard, and goes to drill in the month of March, for which he gets 3*l.* 3*s.* and expenses paid. I have another son, who is a lighthouse keeper, and gives me a help. I can read and write very little myself, but my sons are pretty good scholars."

127. *Wife of James Dunnet*, crofter, living in a two-roomed cottage, and occupying between five and six acres, for which he pays a rent of 5*l.* 15*s.*

[This cottage was in a deplorable state; a considerable portion of the room in which the family were sitting was occupied by a sow, with a litter of eight pigs. There was no window, and the only access for light or air, except the door, was through the hole in the roof, by which the smoke escaped. Both this room and the inner one were in a shocking state of disorder and dirt.]

"There are eight of us living here: my husband and myself, five children, and my husband's mother. My eldest child is a girl of eighteen, and is learning to sew at the female school now. In the summer she goes to the herring and the harvest. The next is a boy of fifteen, who goes to school generally, but now he is helping his father. He herds for ourselves in summer—we have a cow and a horse, and I need him to herd them because his father's away at the fishing. The next child is a lassie of 10; she is at home now because she has had the whooping-cough. My gudeman hires to the fishing, and gets his wages the same whether the luck is good or bad. He gets from 6*l* to 7*l.* for the eight weeks. He goes to the lobster-fishing too from now (April 19th) to the beginning of July. He gets about 9*d.* a lobster, and has a boat with another man. In a good season they will catch, may be, 300 lobsters."

BOWER.

128. Population, 1746. - Cultivation, mixed.

Alexander Henderson, Esq., of Stemster.—"I farm 1,590 acres, arable; 345 acres, pasture. I cannot give the exact ages or numbers employed upon my farm in the different seasons, but I have none, male or female, employed under 10 years of age, and not more than two boys under 12, both of whom live in

the houses of their parents. The regular numbers employed on my farms are—

Managers or grieves - - -	3
Ploughmen - - -	21
Extra men - - -	5
Shepherds - - -	4
Hedger - - - -	1

Of these 16 are married men, one has a mother and sister in his house, and one is a widower; 13 of them keep cows, and all have houses on the farms.

The wages of my married ploughmen are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Money - - -	12	0	0
Oatmeal, 7 to 9 bolls, average 8 - - - -	8	0	0
Milk, 3*d.* a day - -	4	11	3
Potato ground, worked and manured, 1,320 yds., producing, say 1¾ tons -	3	8	0
House and fuel - -	6	0	0
Poultry, 12 hens, say -	2	10	0
	£36	9	3

Where a ploughman has a cow, his wages are 3*l.* to 4*l.* less in money. On my home-farm I have at present eight servants' cows. I also employ—

Boys - - - -	2
Female workers, including dairy-women and their assistants -	27

The above are engaged by 6 or 12 months. The wages of the women are from 6*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* per annum, with food, lodging, and fuel."

129. *Rev. Mr. Fergus*, E. C.—"I have been minister of this parish for 23 years. We are very well provided with schools. I should think that the average number of children begin to attend school about five or six, and for the first two or three years they attend pretty regularly; but as soon as they are old enough to be employed in herding, planting potatoes, thinning turnips, and such like work, they begin to be irregular in their attendance, and a considerable proportion of them when between the ages of 10 and 13 do not get more than four or five months' schooling in the year. The parents are generally anxious to give their children education. I attribute the fact of the children being kept away from school so much partly to the inability of the parents through poverty to dispense with the children's earnings, and partly also to their desire to give them some training in those agricultural employments to which they must look for their future livelihood. I should like to see a compulsory system of education; but it would be very difficult to apply it. I should prefer the third alternative of those suggested in the circular. We have very few crofters in the parish, and the children who attend our school are chiefly the children of farm servants. There are several bothies in the parish; but I am not acquainted with them.

The education among the adults is good; but perhaps not so far advanced as among the rising generation. There is a little girl in the parish school who can read Greek as well as any person. Those who excel generally go south for better employment, and it is usually the less talented or the less ambitious who remain to engage in agricultural employment."

130. *Alexander Cormack.*—"I have now a small farm of 70 or 80 acres, in the neighbourhood; but I was for 40 years grieve at Stemster. During that period wages rose considerably. When I first came there ploughmen only got 4*l.* to 6*l.* and "cost" in the year, and they only had milk for six months of the year. Day-labourers then got about 1*s.* a day. There was hardly any agricultural improvement going on then, and very little demand for job-labour. Women used to be employed a good deal; but not nearly so much as they are now, as there was much less land under root crops. At that time the small tenants paid their rent partly in labour on the landlord's farm. Children were less employed than they are now; there was less need for them.

I have never known of any case in my experience of men and women in a bothy all sleeping in one room.

I have a lad and a lass boarding in my house, who assist me in the cultivation of my farm. The lass gets 2*l.* 10*s.* and the lad 4*l.* 10*s.* in the half year. In the summer I employ a boy, aged from 10 to 14, as a herd. I engage him for about eight months, and pay him 1*l.* 5*s.* and keep."

131. Table showing comparative attendance of children during summer and winter, at four agricultural schools in the parish of Bower.

A.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	20	20
Between 10 and 13 -	10	10
Total boys -	30	30
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	20	20
Between 10 and 13 -	10	10
Total girls -	30	30

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	25	25
Between 10 and 13 -	13	13
Total boys -	38	38
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	25	25
Between 10 and 13 -	13	13
Total girls -	38	38

B.

In Summer.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	6	6
Between 10 and 13 -	8	8
Total boys -	14	14
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	3	3
Between 10 and 13 -	3	3
Total girls -	6	6

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	8	8
Between 10 and 13 -	9	9
Total boys -	17	17
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	3	3
Between 10 and 13 -	8	8
Total girls -	11	11

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C.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	7	7
Between 10 and 13 -	10	10
Total boys -	17	17
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	4	4
Between 10 and 13 -	3	3
Total girls -	7	7

In Winter.

Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	15	15
Between 10 and 13 -	16	16
Total boys -	31	31
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	5	5
Between 10 and 13 -	9	9
Total girls -	14	14

D.

In Summer.

—	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	20	20
Between 10 and 13 -	15	15
Total boys -	35	35
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	10	10
Between 10 and 13 -	9	9
Total girls -	19	19

In Winter.

Boys :		
Under 10 years of age -	15	15
Between 10 and 13 -	35	35
Total boys -	50	50
Girls :		
Under 10 - -	13	13
Between 10 and 13 -	30	30
Total girls -	43	43

EVIDENCE APPLICABLE BOTH TO HIGHLAND AND LOWLAND DISTRICTS.

132. *Mr. Donald McKay.*—Holds four different farms, amounting altogether to 2,000 acres arable in the parishes of Reay, Halkirk, and Thurso; also holds 10,000 acres moor land in Caithness, and two sheep farms in Sutherland. "I have no bothies upon any of my farms for men except temporarily during the turnip season and harvest, when I get some of the lads from my sheep farms and employ them in turnip cleaning and herding. During the summer they are employed as assistant shepherds in Sutherland. I have bothies for women upon all my arable farms, but they all have separate outer doors. I remember that on entering my first farm in this parish (Thurso) I found the lads and lasses all sleeping in the same room; that was 31 years ago, and I think that at that time a similar state of things prevailed pretty generally in the county. The men on my arable farms are principally married, and I also get a great deal of my labour from the sons and daughters of the married men, whom I try to induce to continue at home with their parents and work upon the farm. For the last 20 years I have been educating the children of my farm servants at my own expense; they find the school books themselves but I pay the fees. I am now very well off for cottages, and they generally have two rooms. I do not think that there are any with only one room, at any rate not any which are occupied by a young family. There are very few crofters in the neighbourhood of my farms. Upon one farm which I hold under the Crown there are four or five cottars with in some cases two or three acres attached to their cottages, and I get some of my extra labour from them. They hold from me as yearly tenants, and when not working for me they are usually employed in the quarries. I have been bringing new land into cultivation to a great extent during the last 30 years, and consequently my turnip crops have increased, and I require more women than I did when there was less cottage accommodation, and thus I do not think that I could dispense with female bothies, and I do not find at present that any evil results are occasioned by the system, because when there is proper supervision no immorality need ensue from it. During the turnip season and harvest I get from 30 to 60 women from the east and west coast, and house them in different parts of the steading, all under the surveillance of the grieve. I employ no children at any time of the year. We are very particular about getting our turnips thinned properly, and when the children are very young they destroy them all, so that it would be no advantage to a farmer to employ them under 15. The employment of young children in herding is not so prevalent as it used to be, because the country in general is more enclosed. In the case of the small farms it is more usual, because there is not so much fencing.

I do not think that the small crofting system is a profitable one. I should like to see every man holding land able to employ a pair of horses. On every estate there should be holdings of different size, from 20 acres upwards, so as to enable men to rise and improve their circumstances. The crofting system is dying out in the interior of Caithness, but along the coast it is maintained to furnish accommodation to the fishermen, and it is the interest of the proprietors to keep it up, as they can get higher rents from the fishing class than they would from any other tenants.

I should say that in all grades in this county there is a strong desire for the education of children, and many a poor man makes great sacrifices to attain this object. I do not think that it would be advisable to prohibit agricultural employment under a certain age, as children are not employed to any appreciable extent under the age of 14.

I highly disapprove of feeing markets, and consider that they lead to great drunkenness and immorality, and I should like to see them abolished and a register office substituted.

I am local agent for the Crown estates in Caithness

and in becoming so I recommended the Commissioners in charge of the Land Revenue of Scotland to give increased accommodation to farm servants upon the Crown estates. This recommendation was carried out upon the farms of Scrabster and Lythmore in this parish, the tenants paying 2½ per cent. on the outlay. I would recommend this policy generally upon all estates.

In *Sutherland* there are a great many of the crofter or small tenant class in my neighbourhood. They all live along the coast, and those who hold land occupy from half an acre to 15 acres. They are a good deal employed in fishing, and in some instances are well off, but in some very poor. They occasionally get job labour, but not to any great extent. I think that all among them who can afford it send their children to school. I do not think that there is any difference of feeling on the subject of education between the crofter class and the farm servant. They are all equally anxious for it. Many of the adults cannot sign their own names; the great improvement in education has taken place within the last 20 years.

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I have one ploughman for 30 acres arable in Sutherland, but otherwise the only men in my employ there are 17 shepherds, nine married and the rest unmarried boarding with the married shepherds, and each having a separate "hirsel." (I also employ a considerable number of men and women, but no children, for labouring, who reside upon their own crofts.)

The single men I give 20*l.* money and their board with the married men. The married men I pay chiefly in sheep, the proceeds of which, with the little money which I pay them, will range from 25*l.* to 35*l.* They also have seven bolls meal, two or three acres of ground, the keep of two cows, and a house. When a single man boards in the house, the married shepherd has the keep of another, cow and seven bolls more of meal.

The shepherds are all very anxious to get their children educated; and when not near a school, combine three or four houses together, and keep a lad teacher between them, who goes from house to house. The schools are along the coast, and many of the shepherds live up in the hills out of reach of them."

APPENDIX C.—HIGHLANDS.

SUTHERLAND.

Rogart.

Population - 1,439.

133. Letter from *Mr. Fraser*, Parish Schoolmaster, Golspie.

My Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note of the 6th current, which duly came to hand a few days ago.

While I was schoolmaster of Rogart, from 1838 to 1844, the great bulk of the scholars I had consisted of the children of cottars and agricultural labourers. After looking up some old catalogues I find that of the boys who attended my school during the period mentioned, nine-tenths belonged to the labouring agricultural class. Further I find that three-fourths of the boys left home to push their way in the world, and that of these three-fourths, the majority, if not all, bettered their condition by leaving home. So far as I have been able to trace the lads that went abroad into the world, the greater part of them became foremen of gangs in constructing railways, time-keepers, sub-contractors, shop assistants, clerks, accountants, &c. while a few of them have become ministers, doctors, and revenue officers. All these I should certainly say bettered their condition by relinquishing the agricultural pursuits of their fathers. Whether the others who left home, a few as mechanics, a considerable number as emigrants (to Canada chiefly), some who have become policemen, porters, or labourers about manufactories in the south, or on railways, have been better off than their brothers and cousins who remained at home, I am not prepared to say but I should think that as in these capacities they would earn from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week, they themselves sustained no loss by leaving home, while they certainly enabled their relatives in their native place to live in greater comfort.

As nearly as I can ascertain I think the number of lads of the agricultural class that left school every year would average 20; of this number 5, or 25 per cent., settled down in their native place; of the 75 per cent. who went out into the world two-thirds (or 50 per cent. of the original 20) undoubtedly bettered their condition, while the remaining 5 or 25 per cent. were at any rate as well off in point of means of subsistence as the 5 who cultivated lots at home or wrought as day labourers on farms.

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Mr. Campion.

I take the liberty of instancing a family reared on a lot of land, that paid only 4*l.* of rent, as one of the best specimens of the cottar class. This family consisted of seven sons and two daughters. James Mackay, the eldest son, learned the business of a cartwright, and has been employed by railway contractors for the last 25 years in England, France, and Italy, and is now in Australia; John, the second son, had been for many years an agent of Messrs. Brassy and Field, and is now a partner in that firm; Alexander the third son, died in France, where he acted as timekeeper, storekeeper, &c. to railway contractors; Neil, the fourth son, gets sub-contracts from Messrs. Brassy and others; William, the fifth son, educated by his brothers, is a surgeon in Yorkshire; George, the sixth son, is somewhere employed in the construction of railways; Donald, the youngest, is an agent for railway contractors in India with a salary of, I think, 400*l.* a year; the elder of the two daughters married a Rogart lad, who made 2,000*l.* as a railway contractor, and who emigrated to New Zealand. This man was the minister's cattle herd a year or two before I went to Rogart. The youngest daughter taught dressmaking in Edinburgh, at the expense of her brothers, married a Free Church schoolmaster, is now a widow and is at present a dressmaker on her own account in London. All were scholars of mine, and I have now with me two sons of John's in my school.

Trusting the above may be of some use to you.

I have the honor to be,

Very truly yours,

Thomas Fraser.

Lairg.

Population, 961. - Acreage not known, about 15 square miles.

Cultivation, chiefly pastoral.

134. *Rev. Farquhar Matheson*, E.C.—Boys and girls are employed from 14 years old and upwards in herding cattle, gathering weeds, and planting and gathering potatoes. Women are employed to a very limited extent, the demand for agricultural labour

Sutherland. Mr. Campion. V.

being small. The above go from half a mile to two miles to their work. The hours of work are from 9 to 10 hours a day for all alike. The young and females are not subject to any ill-treatment or exposed to any physical injury in their work.

The employment of females is not so regular as to interfere with domestic training, and is as little injurious to morals as any work in which persons are associated in common. The demand for labour here is so limited as to call for no legal restriction.

Shepherds and ploughmen are well provided with cottages, other labourers live on their own holdings. The bothy system does not exist, and I am not aware of any other mode of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously upon education or morals. Immorality to some extent is found under every arrangement. Agriculture with us exists only on a very small scale. The style of cottage accommodation is certainly improving, and the proprietor gives every encouragement to improvement in this and other departments.

The mode of enforcing school attendance prescribed by the "Printworks Act" appears preferable to the other two for this district as labour is limited to summer and autumn. The means of education are sufficient, though not used to the extent desirable, the attendance is irregular, and many children are employed in herding the small holdings of families from trespass while the crops are on the ground. There are few or no children who totally neglect school, though the attendance of many is so desultory as to be only nominal and is short of much good result.

LETTER from the above.

"DEAR SIR,

"IN reply to your supplemental communication on this subject I beg to state.

1. Children are not usually hired *out of their own homes* for herding, &c. under 14 years of age, but they are so employed at home, or kept nursing and doing innumerable other domestic duties from their earliest years, especially in the poorer families. In these scanty clothing is a frequent excuse for absence from school. Poverty and unsteady occupation seem to induce indolence and apathy on the part of parents in regard to education as well as general improvement. Among a large population of crofters it seems unavoidable that there should be many families not far from the verge of pauperism; with these it is a continued struggle without much hope of improvement, to find the means of living.

2. Herding, whether at home or in the service of those who can hire, principally lasts from April to November. In some cases of the latter class it extends over the year.

3. As to the size of crofts, there are some holdings of from 10 to 20 acres, the great majority being from 6 acres to 2 acres. The average size of all I think would not exceed 3 or at most 4 acres. But in judging of the means of subsistence thus afforded it is to be observed that every croft carries a right of grass on the hill sufficient for one or more cows, and occasionally sheep and a horse, during the summer and autumn, without this last the people could not live on their cultivated acres. It follows that all are less or more dependant on the land. With exception of one or two country artizans and shopkeepers and some hired servants and shepherds, there are none who live entirely by a trade or regular occupation as day labourers, but many are obliged to avail themselves of whatever occasional work offers at home or to go where such is to be found. We have 30 paupers chiefly aged, disabled, or friendless persons, two resident pastoral farmers and probably 20 families of servants hired by the year, one family of independent means. Supposing all these to amount to 160 and the whole population of the parish in round numbers to be 1,000, it gives the numerical proportion of the crofters to the rest of the population as 21 to 4.

4. There is no large arable farm, the greatest amount of cultivation in any one locality being about 70 or 80 acres around the homesteads of the two resident pastoral farmers.

I have only to remark, farther, that the progress of improvement in a population thus situated must be slow. Those who have known the country for the last quarter of a century must see many symptoms of advancement in the material condition of the people. The benevolent interest taken by the late Duke of Sutherland in the poorer classes is too well known to need any comment, and the present Duke is most munificent in his expenditure to supply them with work, and to open up the capabilities of the country. Sir James Matheson also has expended considerable sums in improvements on his estate in this parish.

I shall be glad that these observations should answer in any degree the purpose of your queries;

And I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

FARQUAHAR MATHESON."

KILDONAN STRATH.

135. *Isaac McKay*, Schoolmaster.—"My school is attended exclusively by the children of the shepherds who live in the Strath. Three-and-a-half miles is the longest distance that any of them have to come. During the last half-year 15 was the highest number attending, but in the half-year before that as many as 24 have come sometimes. I should call 10 an average attendance. They attend in summer as regularly as in winter. There are no school fees, but the parents board me in turn, in proportion to the number of their children attending school, a fortnight for each scholar. The school was built by Mr. Andrew Rutherford, and he pays me 20*l.* a year, which is all the salary I get.

The children attend very regularly, except in bad weather, which often keeps them away. They begin to come at about 6 years old, and continue to attend up to 15, when they begin, both girls and boys, to assist their parents at home. They all learn to read, write, and do the common rules of arithmetic, and they also learn grammar. Generally they learn geography and sometimes Latin. I have three Latin scholars now, and I have only been at the school for 1½ years. They all buy their own books. I always give home-lessons to my pupils in the house in which I am boarding at the time."

FARR.

Population - 2,103.

ALTNAHARRA.

136. EXTRACTS from Letter of Rev. Mr. McKay, F. C. Minister.

1. The congregation will be sometimes as large as 100, but the average number is about 70.

It consists, with the exception of one or two families, of shepherds and gamekeepers with their families. But this applies only to the regular congregation, for in the summer season the district is visited by many tourists and others of various denominations, and this often makes the congregation rather a mixed one.

2. The church has been erected by the people, who also provide about one-half the minister's stipend. The other half is made up of a small legacy left by a gentleman, who was a sheep farmer in the district, and the contributions of a few subscribers who do not reside in the district. They also erected a school and pay a schoolmaster for the greater part of the year; but for this they are indebted to the subscriptions of others; among others the Duke of Sutherland, who gives 5*l.* a year for the school, and 5*l.* for the church.

They are now building a manse, but they have to abandon a part of the plan that was drawn out as suitable for the place for want of funds. They have about 150*l.* provided, and the promise of 50*l.* from the Free Church Building Fund in Edinburgh.

3. The shepherds in general are a well-educated people; some of them are well-informed, and they all show a desire to provide education for their children.

4. When the children grow up some of them assist and succeed their parents, some emigrate, some seek

employment at a distance, and not a few of them are employed as clerks in shops and banks, and other offices, and excellent business men some of those young men make.

5. The district of Altnaharra includes a part of five surrounding parishes, represents an area of about 20 by 20 miles, or 400 square miles, and contains a population of about 150.

I am not sure of the exact area or population, but the foregoing figures must be very near the mark.

Nothing further occurs to me in the meantime that would be of any special value or interest. I may mention however that the people of this district are so desirous of having gospel ordinances administered among them and their children educated, that I believe they go to the utmost length that their means will admit of. Living at such a distance from one another the greater number of them have to employ a person in their houses to teach their children.

137. *Donald McKay*, schoolmaster.—"I am paid altogether 10*l.* a year, which is contributed half by the Duke, and the rest partly by the farmer and the tenant of the shootings, and partly by the donations of strangers. The shepherds board me turn about for a month at each house, and if there is any deficiency in the 10*l.* they make it up. I have now 15 scholars attending the school, the eldest of whom is 15 and the youngest about six. Some of them have to come five miles, others three and others two. In the winter quarter the school is shut up, *i.e.*, during the months of December, January, and February, in consequence of the weather. For the remaining nine months the children attend pretty regularly, but they are occasionally prevented by stormy weather. Those who are just come in have come five miles, and are aged, the two boys respectively 15 and 11, and the girl 9." —[This was on a very bad day, a cold and boisterous wind, and occasional showers of sleet.—C. W. C.]

"All my scholars are the children of shepherds. I teach them the common branches, viz., reading, writing, arithmetic, as far as rule-of-three, and a little geography and grammar. They usually leave when they are about 15 or 16 years of age. There are no school fees. I give home lessons in the evenings to the children at the house in which I am boarding at the time. During the winter three months I am engaged for a fortnight in each house teaching the children, but the houses are none of them near enough for the children to go backwards and forwards from one to the other at that time, so that my instructions are confined to the children of the house in which I am boarding."

Tongue.

Population, 2,077. - Cultivation, chiefly pastoral.

138. *Mr. Mitchell*, occupier. — Farms 35 acres arable, 35,000 acres pasture. Nature of soil, sharp. Course of husbandry, five course shift. Employs eight shepherds and one manager; also, on the arable land, one male between 13 and 18, one over 18, and four unmarried females.

No boys or girls are employed on this farm. Women are employed in occasional out-door labour. Men and women both work 10 hours a day. Females are not subject to any ill-treatment or exposed to physical injury in their work, and I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon their employment in agriculture. The labourers generally have "lots" or small farms of their own. The bothy system does not exist, nor is there any other mode of lodging farm servants injurious to morals or education. Labourers, both male and female, are paid in money. The children attend school pretty regularly, but there is no class that can be called an "agricultural labour-" ing class" in this district.

139. The *Rev. Mr. Logan*, E.C.—"The population of the parish lies almost entirely along the coast, and consists of small crofters and fishermen. The fishing population have usually a small croft attached to their houses, but not sufficient to maintain them, and they depend mainly upon the fishing. Their occupation in fishing lasts during the greater part of the year, as they are employed in the lobster and deep sea fishing in addition to the herring fishery in the summer. There are not many arable farms in the parish. Some of the sheep farms have a little arable land attached to them, but to a very trifling extent. Some of the occupiers of sheep farms here have also arable farms in Caithness and on the east coast of Sutherland. There are three schools in the parish in connection with the church, viz., one parochial and two supported by the General Assembly. There are also four Free Church schools, three of which are close to the three in connection with our church. All the schools are either on the coast or in close proximity to it. There are no schools in the interior, but the shepherds and parties near them, such as innkeepers and gamekeepers, club together and hire a young man for part of the year. I suppose that from 30 to 40 children are usually educated in this way in a district of the parish which I am acquainted with called Altnaharra, and in the other districts a similar system is pursued.

The crofters are pretty well off as a class; they are not rented high, and have all a right of pasture on the hill side. The children go to school as young as 5, and till 8 they attend pretty regularly in summer as well as winter. After that age they begin to be employed in herding and field work on the arable land in the district of Tongue. This employment lasts usually from two to three months during the summer season, but I do not think that children over 9 years of age get more than six months of the year at school; they are kept away by employment at home for the rest of the time. I know no cases of children being kept from school by the inability of the parents to provide clothing or books. We have a spare store of books which we lend gratuitously when necessary. The parents are never pressed to pay the fees. The adults are very intelligent people; they know the three R.'s pretty generally, and are always anxious for the education of their children. I do not think that there is the slightest necessity for a compulsory system of education here. Our poor rates for last year were, I think, 3*s.* 9*d.* in the pound."

140. *Mr. McTavish*, schoolmaster, General Assembly school, Melness.—"My school is a mixed one. The children begin to attend about 6 years of age, and till they are 9 attend pretty regularly both in summer and winter. With the exception of two families who are each of them three miles off, most of them do not have to come more than one mile. Some of them begin to be employed in field work and herding as early as 9 years old, and this keeps them away for about four months in the summer; this four months is exclusive of the vacation, so that they are absent altogether for six months. I should say that most of the children between 9 and 14 attend school for half of the year; some do not attend so much owing to the neglect of the parents, who are sometimes not quite alive to the interests of their children. This would be particularly the case with the poorer sort, amongst whom want of shoes and proper clothing prevent regular attendance in winter. At 13 an average boy would pass Standard IV. of the Revised Code. I have about 12 scholars over 15 attending my school in the winter."

Durness.

Population, 1,060. - Cultivation, chiefly pastoral.

141. *Mr. G. Reed*, occupier, farms 65 acres arable and 65 acres pasture; nature of soil, light—sandy; course of husbandry, 6-shift system.—Boys and girls are employed in agriculture during the spring and summer, but not under 14 years of age. I employ on an average about six women, *i.e.*, in harvest and busy times more, and at other times less. The women and young persons have about one mile to go to their work; the hours of which are from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. for men, women, and children alike. They are by no means subject to any ill-treat-

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V.

ment or exposed to any physical injury, neither do the females suffer any injury in their morals from their agricultural employment. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children.

The cottages are capable of improvement and are being improved; they are sufficient, and are conveniently situated; as far as I know no evil results to morality have been caused by overcrowding. The bothy system does not exist nor is there any other mode of lodging farm servants which acts injuriously on education or morals. There are scarcely any gardens attached to the cottages, but farm servants are generally allowed a cow and potato ground. There are no hiring markets, each individual is hired by the grieve and paid in cost the earnings of an able-bodied farm labourer, amounting on the average to about 30*l.* per annum. There is a good parish school, attached to which there is an excellent sewing school. The children attend well.

142. *Rev. Mr. Grant*, E.C.—"I have been 13 years minister at Durness. During that time there has been a gradual improvement in the condition of the people. They have a better class of houses and keep them better. The people in Durness are not so dependent upon the herring fishing as those on the west coast; they have the lobster fishing for about three months of the year, and there is considerable demand for labour upon the large sheep farms in the parish at the time of shearing and smearing the sheep, each of which operations last for about three weeks, the first in the month of June, and the second in October and November; besides this there is a considerable quantity of arable land attached to three of the sheep farms, and many of the women find occupation there as field workers during the summer and autumn. The women are also employed, with the men, in peat cutting in the month of May, and make some money in that way: the men get 2*s.* a day and the women 1*s.* at this employment. It is hard work for the women, but not beyond their strength. The parents are most anxious to send their children to school, and the attendance is generally very regular. There is no demand for the labour of children—there is no herding to speak of in the parish—the cattle are taken to the hills in the morning and left there without any one to find their own way home at night; in fact, children are not employed in any agricultural pursuit in any way to interfere with their education. I do not think that it is at all necessary or advisable to have a compulsory system of education.

There is a great deal of emigration to seek employment at a distance in this district, especially among the better educated, and I attribute this mainly to the influence of good schools. A very large proportion of the sons and daughters of crofters better their position in this way by leaving their homes. Considerable sums of money are from time to time remitted from the colonies and also from the south by young persons who have thus left to their parents at home. The people as a rule are exceedingly sober, moral, and industrious, and I do not know one who is not trying to make the best of his position.

143. *John Gunn*, ground officer.—"The crofters' holdings vary from two acres to six, and upon an average they are rented at nearly 1*l.* an acre, but this includes a right of pasture over a large tract of hill ground. There are 98 small tenants in my district, which includes Loch Eriboll side, and I think that the tract over which they have right of pasture might be let for as much as the gross rental of all the crofts. The people here are a great deal employed in fishing, both the lobster and herring fishing. The lobster fishery has been very good for the last four years, but the herring fishery is very precarious. Sometimes I have seen men coming home without a shilling, and sometimes with 22*l.* a piece. Some of the men have boats of their own, and some of them go to Wick and engage as hirers. About 30 have shares in six large boats here, and an equal number go to Wick. The land is almost all under barley and potatoes. Last year was the best crop of barley which I have seen, and I should say that each tenant would have got an average of seven bolls of meal off his land. All of them have two cows, and some three, but none of them sell any milk. They all sell perhaps a young beast every year. We allow them also the pasture of five sheep for every 1*l.* of rent, but some of them cannot afford to purchase the full complement. This however is not often the case. I should think that upon the average the sheep will pay the rent.

On Loch Eriboll side there are 18 small tenants who are the poorest that we have, but they only pay 1*l.* rent apiece, and the Duke gives a schoolmaster 10*l.* for teaching them, the people themselves supplying him with food. I think that the parents are all anxious to give their children some schooling, and upon the whole they go to school as much as was the case in Halkirk, which is my native place. I have been here 15 years."

144. EXTRACTS from Report by *John Gunn*, Ground officer, Durness, for the month of September, 1869.

Kindly supplied to the Assistant Commissioner by Evander McIver, Esq.

Fishing—what doing in?

There has been no white fish got, but there has been some herrings got all along in Loch Eriboll, which they are selling at 30*s.* the barrel through the parish. The fish curers have not commenced as yet to take them, as they do not much care for the kind that has been got as yet, being very small. There has been seven boats with their crews, every one having an equal share from here of the Wick herring fishery, but they made a very poor fishing except one. The following is the take by each boat:—

No. 1.	J. McKay and crew,	162	crans,	22*s.* per cran.
„ 2.	A. Morrison	„ 68	„	„
„ 3.	E. McKay	„ 44	„	„
„ 4.	A. McKay	„ 45	„	„
„ 5.	J. Munro	„ 48	„	„
„ 6.	D. McKenzie	„ 45	„	„
„ 7.	J. McKay	„ 88	„	„

The crew of No. 1, five in number, after paying their debt to the curer, and also paying their expenses the year, had 22*l.* each clear, and being saving men themselves they took the whole of their money home. For the last two years they made no fishing and came home pennyless. The other six crews this year took home nothing, not 1*l.* by one person, the whole of them being in debt to the curer. They got what paid their expenses while there and no more. There was 35 men from this parish engaged as hired hands: their wages was from 4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*, with meat and lodgings free. They had to provide groceries, &c., themselves. It is not easy to ascertain how much money they took home, as some make it more and others less than it was, and I believe a few of them make a bad use of it when they get it, but the most part of them would take home on an average 4*l.*, so far as I could ascertain. There was about a score of women from here getting herrings. They did well, none less than 20*s.* after paying all expenses. In former years they engaged for the harvest at the expiry of the fishing, but this year they got none to engage them owing to the work being carried on for the most part by machines and scythes. There are 20 boats with two or three men each at the lobster-fishing here. They commenced in January, and carried on till the 15th of May occasionally when it was fine weather, but sometimes they would be two weeks on an end that they could not get out. Two nights a week is as much as they would average out. A few of them followed it on till July. They have got as high as 1*s.* 8*d.* clear after paying all expenses, and as low as 5*d.*, but the average price, so far as I can ascertain, would be 10½*d.* The following is the number got by each boat:—

1. George Campbell, and one man with him	320
2. Donald Morrison, ditto	318

3. C. M'Kay, ditto - - - 180
4. H. Gunn, ditto - - - 130
5. S. Campbell, and two men with him 850
6. J. M'Kay, ditto - - - 850
7. R. Sutherland, ditto - - 800
8. D. Morrison, ditto - - 420
9. A. Morrison and one man - - 480
10. R. M'Donald, ditto - - 430
11. H. M'Kay, ditto - - - 460
12. S. Morrison, ditto - - - 320
13. R. Dingwall and two men - - 500
14. H. M'Donald and one man - 520
15. J. Munro, ditto - - - 500
16. A. Swanson, ditto - - - 470
17. R. M'Kenzie, ditto - - 470
18. D. M'Kay, ditto - - - 400
19. C. Campbell, ditto - - 420
20. R. M'Kay, ditto - - - 310

By the above it will be seen that there was 45 men at the lobster fishery; the total amount of their earnings was about 400*l*. In the month of March there was 200 bushels of wilks sent away, the most of them being from Loch Eriboll side, for which they got a return of 3*s*. per bushel. In April there was another lot sent of 300 bushels; but there was nothing got for them, said to be rotten when they reached London.

The quantity of meal imported to this parish during the year for small tenants, cottars, paupers, &c., which commenced on the 11th January, was, so far as I could ascertain, 602 bolls.

The average price of the meal during the year would be 24*s*. 6*d*. the boll; but am satisfied that close on the one half of it is unpaid yet There came more meal in years that they had a better crop of their own; but this year they could not work in it, and had to struggle through the best way they could, which was very bare at times. For the last two weeks the weather has been very wet. On the 25th there was a strong gale of wind, and some lost largely from shaking, especially those that had their corn standing.

145. Return of the Number of Children who attend the following Schools in the parish of Durness, Sept. 1867. Also supplied by E. M'Iver, Esq.

Schools.	Where situated.	Number of Children attending School.	Average Number of Days on which Children attend School.	Number of Children who attend no School.	Remarks.
Established School - - -	Durness - -	64	210	—	—
Free Church School - - -	Do. - -	35	210	—	—
Side School, Loch Erriboll - -	Loch Erriboll -	17	120	—	—
		116	540		

Note by the Ground Officer.

The above, so far as I could learn, is about the average attendance. I find the whole of the parents inclined to give some education to their children.

There is none between the age of 6 years to 16 years in this parish but can read middling well, and the most of them of both sexes can write a little. No doubt parents is rather careless about keeping their children in regular attendance, especially from the 1st of May till the 1st of November; they keep at home all those that can herd or do any little work about hand. During the winter and spring six months they are often absent from the want of shoes and clothes; but upon the whole I find the whole of the small tenants desirous of giving their children so much school that they can read the Bible, and, as already stated, the whole of the grown-up children can read and write a little. On Loch Erriboll side the school is only open for six months in the year.

Eddrachilles.

Population, 1,641. Cultivation, chiefly pastoral (the arable land being limited to small patches near the sea).

146. *Evander M'Iver, Esq.*, factor to the Duke of Sutherland.—Farms 35 acres arable.
2,500 „ pasture.

Nature of soil, mossy and gravelly. Course of husbandry, five-course shift.

Boys are rarely employed. When they are it is simply as cow-herds and in assisting at lambing with sheep. No girls are employed under 15 years of age. I employ women at farm work, about eight on the average during summer and harvest, and occasionally in winter. They walk from half a mile to a mile from their homes to their work. Both men and women work 10 hours in summer and less in winter. The women are not subject to any ill-treatment in their work. There is nothing in the employment of females there to injure their morals; but those who go annually to the east coast of Sutherland, Ross, and Caithness often get demoralised by intercourse in barns and bothies, and we have had cases of illegitimate children in consequence. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children in agriculture. There are sufficient cottages, and there is no overcrowding in them. The bothy system is unknown, and long may it be so! There is no mode of lodging injurious to morals. There are few houses without land attached to them. It is common to give the keep of a cow or milk to farm servants, also potato ground. The Duke of Sutherland is sole proprietor in this parish, and he does much to give good houses to servants on the farms, and he also assists and encourages the small tenants to improve their dwellings.

This is purely a pastoral district, and the people are principally small tenants and fishermen. Shepherds hold the best situations, being well paid and having land for potatoes and hay, and the keep of two cows each.

As no children are employed in agriculture in this parish, none of the three modes of enforcing school attendance proposed by the Commissioners are applicable to it; but I should suppose that, when practicable, half a day at school and half a day at work would be most applicable to rural districts.

Parents generally send their children to school, and there are few parts of the parish where they have not this in their power. Education is prized and generally given to the children.

Letter from the same.

Dear Sir,

You have asked me to state to you what the Duke of Sutherland has done in recent years to assist the small tenants in this district of his estates.

(*a*.) In cultivating their lands.—He has provided seed when required, which unfortunately for a few years past owing to deficient crops and unsuccessful fishings was found necessary, giving premiums to those tenants whose industry and perseverance were shewn by draining or otherwise improving their crofts, and labour has been specially provided to afford employment to such as had not food to enable them to cultivate their crofts at the proper season.

(*b*.) In rebuilding and improving their houses.—For many years it has been the custom in this district to aid all such small tenants as wished to build new

Sutherland.
Mr. Campion.
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houses by giving them lime, timber, glass, and in many cases money, and this annual assistance has tended greatly to stimulate the tenantry to improve, repair, and add to their houses, it being conditioned that chimneys are erected and outhouses provided for cattle.

(*c.*) The labour provided by the Duke of Sutherland both in the district and out of it in the Dunrobin district has for some years past been large. Much of it as above stated was purposely set agoing for the employment of those whose crops had failed and who had been unsuccessful as fishermen. Paths, roads, dykes, drains, trenching, and other works have been made and proved most valuable and useful in relieving those in want, as well as in testing the actual condition of the people generally.

(*d.*) In educating their children.—The Duke of Sutherland has since I became his factor in 1845 built anew or added to and improved very largely ten teachers' dwellings and school houses in this district. He pays salaries and allowances to all the teachers, and pays female teachers in many of their schools. In fact the liberality and consideration of the Sutherland family in the cause of education has ever been conspicuous, and never more so than under the present Duke. The Free Church also maintains three or four schools in this district, so that I may confidently affirm education is well attended to, and the result is that year by year the effect is seen in the improvement and civilization of the small tenants and their families.

2. You ask for the causes of greater poverty in our portion of this district as compared with other parts of it. Our people are unfortunately all fishermen as well as tenants of land, in recent years it has occurred that crops, especially potatoes, and the efforts of the people at the fishing in Lewis, in Caithness, and on their own coasts have failed, and this coincidence of misfortunes has fallen with great severity in two or three successive years, hence the state of want into which many of them have fallen.

Kinlochbervie and the townships to the west of it, more especially the Oldshore portion of that parish, felt want more than other people in the Scourie district owing to the poverty of the soil they cultivate, their being not so very energetic and industrious as their neighbors, the want of a good harbour, and the shores being exposed to the prevailing west winds. Durness has got through better than the other parishes owing to the energy and industry of the people and the crops being better. The Scourie portion of Eddrachilles also weathered its difficulties better for the same reasons. Assynt has an immense population, the people are more densely situated on the coast and are more dependent on fishing than on their crofts. Their condition generally was trying but they are a more active people than their Oldshore neighbours, and with much aid from the Duke of Sutherland in labour and seed have overcome their difficulties with much success and credit. Two townships of tenants situated inland wholly dependent on stock and crops exhibited advantages over their fishing brethren, for no cry of want and very little demand for seed came from them.

3. The average size of the lots in this district held by the small tenants is about three acres of arable land, but each tenant has in addition a right of pasturage on the hills where sheep, cattle, and horses are grazed. We calculate that there are for each tenant in Assynt 70 acres ; in Eddrachilles 83 acres ; and in Durness 40 acres of common hill pasture.

4. The habits of the people are frugal as a rule, sober, and peaceable. There is little difference between the people of the three parishes of this district in these respects. They drink whisky when they meet at inns, but few or none of them can be called drunkards. Their habits as to cleanliness are not equal to those of their more southern equals ; but they have much improved in recent years in this respect. They all dress well, especially on Sundays, and at marriages, funerals, &c. they all turn out in broad cloth ; and the women in gay colors in church would give strangers an idea of comfort and material progress not yet arrived at in reality.

The small tenants of Sutherland as a class are superior to many of their neighbours in Ross and Inverness in point of education and civilization. English is now spoken fluently among them. Gaelic is receding.

The people on the west coast are more moral than their neighbours on the east. Bastardy is much less common among them. They are respectful towards their superiors, and considering their position and the difficulties they have had to contend with for some years are quiet and contented and not troublesome.

I hope I have answered all your queries, and

I remain, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. McIver.

147. *Rev. Donald Corbett*, F. C. Kinlochbervie, Loch Inchard.—"I have been minister here since the year 1864. Since that time there has been a perceptible increase in the population. I do not think that many of the young people leave their homes permanently for employment at a distance ; there are some who do so, but not many in proportion to the population. The great bulk of the adults, both men and women, go to the herring fishing both in the west and east, and they also depend a great deal upon the ordinary coast fishing for their support. There has been very great destitution during the last two or three years in consequence of the failure of the herrings, the crops are also uncertain in consequence of the climate, and the character of the soil, which being broken up with ruts and stones is very difficult to cultivate. I cannot say that the people are quite so industrious as they might be, and I often tell them so. The adults can barely read and write, the men generally do a little writing, but the women not so much ; they are willing enough to send their children to school, if they can get education gratis, but they will not send them regularly, and always withdraw them in the spring, summer, and autumn. I do not think that there is so much necessity for this as the parents plead, but they huddle all their work together into one or two corners of the year, and then they are unable at those times to do without their children's assistance. I should like to see a compulsory system of education but I do not know how it could be applied. All Highlanders from my experience require some pressure without oppression to induce them to do anything. Poverty is often the cause which prevents parents from sending their children to school. I do not think that any children do work at too early an age in this county, and the work which they do when young is merely on their parents crofts and just about the house. Women work a great deal upon the crofts, and some of them go to Caithness for harvest work, but they are hardly ever employed as hirers in this district. The cottages are very indifferent, they generally contain two rooms, but the way in which both sexes are crowded together in one room at night must I think be prejudicial to their morality."

148. *Rev. Mr. McKenzie*, E.C., Kinlochbervie.—"I have been minister here for five years. There is a great deal of apathy and indifference among the parents upon the subject of education. Very few of the adults can read or write, and I do not think that they appreciate the advantage of sending their children to school. Children are often kept at home without being really required there for any employment whatever. Very few of the parents pay the school fees, in fact I think that many of them are unable to do so this year in consequence of the failure of their crops in addition to the bad herring fishery. Most of the people here are largely in debt to the curers in Caithness who have advanced them money during the last two or three bad years. I think that it would be highly advisable to compel parents to send their childen to school, but I do not think that it is in consequence of

any employment in agriculture that they are prevented from a sufficiently regular attendance."

149. *Peter McDonald*, parish schoolmaster, Badcallinchard.—"The attendance of the children generally is very irregular; the young ones attend better in spring and summer than in winter, but from 9 years old and upwards they begin to be employed in planting potatoes and herding. There is a good deal of negligence on the part of the parents in respect of education, and children are also frequently kept away through poverty and inability on the part of the parents to provide them with proper clothing. From one point, viz., Achlyness, they have to come four miles, but with that exception not more than two miles. There used to be a Free Church school which the children from Achlyness attended, but it has been given up now as the people were unable to maintain it. An average boy or girl of 13, among my scholars, will be able to pass the 5th Standard. The average number of children attending last year was 14. This would be out of a population of about 200."

150. *Poor widow*, Loch Inchard.—Has five children at home and five away. Her eldest son is a clerk at Edinburgh and sends her 1*l.* occasionally; her second son is travelling for a cloth house in England; her third son is at the Red River working under the Hudson's Bay Company; her fourth child, a daughter, is in service at Thurso; and her fifth, also a daughter, in service to a shepherd in this parish. She gets 6*l.* a year from the parochial board for those of her children who are not grown up; gathers wilks or periwinkles upon the shore, and made 11*s.* 8*d.* by it this spring. Her children were all winter in school, now they are planting potatoes. Her only son at home, a boy of 14, would not go to school last winter although she tried to compel him; he would run off to the hills to get out of her way; can read the Gaelic Bible herself, but cannot write. The family live upon oatmeal porridge, but have to do without milk, treacle, or syrup, but she tries to give a little sugar when she can to the younger children. Sometimes she will get some fish in exchange for peats which she has cut herself; occasionally she has a little tea and sugar. Her sons who are away got plenty of education—they would be beggars without it. She gets little pieces of ground here and there allowed her by people about in which she plants potatoes, providing the seed and manure herself.

This poor woman was wonderfully cheerful under the adverse circumstances in which she was placed, and seemed quite determined to make the best of everything. Her cottage consisted of two rooms, both very dirty and miserable looking. In the inner one was a fire-place and chimney at one end of the room, but this was entirely disused, and the fire was, after the old fashion, in the middle of the floor in the outer room, the smoke escaping through the roof. She spoke nothing but Gaelic, and the conversation had to be carried on through an interpreter.

151. *George Corbett*, crofter, Old Shore-More, occupies four acres arable land, and has also a right of pasture on the hills for four cattle and 20 sheep.

Pays 2*l.* rent.

"I had about six sheep last summer, but four of them have died during the winter and the remaining two are just about the house; I use my right of pasture in summer, but not now. I have got a cow up the hill and a young beast here. I grow oats, barley, and potatoes in turn upon my land, and cultivate it entirely with the spade, there is not a plough in the township but one, which belongs to a man who keeps a pair of horses and is a larger tenant. I have also got a horse which I use for carrying peat and sea-ware for manure. I never sell any thing off my land. Last year I sold no sheep, but sometimes I will sell some, I sell a young beast may be every other year, getting perhaps from 2*l.* to 4*l.* for her.

I have seven children, The eldest a daughter aged 25 is at service in Rogart; the second a son aged 22 is at sea now getting sea-ware for the land, but during the winter he was employed as a teacher by some shepherds; the third a son aged 19 is working for the schoolmaster and living at home; the fourth a daughter aged 17 is about the house; the fifth a boy aged 14 generally attends school, but he didn't go to-day because I sent him a message, he goes to school for eight month in the year, for the rest of the time he does some herding for me, but never hires; the sixth a girl of 12 generally goes to school, but she is also at home today, she has been herding for me, and I thought that there was to be no school as the schoolmaster had some people planting potatoes for him, the seventh is a girl of 9 and I think she is at school now. We pay the schoolmaster in produce and labour, and sometimes not at all. I go to the herring fishing in a boat in which I have a share along with three other men, and last year we made about 150*l.* between us, but we are at present in debt to the curer to the amount of 65*l.* There is not a crew in this district which is free from debt to the curers. I do not intend going any more to the Lewis fishing, but shall fish for cod and ling on the coast during May and June. Our food consists of oatmeal, potatoes, milk, and fish. When we are at the fishing in Caithness we get beef and mutton, but don't care much about it. I always go to the lobster fishing in winter and spring, there are three of us in a boat, and in a good year we may make 30*l.*, but last year we made nothing. I get no extra labour of any kind in the neighbourhood. The place is so poor that there is none to be had."

His cottage consisted of two rooms and a closet on the ground floor, and a bedroom besides above, where his sons slept. It was tolerably orderly and well kept, but the cottage was quite one of the old type, and in the sitting room as much of the smoke went through crevices in the gable as through the orthodox hole in the roof.

152. *Rev. Mr. Tulloch*, F. C., Scourie.—"I do not think that there is any lack of desire on the part of parents to educate their children, and if the children do not attend school it is owing to other causes, such as poverty. Most of the children go to school, and it is only a very few who are kept at home, and I believe that in such cases their absence arises from the poverty of the parents. The state of education among the younger portion of the adult population is very fair. I do not remember for many years back a single instance of a young man or woman being unable to sign the marriage register.

The children are certainly not kept from school by any employment in agriculture, there is no demand for children's labour in this district. The women assist in the cultivation of the crofts, carrying and spreading sea-ware, planting potatoes, &c., and they often hire out among themselves. A good many both of the young men and women go south for employment as they grow up. The people here depend very much upon the fishing, and have suffered a great deal lately from its failure. I have been minister here for 39 years, during which time there has been great improvement in the matter of education, but the people are worse off now than they used to be owing to the way in which the fishing on this coast has deteriorated. Another cause which seriously affected the material prosperity of the people about 30 years ago was the failure of the kelp trade owing to the importation of barilla duty-free. This change deprived the people on the coast of an occupation at a time of the year when they were not otherwise employed and from which they derived a considerable portion of their subsistence."

153. *Alexander Cowie*, parish schoolmaster, Scourie.—"I have been a teacher here for 13 years. The furthest distance which any children have to come to this school is not more than two miles. Some of the shepherds' children from the interior of the county come 11 miles, but they lodge in the village and only go home for the vacation, which is for six weeks in July and August. I do not think that the average of children begin to attend school here till they are 8 years old; they do not attend with any regularity in

Sutherland.

Mr. Campion.

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any case, but continue to come at some time of the year till they are 15 or 16. I should think that four months would be an average attendance in the course of the year for children between 8 and 12. They are kept away a good deal by indifference to education on the part of the parents, and also by employment at home on the crofts at certain seasons of the year. They very seldom hire as herds; all their employment is in assisting their parents at home. There are many here too poor to pay the fees, indeed there is scarcely such a thing as getting fees all over the Highlands, and I believe that circumstance of the non-payment of fees to be one of the reasons why the parents do not value education. An average boy of 13 here would be able to pass Standard IV. I tried a night school for adults one year but without success; the attendance was very irregular, and I never attempted it again."

154. *Peter Matheson*, crofter.—Has a croft of four or five acres, arable, and some right of pasture on the hill. Is too rheumatic to do much work himself, but has two grown up sons and a daughter who live with him and assist him. The sons are away just now getting sea-ware. A third son is in a carpenter's yard at Aberdeen, and is a good scholar. The other two sons know something, but not so much. He can read and write himself.

His cottage was very bad, but he said that he was going to build a new one.

155. *Shepherd* of small tenantry at Scourie. Has, besides other children, a girl of 14 who is not at school, and has not been for the last four years. She can read very little, and cannot write at all. His next child, a boy of 12, is at school, but the next to him, a girl of 9, is at home.

This was clearly a case of indifference and not of poverty, for the man had a good croft, and shepherds are always well paid. The girl of 14 appeared to be doing nothing at home except run about and amuse herself, but said that she helped her mother in the house. The father and mother were both out.

156. *Duncan McLeod*, a bachelor.—Holds between two and three acres, for which he pays 5*l.*; but this rent includes a right of pasture on the hills for four cattle and 20 sheep. Has got no sheep now; they are all gone, they died in the spring. Does not sell anything off his land, but has to buy if he can. Will sell perhaps 1½ stone of wool at 19*s.* per stone in the year, and a young beast every third year; got 3*l.* for the last one. Does not go to the fishing now, but works sometimes as a labourer in repairing houses, making paths, &c., principally in Lord Westminster's forest, where there are a great many improvements being carried on.

157. Extracts from the Report of *Alex. McKay*, ground officer of Eddrachilles, for the month of September 1869. Kindly supplied to the Assistant Commissioner by Evander McIver, Esq.

There are a few boats fishing herring occasionally, but not successfully; a few scores only from time to time taken.

How many crews engaged in white fishing?

There is no regular crews fishing. There is some of the natives fishes occasionally, and gets very few; uses them for their own families.

This month has been in general wet and partly stormy, and in consequence the most part of the crops is unsecured. The fishermen are all returned from the herring fishing, and made an average fishing; but the most of their earnings were left with their curers, as they were all in their debt. A number of the men got only what would carry them home of money. Their average fishing would be about 71 crans for 19 crews. There was a fair demand for the tenants' catch; upwards of 100 were sold in this parish. There were 105 hired men from this parish at the herring fishing between Wick and Peterhead, their average wages being about 5*l.* 15*s.* There are still a number of the young men employed in the forest making paths, and they get from 11*s.* to 15*s.* per week. The general employment of the tenants at present is gathering and securing their crops.

Account of Herring Fishery at Caithness in 1869.

No.	Name.	Residence.	No. of Crans.	Average Rate per Cran.	Amount.
				s.	£ *s.* *d.*
1	Angus McLeod	Droman	50	22	55 0 0
2	Hector McKay	Blairmore	90	„	99 0 0
3	George Corbett, senior	Oldshore More	140	„	154 0 0
4	James Munroe	„ „	42	„	46 4 0
5	Donald Corbett	„ „	40	„	44 0 0
6	John McLeod	„ „	90	„	99 0 0
7	John McKay	Badcall Inchard	92	„	101 4 0
8	John Ross	Achresgill	72	„	79 4 0
9	Hugh Morrison	„	7	„	7 14 0
10	Falconer Morrison	„	13	„	14 6 0
11	William McIntosh	„	93	„	102 6 0
12	Rory McKingie	Ardmore	95	„	104 10 0
13	Robert McLeod	„	20	„	22 0 0
14	Donald Ross	Fouidle	99	„	108 18 0
15	William McLeod	Tarbet	136	„	149 12 0
16	Alexander McCaskill	Scourie	50	„	55 0 0
17	Angus Falconer	„	58	„	63 16 0
18	Norman McLeod	„	97	„	106 14 0
19	John McKay (McRob)	Oldshore More	75	„	82 10 0
			1,359	—	1,494 18 0

1869.

105 hired men from the parish of Eddrachilles at the herring fishing this season, at the average wages of 5*l.* 15*s.* each which will amount to 603*l.* 15*s.*

Number of lobsters caught in the parish of Eddrachilles for the past year, by 40 crews, 9,232.

At the average rate of 9*s.* per dozen, which amounts to 346*l.* 4*s.*

The quantity of meal imported during the past year in the parish of Eddrachilles is 1,622 bolls.

There are 21 slated houses in the parish of Eddrachilles occupied by tenants, also 81 with chimneys and 60 without chimneys.

The number of small tenants which grow turnip and clover in the parish of Eddrachilles is 19.

158. RETURN of the number of Children who attend the following Schools in the parish of Eddrachilles, September 1867.

Schools.	Where situated.	Number of Children attending School.	Average Number of Days on which Children attend School.	Number of Children who attend no School.	Remarks.
Parish School	Scourie	70	100	6	—
Assembly School	Oldshoremore	58	46	52	—
Government School	Badcall Inchard	41	64	5	—
Free School	Balchrick	25	—	—	Attending only in the winter season, 12 weeks.
Do.	Inshegra	35	—	6	—
Do.	Laxford	16	—	—	Attending very irregular. Payed partly by the free church, and partly by the parents.
		245			

Notes of the Ground Officer.

I have been round this district for the return of the children who attended the different schools in Eddrachilles, and have been able to ascertain the number of children who attend no school, which is 69. The reason for which they do not attend, as far as I can ascertain, is in a great measure poverty and negligence of their parents. Many of the parents keep their children out of school on the most trifling excuses. The Balchrick school is only open for a few months in winter, and making no progress in consequence of the teacher not being respected by the people, and the children takes the advantage of him. The above 245 attended school last winter and spring. There are some shepherds which keep a teacher boy for the winter season, about five months, which I cannot account for. There are no catalogues kept in the Free schools, and the average number of days on which children attend school could not be ascertained.

ASSYNT.

Population, 3,178.

159. *Rev. Mr. Williamson*, E. C.—"I have been minister here for 21 years. There is one small township, containing a population of 74 persons by the last census, which is unprovided with a school; but all the rest of the parish is very well provided. I think that where the children are insufficiently educated the cause arises in a great measure from indifference on the part of the parents, who do not generally send them young enough and do not make them attend with sufficient regularity. I think that they ought to attend regularly between the ages of 7 and 12; but as a matter of fact although they come younger than 7, they do not even then attend generally in the summer season. Some of them again are unable to come in winter in consequence of being badly supplied with clothing and shoes. Many of the parents do not keep their children at school for more than two or three months in the year. At Loch Inver, where the attendance is better, the children belong to a superior class. The young children who are kept away in the summer are doing nothing at home; but the parents are so indifferent upon the subject that it depends chiefly upon the children themselves whether they shall go to school or not. I do not think that it is by employment of any kind that children under 12 are kept away from school. The payment of fees is at present very irregular. I think that it would be very desirable that parents should be compelled to send their children to school at certain fixed periods, paying fees in advance for the term then about to commence, so that if during that period they kept away their children they would be losing money by the irregularity. At present there is seldom any payment in advance (although it is nominally the rule), and when the children attend very irregularly the teachers have not the heart to press the fees, and indeed it is almost impossible to obtain them after the time is past. The population of Assynt are very poor, depending for their subsistence partly upon the herring fishing and partly upon the crops grown on their crofts, and both of these are very precarious sources of subsistence, and often fail. There is a great scarcity of demand for labour during the winter months, when the people have very little to do. The great ambition here among the young men as they grow up is to get a house and get married, and then to depend upon the fishing and any chance work for a livelihood. They are not fond of leaving the country for employment at a distance. Since I came to the parish there has been considerable improvement in the matter of education, and I should say that there are in consequence a greater number than there used to be who become discontented with their mode of life here and go away to seek better situations elsewhere. The shepherds are as a rule a superior class and do all they can to get education for their children, although often under great difficulties. Sometimes they send their children to board in the neighbourhood of a school, and sometimes they hire a lad to come to their houses in turn and teach. The remarks which I have made above with reference to the character and employment of the people apply to those located upon the coast (where the bulk of the population is), but do not apply to the people (about 240 in number) of two townships called Knockan and Elphin, in the interior of the parish. These are mostly of the small-tenant class, like the others, but they do not fish at all and they are more industrious and more comfortable than the coast-side people."

ESTIMATE of school attendance of children in the parish of Assynt, furnished by the Rev. Mr. Williamson.

Of the 466 children who, at any time during the year ending March the 15th, 1870, attended the eight schools which are under the superintendence of the Established Church in the parish of Assynt, there attended for

100 days or less	301
More than 100 days, and less than 180 days	129
And for 180 days or more	36
Total as above	466

160. *Rev. Mr. Gordon*, F. C., Loch Inver.—"I have been minister here for 45 years. In part of the parish upon the coast the amount of the land under cultivation is wholly inadequate to support the population, who are consequently very poor. During the last 20 years there has been, comparatively speaking, a good deal of improvement in the condition of the cottages, and there are scarcely any now with only one room in them. There are a good many young men and young women who go away for temporary employment in other parts of the country, but not many who leave their homes for permanent situations elsewhere.

Sutherland.
Mr. Campion.
V.

The parents are generally anxious to get education for their children, more so than formerly because they see that it is the only way for young people to get on at all. The adults are ignorant compared with those of the same class in more southern districts, but there has been a general improvement in the tone of feeling upon the subject of education lately. The children attend school pretty well from November to March, but it is difficult to get any attendance during the rest of the year. The consequence of this long absence is that by the time when the children return to school they have forgotten a great deal of what they had previously acquired. Poverty of parents often keeps their children from school, especially through inability on the part of the parents to provide them with good enough clothing. The school fees are really merely nominal."

161. *Mr. John Mackenzie*, Loch Inver. — "I am partner in a sheep farm in the island of Raasay, but I reside here, and am better acquainted with this country than any other. There is no arable land in this district with the exception of the few patches cultivated by crofters, who are all engaged at certain times of the year in fishing. Women are employed in cultivating their own crofts, but do not engage as hirers in this district. Some of them go to the east coast during the harvest time, and come back again to their own houses in the winter season. Children are employed in the same way upon their parents' crofts, some of them very young, but only at particular times, especially in August and October for herding and potato lifting. I do not think that there is any indifference upon the subject of education among the parents, but they could not dispense with the assistance of their children occasionally. The lots lie so close to each other and are so much intermixed that they require a good deal of looking after. In the interior of this parish there is no population but shepherds and gamekeepers, with the exception of the townships of Knockan and Elphin."

162. *Mr. Humphry*, ground officer, Loch Inver.— "I have been here for 22 years. The population lies at intervals along the coast from Loch Inver to Nedd, and there are none but shepherds in the interior of the county with the exception of two townships called Knockan and Elphin. The general failure in all kinds of fishing has made the people worse off than they used to be when I first came. The schools are much better attended than they used to be, indeed the attendance is improving every year. I generally attend the examination, and I observe that the children attend more regularly. Children are kept away from school a great deal at this time of the year by employment upon their parents crofts, but this only lasts about five or six weeks.

I think that parents are much more anxious to send their children to school than they used to be, but there is still some indifference in occasional cases. A great many both of men and women go to the East coast for harvest work, and there are also a great many of the young people who leave their homes permanently for situations in the south. There are more and more doing this every year, and I have no doubt that it is a good deal caused by the improved education which they get."

163. Extracts from Report of Ground Officer, Assynt, kindly supplied by E. McIver, Esq.

Report of the Herring Fishing at Lewis and Wick for the months of June, July, August, and part of September 1869.

No.	Residence.	Skipper's Name.	Lewis.	Wick.	Total.	Rate per Cran.	Amount.
			Crans.	Crans.	Crans.	*s.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1	Nedd	William McRae	12	50	62	22	68 4 0
2	„	John Stewart	—	86	86	„	94 12 0
3	„	Roderick McLean	—	50	50	„	55 0 0
4	„	Donald Campbell	—	50	50	„	55 0 0
5	Drumbeg	Neil McLean	20	112	132	„	145 4 0
6	„	James McLeod	50	115	165	„	181 10 0
7	„	Roderick McLeod	12	80	92	„	101 4 0
8	Culkeine Drumbeg	Donald McKenzie	10	80	90	„	99 0 0
9	„ „	Lauchlan McDonald	15	100	115	„	126 10 0
10	„ „	Alexander McKenzie	—	50	50	„	55 0 0
11	„ „	Alexander McLeod	30	100	130	„	143 0 0
12	Clashnessie	William McKenzie	12	60	72	„	79 4 0
13	„	Murdoc McLeod	15	80	95	„	104 10 0
14	„	Murdoc McKenzie	16	60	76	„	83 12 0
15	Culkeine Achnacamin	Henry McKenzie	12	60	72	„	79 4 0
16	„ „	Duncan McLeod	15	40	55	„	60 10 0
17	„ „	Colin McRae	20	60	80	„	88 0 0
18	„ „	John McKenzie	12	70	82	„	90 4 0
19	„ „	Robert Campbell	10	40	50	„	55 0 0
20	Clashmore	Donald McLean	—	85	85	„	93 10 0
21	„	Hugh Matheson	10	60	70	„	77 0 0
22	„	Kenneth McKenzie	9	15	24	„	26 8 0
23	„	Alexander McKenzie	10	87	97	„	106 14 0
24	Balchladich	Donald McKenzie	10	20	30	„	33 0 0
25	Stoer	Alexander McLeod	12	60	72	„	79 4 0
26	Clachtoll	James McKenzie	20	100	120	„	132 0 0
27	„	William McKenzie	12	70	82	„	90 4 0
28	„	Alexander McLeod	15	110	125	„	137 10 0
29	„	Angus Matheson	20	80	90	„	99 0 0
30	„	John McLeod	12	40	52	„	57 4 0
31	„	Norman Kerr	—	30	30	„	33 0 0
32	„	Norman Matheson	—	130	130	„	143 0 0
33	Achmelvie	Alexander McLeod	20	120	140	„	154 0 0
34	„	George McKenzie	12	100	112	„	123 4 0
35	„	John McLeod	30	90	120	„	132 0 0
36	„	John McLeod (Bain)	15	110	125	„	137 10 0
37	„	Donald Kerr	18	70	98	„	107 16 0
38	„	Donald McLeod	—	108	108	„	118 16 0
39	Ardroe	Donald Morrison	—	12	12	„	13 4 0
40	„	John McRea	17	90	107	„	117 14 0
41	Strathan	Donald McLeod	12	30	42	„	46 4 0
42	Inverkirkaig	Hugh McKaskill	15	40	55	„	60 10 0
43	„	William McKenzie	10	100	110	„	121 0 0
44	Polan	Hugh McLeod	—	80	80	„	88 0 0
			540	3,210	3,750	22	£4,125 0 0

164. REPORT of Lobster Fishing in the parish of Assynt for 1869.

No.	Township.	Skipper's Name.	No. per Dozen.	Rate per Dozen.	Amount.
				s.	£ s. d.
1	Inverkirkaig -	Donald McKenzie -	20	11	11 0 0
2	„ -	Angus McLeod - -	18	„	9 18 0
3	Badnaman - -	John McKenzie - -	4	„	2 4 0
4	„ - -	Alexander Kerr - -	28	„	15 8 0
5	„ - -	Donald McLeod - -	17	„	9 7 0
6	Actmelvie - -	Duncan Munro - -	38	„	20 18 0
7	„ - -	Roderick McLeod -	43	„	23 13 0
8	„ - -	Hugh McLeod - -	29	„	15 19 0
9	Badidarrock -	John McLeod - -	7	„	3 17 0
10	Clastmore - -	Hugh Matheson - -	24	„	13 4 0
11	„ - -	Angus McKenzie -	28	„	15 8 0
12	Torqaun - -	John Mackay - -	30	„	16 10 0
13	Andoar - -	Kenneth Munro - -	64	„	35 4 0
14	Nedd - -	John Kerr - -	38	„	20 18 0
15	„ - -	John Stewart - -	27	„	14 17 0
16	„ - -	Alexander Stewart -	11	„	6 1 0
17	Drumbeg - -	Murdo Kerr - -	28	„	15 8 0
18	„ - -	Donald Graham - -	14	„	7 14 0
19	Culkeine Drumbeg -	Lachlan McDonald -	44	„	24 4 0
20	„ „ -	Donald Beatson - -	58	„	31 18 0
21	„ „ -	Murdo McRae - -	57	„	31 7 0
22	„ „ -	Murdo Morrison - -	17	„	9 7 0
23	„ „ -	James McLeod - -	24	„	13 4 0
24	„ „ -	William Graham -	57	„	31 7 0
			725	11	£398 15 0

165. A TABLE showing the Number of Houses with Chimneys; Slated Houses; Huts; Hired men engaged at the Wick Fishing in 1869; Average of Wages, and Amount in each Township in Assynt.

Township.	Number of Houses with Chimneys.	Slated Houses.	Huts.	Hired Men.	Average of Wages.	Amount.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Nedd - -	9	—	20	12	5 0 0	60 0 0
Drumbeg - -	11	3	13	23	4 10 0	103 10 0
Culkeine Drumbeg -	16	2	10	15	5 0 0	75 0 0
Oldney - -	—	2	2	—	—	—
Clastmessie - -	13	3	17	19	5 0 0	95 0 0
Achnacamin -	12	—	5	16	5 0 0	80 0 0
Culkeine Achnacamin	25	2	7	12	5 0 0	60 0 0
Clastmore - -	20	—	25	40	5 0 0	200 0 0
Balchladich - -	6	1	8	6	5 0 0	30 0 0
Stoer - -	17	5	9	8	6 0 0	48 0 0
Clachtoll - -	16	—	17	11	5 0 0	55 0 0
Actmeloie - -	17	1	16	8	5 0 0	40 0 0
Ardroe - -	3	—	3	4	5 0 0	20 0 0
Torbreck - -	6	1	1	2	5 0 0	10 0 0
Badidanock - -	9	—	2	2	5 0 0	10 0 0
Inver - -	6	1	—	—	—	—
Felin - -	5	15	—	—	—	—
Strathan - -	9	1	3	8	5 0 0	40 0 0
Inverkirkaig -	11	—	5	16	5 0 0	80 0 0
Badnaman - -	8	—	1	3	5 0 0	15 0 0
Brackloch - -	2	1	—	—	—	—
Kirkton Assynt -	2	3	—	—	—	—
Inchnadamph -	4	2	—	—	—	—
Altnakealgach -	1	1	—	—	—	—
Elphin - -	14	2	12	—	—	—
Knockan - -	11	—	7	—	—	—
Unapool - -	6	1	4	3	5 0 0	15 0 0
	259	47	187	200	—	1,036 10 0

Comparative view of Fishing in 1869.

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of Herring Fishing by crew - -	4,125	0	0
Expenditure for 44 boats at 50*l.* per crew - -	2,200	0	0
	1,925	0	0
Proceeds of 208 hired men's wages - - -	1,036	10	0
Proceeds of Lobster Fishing - - -	398	15	0
Total Proceeds - -	£3,360	5	0

Sutherland.

Mr. Campion.

v.

166. RETURN of the Number of Children who attend the following Schools in the parish of Assynt, September, 1867.

Schools.	Where situated.	Number of Children attending School.	Average Number of days on which Children attend School.	Number of Children who attend no School.	Remarks.
Established School - - -	Kirkton - -	21	120	—	—
Government School - - -	Stoer - -	85	121	—	—
General Assembly School - -	Loch Inver -	64	116	—	—
Society School - - - -	Achmelvich -	52	93	—	—
„ „ - - - -	Culkein - -	58	82	—	No teacher for nearly three months.
„ „ - - - -	Drumbeg - -	79	86	—	—
„ „ - - - -	Elphin - -	26	95	—	—
Free Church School - - -	Strathan - -	67	119	—	—
„ „ - - - -	Rhianachait -	102	118	—	—
		554			

Note by the Ground Officer.

I have gone round all Assynt for this return and I have not been able to ascertain any particular number of children who has not or does not attend school at some time or other. The above 554 attended school last winter, and I have taken the number of all the young people from the age of 6 years to 16 years of age connected with Assynt, which I find to be 634 including 17 in Unapool and shepherds in so many stations that are not near schools.

The causes of irregular and slack attendance in my opinion are the indifference of the parents and poverty to some extent. The school in . . . . is making no progress at all, so the people in that locality are sending their children elsewhere, and I think the school in . . . is in the same way, and the teacher in . . . is not respected by the people, and the scholars have taken the same notion of him so things cannot prosper well with him.

167. *Mr. Chisholm*, inspector of poor for Durness, Edrachilles, and Assynt.—"I think that the people at Kinlochbervie are worse off than in any other part of my district, principally owing to the late failure in the fishing which they depend upon more than the people on other parts of the coast. At Durness there is more arable land and it is of a better quality, and there is more demand for labour, whereas in Kinlochbervie there is no regular agricultural employment except upon the people's own crofts. The poor rates in Edrachilles are 1*s.* 10*d.* in the 1*l.*; in Durness 1*s.* 7*d.*; and in Assynt 3*s.* I have been inspector of poor in the district for 21 years, and during that time there has not been any material variation in the rates. The population of Kinlochbervie is about 700, and this number represents about half of the whole parish of Edrachilles, the rest are scattered along the coast on both sides of Scourie.

There has been a great deal of improvement in the cottages since I first saw them; a great number of new houses have been built, especially in Assynt, and some of them very good ones. They were built by the people themselves with the assistance of the proprietor, who furnished wood, lime, and glass, and often money too when necessary. I see a good deal of the people themselves in the course of my experience as inspector, and I think that there has been considerable improvement in the general feeling on the subject of education lately. In most of the cottages the people have a Bible, generally a Gaelic one, as the majority of the old people cannot read English. The younger ones have taken a little lately to reading newspapers, and have also usually a few English books. The sanitary condition of the people is generally good, and I do not know that their health suffers from overcrowding in the cottages. In this respect there has been much improvement during the last 20 years; the habits of the people have become more cleanly and their mode of living generally more civilized. Their diet is also better than it used to be; they can get groceries cheaper and use more oatmeal and less vegetable food than formerly, and are consequently exempt from those diseases of the digestive organs which they used to suffer from when they indulged in an excessive quantity of vegetable food.

The parochial boards provide education gratis for all the children of paupers, and also in all cases supply them with books and stationery."

ROSS.

Ross.

Mr. Campion.

LOCHBROOM.

Population, 4,862. - Cultivation, chiefly pastoral.

168. *Capt. Davidson*, younger, of Tulloch.—Farms 500 acres arable and 30,000 acres pastoral. Nature of soil, sandy loam. Course of husbandry, five-course shift.

Boys and girls of 16 years old and upwards are employed in agriculture during harvest and in the spring. I employ regularly about six women, who live in crofts on the farm. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for all alike, and neither the young men nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or physical injury in their work.

I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children in agriculture.

The cottages are good and sufficient and conveniently situated, and are not overcrowded. The bothy system does not exist, nor is there any other mode of lodging farm servants injurious to education or morals. Most of the cottages have allotments of land, and those who have not get potato ground from me. Almost all the farm servants have cows. The regular male farm servants get in cash from 18*l.* to 12*l.* All get seven imperial bolls oatmeal, six bolls of potatoes, two quarts of milk, and 600 yards of harvest potatoes, with house and one ton of coals, and three days to cut peat. The women employed are the daughters of crofters in the neighbourhood, and receive for regular farm work 10*d.* a day, and in harvest time 1*s.* a day, paid weekly. Those who are in regular employ have to attend the thrashing mill and corn room, and fill the cattle boilers, and for outdoor work, thinning turnips, hoeing and weeding, and haymaking.

All the children are able to read and write before they begin to work, and they attend school all through the winter. I make all my tenants send their children to school for six months in the year.

169. *Rev. Mr. Macleod*, F.C., Ullapool, Lochbroom.—"The population of the parish is crowded along the coast, chiefly in small townships, and depend for their

subsistence partly upon the fishing and partly upon the crofts, which are mostly very small, not larger on an average I should think than about 2½ acres of arable land with some right of pasture upon the hills attached to it. The consequence of this state of things is that neither the fishing nor the cultivation of the land prospers, and the people are very poor. I should like to see a portion of the population employed regularly in fishing, and I have no doubt that they would be able to get regular employment throughout the year, and an adequate subsistence from that vocation. They do not go to the Caithness fishing so much as they used to, the want of materials keeps them at home a good deal. The supply of labour is greatly in excess of the demand for it in this parish, and during the winter season the people have great difficulty in getting any work to do. The cottages are many of them very inferior, but there has been considerable improvement of late years, especially in the district of Coigach, where they used to be very bad. They have now usually two rooms and a closet, but a great many of the old huts still exist with only one room. The state of morality among the lower classes is very remarkable. We have never since I came here had a higher proportion of illegitimate births than 2½ per cent., and the number of cases which have come before me as minister for church discipline have been wonderfully few. When such cases do occur they may usually be traced to the custom which prevails of girls going to the east coast for harvest work in the summer months.

Education has made considerable progress in Loch Broom during the last 25 years. The adults who attended school within that period can most of them read and write, but the older people are very ignorant. The general feeling among the parents is as a rule decidedly favourable to education, but there are exceptions, especially in the case of families who have sunk very low in their circumstances. I should say that anxiety to send children to school varies in degree very much according to the material condition of the parents. Children are not sent sufficiently young, but this is an evil which arises mainly from the physical difficulties of the country itself. Many of the schools are, and must necessarily be, some distance from the homes of the scholars, and this could not be prevented unless there were as many as 30 or 40 schools in the parish. I should like to see compulsion applied to those parents who neglect to provide education for their children, but such cases are exceptional, and it is not by agricultural employment of the children that defective attendance is caused. They are occupied at certain limited periods of the year in planting and lifting potatoes upon their parents' crofts, but this occupation lasts only for a very short time. A very large proportion of the young people leave their homes upon growing up, and seek for employment at a distance in all parts of the kingdom, and also in the colonies. There is no opening for them here, and the accounts which I have from time to time received from many of them, both in England and abroad, have been most gratifying.

I have been minister here for 26 years."

170. Letter from *Rev. W. Cameron*, E.C., Loch Broom.

"Sir,

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your schedule concerning the "employment of children, etc. in agriculture. You will possibly regard the information furnished by me as meagre. It is however such as I can with any measure of confidence supply. In my answer to queries I have embraced the whole old parish of Loch Broom that is, I have included the district connected with the Government quoad sacra church in the parish.

The parish generally speaking is a pastoral district in which there are several extensive sheep runs or farms with a considerable extent of well cultivated arable lands attached to some of them, I may say indeed to all of them. The shepherds and farm servants on these farms are well cared for as regard house and wages.

There is also a considerable extent of arable land with hill privilege for their cattle and sheep occupied by small tenants in allotments. The lands are tilled with few exceptions by said tenants themselves and their families, their only implement for husbandry being the "*Cæs Chraom*" or crooked spade, which they ply with hands and foot, a rude instrument by which an expert hand turns over a good deal of ground in a day. The manure which principally consists of seaweed is carried in creels to the land by such members of the family as are able for such work.

The young members of the family are thus employed with their parents in husbandry in spring, in herding cattle in summer, and in collecting the crops in autumn, and hence advantage is taken of the schools in winter and part of the spring, only by such of the youth as can be serviceable to their parents, while the young fry unfit for work are generally the pupils in attendance at school during the summer season.

All the able-bodied men with all the lads in the parish are employed from the month of May to that of September in prosecuting the herring fishing at Lewis and on the east coast of Sutherland and Caithness, and at home in winter when herrings visit our shores. When not so employed many of them go to work at the railroads or other public works elsewhere.

A goodly number of young women from this parish were wont to go to the low country for farm work during summer and autumn, and returned home for the winter with not improved morals I fear, but so many of them do not now go for that purpose.

The houses of the small tenants are of humble character, but generally comfortable inside when the peat cutting season has been a favorable one.

The internal arrangement admits of great improvement.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Cameron."

171. Second communication from the same.

There are *three* districts unprovided with schools, namely:—

(1.) *South side of* "*Big Loch Broom*" on which there are several townships which collectively ought to furnish a school of about 80 pupils. There were some years ago through the exertions of Mrs. Cameron of the Manse school buildings erected for the accommodation of this district on which 120*l.* or 130*l.* were expended, money procured partly by contributions from friends, but principally from her own resources. When the buildings were completed and comfortably fitted up, the use of them was given to the people of said district, on the understanding that they should maintain them in good repair, the principal thing to be attended to in this respect being the roof which was a thatched one. A competent teacher had been procured forthwith when a school of some 60 or 70 pupils availed themselves of his services, their ages being from 7 to 18 or even 20 years, 42 of said number requiring to be taught the alphabet. Matters went on thus successfully for years (but not without opposing influences) till the roof of the buildings through the neglect and I must add the indifference and dissensions of those most interested got into a state of disrepair till the buildings ceased to be habitable and the teacher had consequently to be removed.

This was felt a great hardship by us, but the exertions previously made for erecting these buildings could not be repeated by outlays of money for the maintenance of them, especially when those who received the whole benefit of them would make no exertion for maintaining them for their own advantage. The district has consequently been destitute of the means of education for some years back.

(2.) The district of "*Badtralach*" *Kildonan*" and "*Achtascailt*" on the north side and head of *Little Lochbroom*.—In this district about 40 children of

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school age might be mustered if a school house were erected in a suitable locality.

At Achtascailt there has been a school supported by Mrs. Catton, daughter of the late Laird of Dundonnell, but too distant from Kildonan and Badtralach. If a school house were erected at a place called Keppoch, the children of these three localities could avail themselves of it. The non-existence of a school at Kildonan and Badtralach which are contiguous is owing to the want of means, not to the want of *will* on the part of the inhabitants for supporting a teacher.

(3.) Janera. An island at the mouth of Lochbroom where there are 40 children of school age. The parents are most anxious to have their children educated, but sending them to schools on the mainland is impracticable, and they cannot afford to support a teacher.

The herring fishing may be said to be the main dependance of the people of this parish for their support, and their time is principally occupied in preparing for it or prosecuting it. All of them may be said to possess lands with hill pasture, but their arable lands, from their mode of cultivation are not so productive as they otherwise might be, neither can they while their occupiers are both landsmen and fishermen.

Their crofts are simply regarded as their homes, fishing as their occupation, consequently the lands have not the requisite attention given them, but after they are tilled and sown in spring and often very hurriedly they are during the rest of the season under the charge of the females and children of the family.

When the fishing succeeds all is well, but when it fails as has been the case for several years back comparative want and destitution are the consequences, debts are incurred and credit is reduced.

The fish curers are generally most liberal in furnishing their fishermen who are not able to procure them for themselves with well equipped boats of the value of from 100*l.* to 120*l.* each, also with money and meal in the expectation that in the course of a few years all shall be refunded.

The curers are also ready to make small advances year by year to the crews of boats knowing that while the crews are indebted to them they are bound to fish for them, and on their own terms, otherwise accounts must be squared.

The crews thus indebted to their curers are placed at a disadvantage when compared with crews that are free. At the same time while curers are sure of their own when there is a good fishing, they no doubt lose seriously by their liberal advances when the fishing is bad.

There is another mode by which the fisherman may suffer; when the curer engages him for the season he stipulates with him for 200 or 300 *crans* of fish at a certain price as his "complement" for the season. If the fisherman comes short of that quantity it is his own loss and no blame is attached, due exertion being made, but if he exceeds that quantity the curer is not bound to take the excess. The fisherman is thus compelled to sell his excess of fish for any price he can get for it, often very little, if he can get market at all for it, as when an abundant fishing occurs all the curers are in the same predicament and find it quite enough to relieve their own engaged crews of their fish until the stipulated quantity is delivered. Hence although the sea may be swarming with fish the curers will take no more than suits them, and they are bound to take.

The cottages of the people are certainly of humble construction, and of internal arrangement which might be greatly improved, but nevertheless I do not think that either the sanitary or moral condition of the people is greatly affected by the construction or arrangement of their houses. The immorality of the country must be looked for as resulting from other sources. The internal arrangements of the houses now are I presume what they have been for the last century, and I would venture to assert that for the last 25 or 27 years there have been more cases of illegitimacy than for a century before.

The circumstances of the tenants on the glebe are similar to those of the same class of people throughout the parish, but most of them taking advantage of my over-indulgence to them in hard years have now come to think that the same indulgence should always be extended to them, and consequently I have not for years received a tithe of the rents due by them. Probably this state of matters may also have arisen from my position of which they take advantage, believing that a clergyman ought not to have recourse to the means employed by a layman for exacting his own.

Education has *invariably* the effect of inducing the young men of the country to push their fortunes by going both to other parts of the kingdom and also to the colonies.

172. *Mr. Mackay*, parish schoolmaster and registrar. —"All the children who are able to work are at this time of the year (May 13th) assisting their parents upon the crofts. I should say that there are fully 400 children who do not attend school at any period of the year, and their absence arises partly from want of schools and partly from negligence or poverty on the part of the parents. They often complain of inability to provide clothing and especially shoes for the children, and in the winter season it is impossible for them to come barefooted. There are a good many children who are sent off to the Low country to herd, some as young as 10, but the greater number not under 12 years of age. The parents are obliged to send them away in this manner whenever they get a chance, as they cannot maintain them at home. I find that as a general rule the parents are very anxious to educate their children, and there are very few exceptions to this rule. Indifference on this subject is confined to those parents who have never left home or had any education themselves, and these are a very small number. The children begin to attend school at the age of 7 or 8, younger than they used to, because the parents are not so well off as they were and cannot afford to maintain the children at home when they are old enough to be able to earn something for themselves. Their attendance is very irregular. For the first two years I should say that on an average they are for three-fourths of the year in school, but for the next three years they come for little more than three months in the year; the consequence is that they forget during the period of their absence the greater part of what they have previously learnt. Night schools have never been tried here, and I do not think that they would answer in consequence of the long distance which scholars have to go. I have not seen a penny of school fees for a year and a half. I think that any system of compulsory education would be impracticable here. I find that it is now constantly the practice among parents to teach the alphabet and some elementary points to children before sending them to school in order to get them on as early as possible, and the consequence of this is that now I have seldom to teach a child the alphabet, whereas in former times I have had as many as 25 on the alphabet at once."

173. *Mr. Mundell*, occupier, farms 60 acres arable, rented at 1*l.* an acre, and about 20,000 acres of sheep-run.—I have two ploughmen hired by the year upon my arable farm, and pay them respectively 11*l.* and 15*l.* in money. One of them is married and the other single. The married man gets six bolls meal, six bolls potatoes, keep of a cow, harvest potatoes (about 1½ bolls), 1½ tons coal, and house free. The single man boards in my kitchen. I employ no women regularly, but in hay and corn harvest and turnip-time I get about six at a time from the crofters in the neighbourhood, and pay them 1*s.* a day. I employ children occasionally in hoeing turnips and other light work, but never younger than 13. They generally get 9*d.* a day. Upon the sheep farm I have six shepherds, four of them single and two married. One of the married ones gets 17*l.* money, keep of three cows, 10 bolls oatmeal, an acre or so of potato land,

and as much peat fuel as he requires. Out of this he has to board a lad who lives with him ; besides this he gets "fallen meat," as is always the custom with shepherds, *i.e.*, the mutton of any sheep which has died through an accident or by the disease called "braxy." This perquisite is worth a great deal to them. The other three single shepherds board in my kitchen, and are paid besides their board, the 1st. 22*l.*, the 2nd. 14*l.*, and the 3rd. 12*l.*, and the keep of 20 sheep. In June and July I employ from 8 to 10 extra hands in clipping, getting most of them from the Coigach district, and paying 2*s.* a day and their board, and giving them butcher's meat once a day. In October I have about the same number for smearing, and pay them in the same way. My married shepherds live on the hills. One of them used to send his children (who are grown up now) to board at Ullapool in order to get schooling. The children of the other are not yet old enough to go to school.

174. *Mr. Black*, manager of the Dundonnell estate. —"The farm which I am managing contains 300 acres arable land, besides a sheep run. There are in all about 20 farm servants employed upon it, chiefly married men, and we also get a good deal of job labour from the crofters in the neighbourhood. We employ women in spring, summer, and harvest work, but not regularly throughout the year. The women so employed are either the wives or daughters of the neighbouring crofters, but generally speaking the daughters, as the married women are too busy at home to work out. We pay them from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day for 10 hours work. We never employ any children."

175. *John Macrae*, crofter.—Has about two acres of arable land and some hill pasture, for which he pays a rent of 5*l.*

Has five children ; the eldest, a son aged 20, lives at home and is a fisherman ; the 2nd, a girl aged 17, lives at home ; the 3rd, a son aged 15, also lives at home; the other two, boys of 13 and 8, are about the house doing nothing at all. They have not been to school—have had no school to go to—would certainly have sent them if there had been one. There was a school once but it was given up. When asked "why," he said, it was "a contentious piece of business." Always goes to Stornoway and Caithness for the fishing ; has a boat with two other men, but they have not brought home a penny for the last two years. At present they owe between them about 100*l.* to the curer, and this debt is in respect of the last two years. He expects that he will pay his debt out of the sea if he lives ; has often paid as large a sum out of the proceeds of two nights' fishing. Last year they got a few herrings in the Loch, which assisted them, and he has not applied for any advances this year. He has got two cows, and a young beast and some sheep, but he can't say how many.

His cottage consisted of a "but" and a "ben," the kitchen or sitting-room being a fair sized room, and the other small and close. The windows were unglazed or almost entirely so, *i.e.*, I think there was one stray pane of glass left in one of them, the others appeared to have been broken and never replaced ; there was one bed in the kitchen, and two or three more in the other room in which the younger members of the family must be crowded together at night without much regard to decency. The floor was of mud, the general arrangements dirty and untidy, and altogether it was a wretched place to serve as the habitation of a family of 7 persons.

176. *Duncan Mackenzie*, crofter.—"I have got from 3 to 4 acres of arable land and some hill pasture, for which I am rented at 5*l.* I have 3 cows and 12 sheep. I have got 7 children. The eldest, a son aged 24, is unmarried and lives at home and is a fisherman; the second, a girl of 21, is about the house ; the third, a girl of 19, is about the house, and all the rest are just about the house, the youngest being only 4 years old. They were at school for a little when there was a school here, and have had a little teaching besides from Mrs. Cameron, the minister's wife, but no regular schooling. I would indeed have sent them more to school if I had had the chance ; I cannot read or write myself." Raises enough potatoes on his croft for home consumption, but has to purchase some meal perhaps 16 or 18 bolls in the year. Never does any work except fishing and cultivating his croft, there is none to be had in the country now. This crew owe more than 60*l.* to the curer, and this debt has accumulated for 3 years. The curer pays them the same price for their herrings as he did when they were not in his books, but reduces the amount of their "bounty."

177. *Crofter*, Loch Broom.—Has five children all grown up, two of them are away in situations, but the others are all at home ; they had hardly any schooling He does not pay any rent at all.

This man and the two preceding witnesses inhabit a district of Loch Broom totally unprovided with any school, the parish school which is no great distance by water, is about 4 miles off by land, and the only road for a great part of the way is a rugged path on the side of the hill, which, in winter especially, must be quite impracticable for young and ill-shod children.

178. *Wife of Crofter.*—Her husband's croft is 4 acres arable, for which he pays a rent of 4*l.* He has also a right of pasture on the hill for one cow and one horse, and pays 1*l.* for the cow, and 10*s.* for the horse.

They have seven children, two of them are grown up, both sons over 20 years of age, they live at home and get work in the neighbourhood, they are working for Mr. Fowler just now, all the children are at home, and two of them are attending school, the rest have all been to school. Her husband can read and write, but she can only read Gaelic herself. Her husband is a mason by trade, and is at present working for Mr. Fowler.

Their cottage had three rooms or rather divisions in it, the partitions being of the most irregular description. There was no bed in the kitchen, and the family must all have slept in the other room and a small closet in the middle.

179. *W. Mackenzie*, crofter.—Has a croft of two acres, for which he pays a rent of 2*l.* and grazing on the hill for which he pays 10*s.* Used to be a mason and dyker, but is too rheumatic to do any work now. He has seven children, but only three of them are at home, the others are all out at service, two are at school, the others were all at school and are very good scholars.

180. *Wife of J. Mackenzie*, crofter.—Her husband is a mason and is now employed by Mr. Fowler, from whom he gets 15*s.* a week, but he does'nt get regular work, and will often be idle. He has four acres arable land and pasture for a cow and a horse, rent 5*l.* 10*s.*

They have six children, the two youngest go to school, of the other four three are girls, aged respectively 22, 18, and 16, and they live at home and help in the house. The fourth is a son aged 20 who is working in Mr. Fowler's garden and boards at home. All their children have been to school, she can neither read nor write herself, her husband reads English, but cannot write.

The cottage consisted of two rooms, the larger of which had been taken for sleeping, and in this the whole family slept in four beds, the lad having one to himself.

Gairloch.

Population, 5449. - Cultivation, mixed.

181. Letter from *Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, Bart.*

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the promise I gave you when we met at Gairloch, I now endeavour to supply the information you require regarding the labouring population there. The conditions of their existence are so essentially different from those which must have been present to the mind of your Commissioners when framing the schedule you left with me, that any attempt to reply categorically to the questions it contains, could but mislead those who are unacquainted

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with the North-western Highlands of Scotland. A large proportion of those who live by manual labour and who elsewhere are called "the employed," know in Gairloch no employer within the bounds of a parish upwards of 30 miles in length. The foundation, therefore, of a principal part of the inquiry delegated to your Commission here slips away, and so far I have only to point out the peculiar circumstances under which it does so.

By the census of 1861, the population of the parish of Gairloch was 5,449, and I have reason to think that since then it has, if anything, increased rather than decreased. According to the valuation roll of 1869–70, there were 662 occupiers in the parish directly or indirectly liable for poor rate, and as families in this district are larger, the ratepayers (classified below) may be held as representing nearly 4,000 persons.

	£
54 occupy lands separately, worth 10*l.* per annum and upwards - -	6,016
560 occupy lands separately of less annual value than 10*l.* - - -	2,060
48 occupy household property - -	396
662 occupiers of property valued at -	8,472

Besides these there may probably be 100 shepherds and farm servants with their families on the 56 larger holdings, and the remainder of the population consists of lodgers, single women, paupers, and squatters. These last are persons who having married without leaving their parents' house, and having produced a larger family than the house will hold, erect a bothy surreptitiously, into which they hive off with their families. Their poverty and difficulty in "*flitting*" even to the nearest town (which is 60 or 70 miles distant) and the frequent impossibility of extricating themselves from their implication with others in fishing enterprises, render it no easy matter for the landlord to remove them from these bothies when once established in them.

With the exception then of the occupiers of the larger holdings, and of the majority of the householders, in all perhaps a hundred families at the outside, it may be said that the population live by manual labour; and of the hundred families thus excepted, scarcely more than half can well be called employers in the ordinary sense of the term.

I ought, however, here to mention that it is not uncommon even for the labouring classes in Gairloch to employ a girl at a trifling wage who becomes one of the family and lives with them. She is occupied principally in carrying peats, looking after the cattle, and assisting in the cultivation of the croft or potato ground.

Those of the population who are in permanent outdoor service with employers, receive much the same pay as you found current on the eastern side of the country. Shepherds and farm servants are engaged by the half year, and are paid partly in money and partly in kind, the latter consisting of meal, potatoes, and milk, and peats which they are allowed to cut for themselves during working hours. The average rate of pay, if everything be included, is probably equivalent to from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a week, and though this may seem a low wage, yet as there is no house-rent to pay, and they are of frugal habits, people of this class are generally raised above want, and are ambitious of having their children properly educated. They form, however, but a small proportion of the labouring population of the parish. For the lodgers, the squatters, and the occupiers of small holdings, commonly called *crofters*, there is no permanent employment. Those in the neighbourhood of employers may get occasional work at 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week, women and children at 6*d.* to 10*d.* a day, but this must be considered exceptional; there are as a rule no wages to be earned within reach of home. Those who hold no land directly from the proprietor generally manage to secure potato ground and grass for a cow from some one who does. The difference, indeed, between the crofter and the squatter may be said to rest only in this, that while both share the land, the former does so in a larger proportion than the latter.

On my own property at Gairloch there are 451 crofters, whose rents—in every case less than 10*l.*—are paid directly to me, and whose average rent is only 3*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* each. They are located in "townships" along the coast. Each township consists of as many five acre lots, enclosed in a ring fence, as there are tenants in the township, and attached to it is as much hill pasture as will graze for each tenant from one to three cows, and from five to ten sheep. Arable land is usually let at about 1*l.* per acre, and as the average rent paid by the crofters is 2*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* for each lot, and 17*s.* 4*d.* for the share of hill pasture, it appears that the five acre lots cannot one with another be much more than half improved. Sometimes this may be attributed to indolence, often to the rocky nature of the ground. It can scarcely be said to result from insecurity of tenure, since the enforced removal of a crofter is very exceptional, and though as a rule the crofters hold their lands on a promise of 10 or 12 years' possession, a longer lease has never been refused to one anxious to improve his holding. It is evident that farms of less than three acres, with a little pasture on the hill, would be quite unfit to afford either support or employment to their occupiers throughout the year even if no part were ever sublet. Employment for hire, I have already said, is not as a rule to be had, but the sea is near at hand, and there are occasional opportunities of fishing for market, such as when the regular cod fishing occurs in February, and when shoals of herring come into the loch. But usually there is no fishing to be got at home except for family supply, and in fine weather the younger members of the family are quite competent for this, and might undertake it after school-hours.

As the crofters have thus no regular and constant outlet for their labour at home throughout the year, they are obliged for some portion of it to seek employment without the parish, in order to obtain sustenance for their families and themselves. Usually they leave their homes after seed time and do not return till harvest, often not till some time later, if the family at home is able to secure their little crop. It cannot be but that the wages an unskilled labourer earns in a part only of the year must be insufficient for the proper maintenance of his family during the whole of it; nevertheless it is not unnatural that the family should prefer privation in food and clothing to perpetual separation, and so the Gairloch crofters remain at home in winter, and are consequently during a great portion of it in enforced idleness, and towards its close often in extreme want. In debt to the small dealers around them, to the fish curers, and to the landlord, they can get no credit when the time of extremity comes, and almost every spring I have to send them a cargo of potatoes, frequently also a cargo of meal. One with another they are nearly two years in arrear of rent (notwithstanding considerable annual abatements on the ground of poverty), yet they are, with few exceptions, honestly intentioned, and they generally pay punctually in autumn for the potatoes or meal supplied to them in spring.

In summer they seek employment partly in railway work, but more usually in the east coast herring fishing and in that of the Outer Hebrides. Some have boats of their own, others are hired by curers. Often their payment is dependant on the take, and this speculative form of wage, which no doubt has its attractions to some, is in a bad season, a frequent cause of misery, for the crofter has seldom any store laid by him, he lives from hand to mouth, and low wages with him, as with any other labourer, mean insufficient food and scanty clothing. But the herring fishery is a source of misery from other causes than its precarious and speculative nature, for to it (coupled with the want of education) is due the continued over-population of the West Highlands. At about 17 lads first go to it, and after three or four

years' experience several of them obtain from a curer a boat and nets on becoming jointly bound to fish for him at market prices (or something less) until the boat and nets are paid for. Owners of property they now feel entitled to marry, but as the land is fully occupied they have still to remain with their parents, or seek a home beyond the parish. Their fortunes, however, are bound up in their boat, their shares in her are not saleable, and if they have not fallen heirs to their fathers' crofts they probably become squatters, as already explained, before their original debt to the curer has been paid off. Notwitstanding the most stringent rules against the occupation of one holding by two families, and occasional enforced removal, the population, I believe, still continues to increase.

Those who seek for summer employment on land never make such high wages as the herring fishers sometimes do, but their earnings are a certainty, and I have often remarked that they pay their way with more regularity, and are more clear of obligations and debts than men who should pecuniarily be in a much better position were it not for the extravagance engendered by the speculative nature of their employment.

I have mentioned that the harvesting is occasionally performed entirely by women and children of the family. The women, indeed, do a good deal of outdoor work. They do not dig their ground, but they harrow or rake in the seed, and carry a great deal of the seaweed, used as manure, from the shore to the croft. They also carry home the peats from the moss.

Though these are heavy kinds of work the women do not seem to suffer from their labours.

The death-rate is, I believe, lower than in many agricultural districts, where women's work is of a much lighter kind, while the women are certainly more modest than they are when it is the custom to congregate them together in gangs.

I have thought it necessary to describe the general state of the people, and the peculiarities of their condition, before noticing more particularly those inquiries to which you have specially directed my attention, viz., (1.) The state of cottage accommodation and the prospect of its improvement. (2.) The practicability of enforcing attendance at school; and, (3.) The effect of education in improving the material condition of the people. Such information on these points, as I possess, I now proceed to give you.

(1.) On my own property, and I believe also throughout the parish, the old Highland system still prevails, under which tenants provide the buildings necessary for their farms, the landlord supplying the wood requisite for their construction.

Exceptions to this rule may be found on some of the larger farms, but even there the exception has not extended to the shepherd's and farm servant's cottages; these, therefore, are in almost all cases similar in character to those occupied by the crofter population. They are usually erected by unskilled labour, and their irregularity of outline, their unfinished look, and the darkness which often pervades their interior give them an appearance of discomfort, which their inhabitants certainly do not feel so long as the houses are warm and dry. Content, however, in this case is perhaps scarcely a virtue, for neatness and cleanliness are usually wanting though remaining unmissed by the cottager.

The crofter or labourer who requires a new home often erects it himself. He receives timber for the roof, doors, windows, and partitions, and gathering surface stones from the neighbourhood he builds a dry stone wall, and fills the interstices with peat moss. The roof he thatches with turf, covering it afterwards with heather, straw, or rushes. Should he have money he may employ tradesmen and bricks with mortar, when a much neater job is of course made; but even when he does the whole work himself without any expenditure of money he may erect a cottage that will satisfy the conditions of warmth, decency, and cleanliness. A cottage of this kind built on a satisfactory model was shown to you when you were at Gairloch. In many of the old cottages there were no sufficient divisions for the proper separation of the sexes; the entrance to the house was often through the byre, and the dunghill was in front of the door. In those that are now rebuilt, however, it is made a condition that these defects shall not be perpetuated when the wood is granted for their erection; and gradually the crofters cottages will probably assume the form of model above referred to. I do not foresee how, in presence of the existing population, any greater improvement in the house accommodation of the crofters can take place.

A decent cottage, with the necessary offices, could not be erected by a landlord of durable material and construction for less than 70*l.* or 80*l.*, at the very lowest estimate, and the rents would be doubled were such a building erected on each croft, and four per cent. charged on the outlay. But the crofter can scarcely pay his rent now, and would have no means of meeting this extra charge, it would therefore swallow up the entire rental and the landlord would lose the fee simple value of his property. There are but few proprietors who could afford to improve cottages on these terms. They preclude the use of public advances by impoverished landowners, and I think it may be assumed that when land is subdivided, as it is in Gairloch, the system of cottage erection now in use is the only one that will be found practicable.

There is more room (having regard to commercial principles) for the improvement of cottages on large farms. As the class whence farm servants are recruited rises in education and intelligence, and evinces a desire for superior house accommodation, it will be found advantageous to satisfy that desire; and advances of public money at low rates would in these circumstances facilitate cottage improvement, and might in some cases hasten it. At the present time, however, it is probable farm servants would prefer to an improved cottage a rise of wage equal to even half the interest of the money which the improved cottage would cost. They seldom care to occupy more than two rooms. I know an instance where a man in receipt of twice the wages of an ordinary labourer, and who has a six-roomed house, occupies only two rooms, though he has a wife and four children, the eldest a girl of nearly 16.

(2.) There are in the parish at the present time 17 English and two Gaelic schools. With two exceptions, they are supported by the benevolence of societies or individuals, and can scarcely be said to be of a permanent character; nevertheless, so long as they are upheld, the means of education exists in sufficient quantity, although not always, perhaps, of the highest quality. Education, therefore, is not so materially affected by the want of means as by the failure to use these means. Irregularity of attendance at school is much to be deplored, and, as pointed out by the Education Commission of 1864, "the ignorance and "apathy of the parents is the chief cause of this "great evil."

Children are not here put to work at any early age. They may assist their parents on their crofts, but they have few opportunities of working for hire, and even when they have, they scarcely ever make use of them till they have passed the age of 12. Between 12 and 15 or 16 they would probably take light summer work if they could get it, but they could still attend school in the winter months.

The poverty of the parents (which, as I have already intimated, is often very great) affects the regularity of attendance of the younger children who do not live in the immediate neighbourhood of a school, inasmuch as when ill-provided with clothing, they cannot endure the inclemency of the weather. This poverty would also tend to keep children entirely off the school-register were fees charged, but at present these are but seldom asked for. The policy of not exacting them is sometimes questioned, and there can be no doubt that where parents have to pay for education, they will see to the regularity of their children's at-

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tendance, in order that they may secure their money's worth. But payment of fees where education was not compulsory would be entirely avoided by withdrawing the child from school, and therefore I should prefer to see payment made by rate, which in Gairloch would affect the majority of the labouring classes, and would here produce most of the advantage, and cause none of the disadvantage, attending payment by fee. If education could be made compulsory I believe it would be of immense benefit to the parish, but the difficulty of enforcing compulsory enactments of this nature in remote rural districts, inclines me to consider that the object might best be arrived at indirectly by adopting some provision analogous to those contained in the Factory Acts. If it were made penal, say three years from the time of the enactment, to employ any one under 16 who had not passed an examination in a specified standard of education, or who (failing in this), had not received a certificate from his teacher that he had attended school regularly when in health, for a specified number of years, education would, I think, become practically compulsory. It would of course be necessary to provide that where the examination had not been passed the certificate of attendance should vary with the age of the child, so as to secure half time at least at school. In an agricultural community that half time would necessarily alternate by the half-year, and not by the half-day or half-week as in the case of factories.

(3.) I cannot say that education has as yet produced any marked effect on the material condition of the population at Gairloch, but though the number of schools I have named have been in operation for nearly 20 years, I learn on enquiry, that, of the young people between 16 and 30 years old, only about 50 per cent. can read and write, and of these only about 5 per cent. can do so correctly. Individual instances do occasionally come under my notice where young men have benefited greatly by their opportunities of obtaining education. Thus, I know of two brothers who now own a thriving drapery business with establishments both in England and Scotland, sons of a crofter who was as poor and apathetic as any in the parish. They have risen by their own energy, but they attribute the difference between their position and that of their father to the education which he was enabled to give them, but which he did not possess himself. I know another case, where the son of equally poor parents became paymaster-sergeant of his regiment within three years of his enlistment in the army. These instances must be classed as exceptional, though possibly were education more widely spread they might become representative. Certainly, it is to be noticed that education has almost invariably the effect of exciting in those who possess it a desire to better their material condition, and the first step towards its improvement is the excitement of this ambition.

I have already stated that there is not work at Gairloch to keep the population in steady employment, and it follows that either there should be such an outlay of capital as would provide it for them, or that they should migrate to those localities where they now earn their livelihood, or to any other they may think more suitable.

Capital may be laid out either on the land or in the construction of factories, but factories in rural districts are not usually so successful as those in towns where the loss of skilled labour is easily replaced.

If the land were improved to such an extent as to support the existing population, at least three times the area now in cultivation would have to be reclaimed, since where land is entirely occupied by crofters, and there are no employers of hired labour, 10*l.* should, at Gairloch, be the minimum rent of any holding. But the land there is of such a nature that very little of it could be reclaimed at a profit, therefore unless some unforeseen development of local industry takes place, I cannot conceive there will be any great improvement in the condition of the people until their numbers become reduced. Whether, however, their condition is to be improved by migration or by the local development of industry, this may be held as certain—that neither the one nor the other will be of any avail unless it receive the active co-operation of the people themselves.

Enforced migration has been tried in vain in many parts of the Islands and Western Highlands, and large sums of money have been spent in improving land in the Lewis, but the poverty remains the same. The people themselves must in a great measure work out their own improvement, and I have no doubt they would do so if they possessed the intelligence and the ambition which education gives. In his evidence before a select committee of the House of Commons in 1865, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cloyne says that education teaches the people of Ireland their own best interest, and that they learn to say, "If we stop "at home give us employment; but as we have no "employment, we must go abroad."

Mr. McCarthy Downing, before the same Committee, said: "Education has taught them to write "and receive letters from relations abroad, who de"scribe their advantageous circumstances, and the "temptation to go abroad arises from a feeling that "they have not the same opportunities in their "own country of raising themselves to that position "which they can elsewhere, and, being intelligent, "they wish to go and improve their position."

In a letter to the Lord Advocate on education in the Hebrides, published by Mr. Ramsay, of Kildalton, in 1862, in the form of a pamphlet, he points out that the inhabitants of Barra and the Lewis were increasing in numbers, although in both cases "a "considerable outlay was incurred for the purpose "of removing what was deemed a superabundant "population."

He cites on the other hand the island of Islay as an instance of the beneficial effect of education.

"The late Mr. Campbell of Islay, and his uncle, the late Captain Walter Campbell, of Sunderland, possibly without foreseeing all the results, but from their well-known benevolent desire to promote the welfare of every individual on their estates, took an active interest nearly 40 years since in establishing efficient schools throughout the island, and in encouraging the regular attendance of the young. This has been acted on and encouraged by those who have succeeded them, as well as by clergymen and other residents who have taken an interest in the subject. And the result has been that though there have been few enforced removals during that period, and no outlay has ever been incurred by the proprietors to promote emigration, the diffusion of education has not only assisted the growth of the population, but has so promoted voluntary removals, as to bring about a great diminution of their number. The population of Islay, which in 1841, in round numbers was 14,000, decreased to 12,000 in 1851, and according to the last census, was only 10,000 in 1861, while there has been a corresponding decrease in the number of the very small holdings of land."

Although the establishment of schools has not yet told perceptibly on the population of Gairloch, I have no doubt it will in time produce the effects which have been elsewhere observed to follow, and it would do it all the more quickly were means taken to make education practically compulsory. Ignorant and selfish parents occasionally discourage their children from attending school, knowing that so long as they remain uneducated they will be little disposed to change the mode of life in which they have been brought up, and will shrink from contact with a world in which their own inferiority constantly presents itself to them, and in which their imperfect knowledge of the English language subjects them to the ridicule of the vulgar. I have myself heard parents say they saw no good in education, as it only took their children away from them, and though but few may feel actually opposed to it, numbers are so perfectly careless on the subject, that some form of coercion is absolutely necessary. It is one of the conditions on

which my crofters at Gairloch hold their land, that they shall educate their children, but the only penalty I can inflict for non-compliance with this regulation is eviction, and it is too severe a penalty to be ever practically applied.

182. Second Letter from the same.

My dear Campion,

What I wrote to you about compulsory attendance at school is very crude, and on consideration I should like to add a word or two on the subject. There is with us, as you are aware, no practical religious difficulty to stand in the way of compulsory attendance, because though the schools are denominational, there is no doctrinal difference between the denominations, and differences of opinion on ecclesiastical polity are gradually ceasing to cause the profound sectarian jealousies they at one time did. But it seems to me that in a remote district such as Gairloch, it will be very difficult to devise machinery fit to punish the breach of a law compelling children to attend school.

In the first place, the offence is in the person of the child, while the punishment will have to be inflicted on the parent; and in the second place, even when the offence is undoubtedly due to the influence of the parent, there may be circumstances connected with the child's health which would justify the use of this influence. It is evident, therefore, that under any law inflicting fines for non-attendance at school a very large discretion would have to be given to the prosecutor and judges who are entrusted with its execution, and in remote and rude districts it will be very difficult to find officials fitted to fill these positions. Incompetent officials might either render the law an instrument of oppression, or leave it a dead letter.

It is on this ground that I suggested an indirect rather than a direct form of coercion, but it has occurred to me since I wrote to you that my suggestion would not prove sufficiently coercive, and I would propose that the rate instead of being levied entirely on property should be levied partly on the children of school age, between 6 and 15, allowing exemption after 12 to any child who passes the examination proper to that age.

Yours very truly,
Kenneth S. Mackenzie.

183. *Rev. Mr. Rose*, F.C., Aultbea.—"I have been about four years minister here. I am well acquainted with the west coast, and I should say that Gairloch would represent about an average state of things as respects the circumstances of the people in the whole coast line from the Island of Mull to Cape Wrath.

I think that owing to the peculiar circumstances of the district, the difference of language, the nature of holdings among the crofter class, who represent the great body of the people, and the circumstance of their being inaccessible to all other employments, and also to the way in which the people are grouped in townships along the coast, any great national scheme of education ought to treat the North-west Highlands exceptionally in the following respects:—

1. A thoroughly competent class of schoolmasters should be secured, and must be supported chiefly at the expense of the State.

2. The language of the people should be recognized as a branch of education, not to be enforced, but by no means to be discouraged.

3. The Government Inspector of schools should know the Gaelic language.

4. National schools in this district, in order to be efficient and acceptable to the people, should be based upon religious instruction, given in accordance with the teaching of the Church of Scotland.

If the schools were of this character, that is to say, both efficient and suitable, I think that a moderate system of compulsory attendance would be desirable.

There is decidedly a growing feeling among the parents in favour of efficient education for their children, but they do not like to put up with inferior schools. The circumstances of the people are such that they are unable to pay school fees to an extent which would defray most of the expenses of a good teacher. In some of the existing schools, where the teaching is efficient, the children are quite as well educated as those of their class and age in schools in the Lowlands. I have no doubt that poverty of the parents, especially in so far as it renders them unable to supply the children with sufficient clothing to face the severity of Highland weather, often keeps the children away from school. There are not many cases of children who are not sent to school at all, but many in which their attendance is very irregular, and there is no doubt some indifference among parents upon this point.

They are employed a great deal in herding and other little works about the parents' crofts, but do not hire out as herds under the age of 12, and rarely so young. There may be a few cottages with only one room, but rarely when occupied by a family, and I think that generally the accommodation is improving. The people are as a rule very well behaved and moral. A good many of the young people leave their homes, on growing up, and seek employment in the south and in foreign parts, and I attribute this partly to the influence of education.

If Government would take up the matter, and exercise a little liberality in it, I do not think that there is any part of the kingdom which would be more easily educated than the North-west Highlands, in consequence of the manner in which the people are generally arranged in townships in accessible positions along the coast."

184. *Rev. Mr. Matheson*, F.C., Gairloch.—"I have been minister here for 26 years. The general size of the crofts is about four acres, and the tenants have also a little pasture on the hills attached to their holdings. The crofts do not support them entirely, and they depend a good deal upon the fishing, and the result is that they cannot devote enough attention either to the land or to the sea. At this time of the year (May 17th) many of them would be going to the Stornoway fishing if they did not have to stop at home and lay down their crops. The coast fishing in the lochs about has failed for many years, and this failure has deprived the people of one source of subsistence. Most of them are now in debt both for meal and to the curers. What first brought destitution into the Western Highlands was the potato disease, and ever since that time there has been a great deal of poverty. The feeling with respect to education has improved very much of late years; those who go to the Caithness fishing experience the disadvantages of being unable to speak or read English, and this makes them more anxious to educate their children. I should not think that there are many children in this parish who are kept away from school altogether by the indifference of their parents, but in most cases the attendance is very irregular, particularly in the winter season. Children are very often kept at home then by the severity of the weather, as the parents are too poor to provide them with good shoes and clothing. At present there are not enough schools for the requirements of the parish, and many of those which do exist are not efficient. It is not by employment in agriculture that children are kept away from school, with the exception of the desultory assistance which they give to their parents upon the crofts. There is one small arable farm of about 30 acres in this district, where girls of 18 or 20 occasionally get employment, but only for a very short period of the year, and this is a solitary nstance. Some of the girls and a few of the young men in the parish go to the east coast for harvest work, and the girls sometimes return home demoralized. The majority of the young people follow the same calling as their parents upon growing up, and it is only a very few who seek and obtain permanent situations at a distance. There has been a good deal of improvement in the cottages, but they are poor enough still, and there is often a good deal of crowding, but the

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people are as a rule very moral and regular. They often come 10 miles to church, and two-thirds of my congregation have to come six or seven miles, and are very regular in their attendance on Sundays, when the weather is tolerable. I think that in case of any new scheme of education it would be very unfair to tax the crofters, who could not possibly afford to pay. As it is they are, every one of them, taxed for poor rates, and in many cases this burden falls upon men who hardly know how to live themselves, and are frequently unable to pay the proprietor his rent.

In a congregational school in the district, which is under Government inspection, we have reduced the fees to 6*d.* a quarter, but if we were to insist upon even that small sum being paid, many of the children would be kept at home. When there exists on the part of the parents any want of appreciation of the benefits of education, I attribute it more to their dire poverty than to any other cause.

I wish further to state that the general feeling of the people is very tenacious in clinging to the use of the Bible and shorter catechism as class books in the schools, and if these were excluded by Act of Parliament, the great majority of the parents would not send their children to school at all."

185. *Mr. Macintosh*, schoolmaster, Poolew, and inspector of poor for Gairloch.—"Children begin to come to school as young as five years old. From November to the middle of April we have a full school of children of all ages, but from that time till November again, the attendance is confined to those who are quite young. At about 10 years old they begin to be taken away to assist at home in peat-cutting, potato planting, and other similar employment. I do not think that there is generally much anxiety among parents in Gairloch to educate their children. They seem to wish to send them to school, but in most cases their notion of what they wish their children to learn is extremely vague. The state of education among the adult population is as a general rule very deficient; the elder ones can seldom even speak English; those varying between the ages of 18 and 40 speak and sometimes read a little English, but can seldom write. Four of the schools in the parish were established by the proprietor about 23 years ago, and two others a few years later. There are now in all in Gairloch, 12 schools in connexion (more or less) with the Free Church, four in connexion with the Established Church, and three Gaelic schools. This number is inadequate to meet the requirements of the population, in consequence of the isolation of many of the districts. The population lies almost entirely along the coast, and is divided among 30 different townships which are more or less separated from each other. In the case of almost every school there are some children attending it who have to come very long distances, often as much as four miles, which is too much for the young children. Children between the ages of 10 and 12 generally come back to school for part of July, the whole of August, and half of September, till the harvest-work begins. There are a good many in some parts of the parish who are not sent to school at all, and when they are sent the attendance is often very irregular. At Poolew, however, I have no complaint to make either with respect to irregularity of attendance or absence altogether. The children at my school are withdrawn for good at the age of 13 or 14; they can then usually read and write well, and do a rule of three sum, and have also acquired some knowledge of geography and grammar. The population of Poolew are better off than those in any other part of the parish with very few exceptions. The general state of the country is this, that the poor, including as a rule all the crofters and fisher class, are exceedingly poor, and above them there is no medium between great poverty and very easy circumstances. The poor rate this year was 3*s.* in the pound, but this is higher than has been the case for the last 10 years, and the increase has been caused by the recent failure both of fishing and crops. Most of the crofters go to the Caithness and east coast fishing, and they used to go to the Lewis fishing also.

I should be glad to see a compulsory system of education if it could be made practicable, but it is not by employment in agriculture that children under 13 are kept away from school. When Sir Kenneth Mackenzie built four of the schools in the parish, a system of compulsion was attempted in a modified form with his tenants, but although it produced a better attendance, I do not think that it had a good effect with respect to the feeling of the parents towards education."

186. *Mr. W. Reid*, occupier, Isle of Ewe.—In the parish generally boys and girls are employed herding at from 10 to 15 years old, chiefly with their parents. Women are very generally employed in agriculture upon their own crofts at home. The hours of work are the ordinary hours, but most of the labour being on the crofts of parents, particular hours are not generally observed. The employment being chiefly at home hard labour is confined to the spring and autumn months. A good many of the young women go to the Low Country, but make no complaints of ill usage of any kind while there. I am not prepared to recommend any restriction upon the employment of females or children in agriculture, unless in the interest of young children attending school. The bothy system does not exist; the greatest part of the population of the county are crofters.

As to the number of schools, we are well supplied, but in point of efficiency some of them are defective. There has been, and there still is, a want of appreciating education, but the tone in this respect is improving. The severity of the climate interferes to some extent with the attendance. I would suggest compulsory attendance at school up to 11 or 12 years of age in case of both sexes, after which matters may well be left to circumstances.

187. *K. Mackenzie*, son of a crofter.—Inhabits one small room at the end of his father's cottage. This room was originally intended to be used as a sort of barn or outhouse. His father is the tenant of the croft, which consists of 4½ acres, rented at 3*l.* 16*s.* Attached to this is hill pasture for two cows, two stirks (or young beasts),and 12 sheep. For this the tenant pays 22*s.* per year, and has now his full allowance both of cattle and sheep upon it. Besides witness, the father has three other children, viz., two sons and a daughter, all grown up, who live with him. (The father's cottage contained three rooms, and was a comparatively good one, having been originally built by the proprietor to serve as a model to the other crofters.) One of the sons is a carpenter and the other a shepherd. The daughter helps at home. Witness himself works as ploughman to the minister, and is paid 16*l.* a year money besides allowances. His eldest child, 5½ years old, is at school. Both witness and his brothers and sister were at school.

188. *Wife of John Bain*, crofter.—Has five children, the eldest, a daughter aged 18, was at home till last Martinmas, when she went to service in the Low Country, where she has taken an engagement for the half year with a small farmer for in and out work, and will be able to renew it if she keeps her health; the second, a daughter aged 14, lives at home and is at school; the third, a boy aged 11, and the fourth, a daughter aged 7, are also at school; the fifth, a girl aged 5, is not at school yet. Her husband's croft is two and a half acres in extent. [It is actually larger, the crofts upon this property, Sir Kenneth Mackenzie's, being all, as I was informed by his factor, of at least four acres in extent, but in this case only half of the the land had been improved by the tenant, and the remainder was waste.]

They only hold half a share of hill pasture, as they have not stock for more. There is a shepherd employed by the crofters to take charge of the sheep and stock upon the hills, and the children are only employed to drive them there in the morning. Her children generally go to school throughout the winter, but sometimes, when it is very cold, they are pre-

vented by want of good shoes and clothes. She can read Gaelic herself, and so can her husband, but neither of them knows any English. They have to buy eight or nine bolls of meal in the year, and potatoes to the value of about 2*l.*, and also buy a little tea and sugar when they can afford it. They sell no milk, but perhaps once in about four years they may sell a "stirk;" they have enough milk to supply themselves for about eight months of the year. Her husband is a fisherman for about two months in the year, when he goes to Wick for the herring fishing as a hirer, and gets during that period 1*l.* per week and his keep; for another two months in the year, more or less, he gets employment at odd jobs in the neighbourhood. At present he is employed upon the Skye Railway (May 18th); for the rest of the year he works upon his croft. Her husband's mother lives with them, and so do two of his sisters. The books in the corner are two Gaelic Bibles and an English one.

Her cottage was a very bad one. It contained one room divided into three in the following manner. Upon entering, the first division was appropriated for the "byre," vacant in the daytime but occupied by the cattle at night. The "byre" was separated by a wall of about 5 ft. high, which served as a back to the fire, from the sitting-room in the centre of the cottage. In the further end was the sleeping apartment, divided from the sitting-room by a low and very rough wooden partition, which one could easily look over. The den so formed—for it can hardly be styled a "room," was just large enough to hold three beds, and these were the only sleeping accommodation provided for a family of nine persons of various ages and both sexes.

189. — *Mac Iver*, a son of the tenant of the croft, who is an old man and incapable of work. The family consists of the old man and his wife, three sons, and two daughters, (all grown up), and two brothers of the old man, who also live with him. One of the sons is a draper's assistant at Inverness, the others all live at home. Witness himself is the only fisherman in the family. He goes as a hirer both to the Caithnesss and Lewis fishing. This year he waited at home to lay down the crops, and was consequently too late to go to the Lewis fishing. The other son at home is a shepherd for most of his time. One of the daughters knits stockings, and the other has a paralysed hand. He and his brothers are going to try and get work on the Skye Railway as soon as the peat-cutting is over. [N.B. When I saw him he was lounging about the house with apparently nothing at all to do.] The draper's assistant and one of the daughters are the only members of the family who can read and write English. The others cannot write at all, and can read Gaelic only. Witness wishes very much that he had been to school and got some education himself.

The croft consists of three acres, rented at 2*l.* 10*s.*; the tenant has also a 22*s.* share of hill pasture, and not having stock enough of his own for it makes up the number by taking some of his neighbour's stock. They buy about seven bolls meal in the year when they cannot get potatoes, but less when they can, and spend about 1*s.* per week in grocery. One of witness's uncles does a little work upon the croft, but the other is helpless.

This cottage and the preceding one presented, both of them, a picture of the most abject poverty. In this, as in the former case, the outer door opened into the byre, beyond which lay two rooms divided from each other and from the byre by walls or rather partitions running up to the top of the house wall. The outer of these two rooms contained one bed, and the inner more beds, but being lighted only by one very small window, I was unable to see how many, and indeed could make out nothing but a confused mass of dirty bedclothes. Both of the rooms were dark; the outer one was, I should think, about 10 ft. by 8 ft. in size, and the squalor and misery of their appearance can hardly be exaggerated.

190. TABLE showing comparative attendance of children in summer and winter, at 19 agricultural schools in the parish of Gairlock.

In Summer.

	On the Register of some School.	In average Attendance.
Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	184	143
Between 10 and 13 -	169	120
Total boys -	353	263
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	194	138
Between 10 and 13 -	126	99
Total girls -	320	237

In Winter.

Boys:		
Under 10 years of age -	193	148
Between 10 and 13 -	240	157
Total boys -	433	305
Girls:		
Under 10 - -	176	137
Between 10 and 13 -	169	131
Total girls -	345	268

LOCH ALSH.

Population, 2,413. - Acreage, 53,000, of which 2,500 acres are under cultivation.

191. *Mr. James Watson*, superintendent of works for A. Matheson, Esq., M.P.—The cultivation here is chiefly pastoral, and the crops cultivated are potatoes, oats, and hay, and, on the larger farms, turnips; oats is the principal grain crop in all the west coast, with small quantities of barley in some of the islands.

Boys and girls under 14 years of age are seldom employed in agricultural labour in the district, except upon their parents' crofts at the laying down of the potato crop. Women are largely employed in all kinds of field labour, and especially on the crofts, where they do all the work, the men only doing the heavy work at the laying down of the crops in spring. The young persons and women employed, generally live upon the farms and crofts, and in one or two cases they walk two miles; when they get hired labour they walk from two to four miles. The hours of work are 10 hours a day for all alike, and I am not aware of the young or females being subject to any ill-treatment or physical injury in respect to their work. The females who are regularly employed in field labour do not make good house servants, unless they are sent early to domestic service away from their parents. Taking into consideration the very limited demand for agricultural labourers in this district, I do not think it would have any good effect to limit or restrict women from field labour. The cottages provided in this district for farm labourers are generally good, and conveniently situated; the houses of the crofters are not good, and in many cases overcrowded, but considerable improvements are being made in the houses of crofters which will add to their comfort. The bothy system does not exist to any extent, and when it does the sexes are separate. When the farm servants have no gardens attached to their cottages, they have ground for potatoes instead, but in most cases they have both. Where the cottage accommodation is at present deficient there is progress being made to have it made sufficient.

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In this district there is no advantage taken of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114., as our proprietor gives his tenants every encouragement to have their land and houses improved. All agricultural farm labourers are hired for a period of 6 and 12 months, and are paid part wages in money and part in kind; the money wages vary from 16*l.* to 18*l.* per annum; the allowance of meal for the same period is equivalent in value to 7*l.*, the keep of a cow to 5*l.*, and besides this they have house and potato ground. All labourers working at our improvements are paid every four weeks in cash. All married farm servants and shepherds have a cow, and in some cases, two cows, with an allowance of seven bolls of meal, and ground to plant sufficient potatoes; they are also allowed to keep some poultry. This district is well supplied with schools, and they are locally well situated; there are 10 schools in the three adjoining parishes of Loch Alsh, Kintail, and Glenshiel, of which Loch Alsh has five. All the schools are under Government inspection, with the exception of the parish schools of Glenshiel and Kintail. All classes are admitted to the schools at moderate fees, and the children of paupers are paid for by the parochial board. The attendance during the summer months is very bad, the children being kept at home for fishing and other purposes. The "Printworks Act" would be the mode best adapted of the three proposed to suit the requirements of this district, if the attendance was regular. The general complaint from schoolmasters is, that the children do not attend regularly, their attendance being sometimes for two days in the week only, thus keeping back the classes which they attend from making the progress they would otherwise do.

Some mode that would enforce a regular attendance of the children of the poorer classes for three months, during the months of December, January, and February, in each year, would be a great advantage to this district. Generally the lower classes feel very indifferent on the subject of education.

All the crofts on this property are of three classes.

1. Those paying from 2*l.* to 5*l.* rent, and the extent of which will be from one to three acres arable land, with the grazing of two cows.

2. Those paying from 5*l.* to 10*l.*; extent from three to seven acres arable, with grazing for two to four cows, and a few sheep.

3. Club farms paying from 13*l.* to 30*l.* each tenant, extent of arable land from 8 to 12 acres, with cattle and sheep.

All the crofters paying rent under 10*l.* are of the semi-fishing, and semi-agricultural class; those paying rents over 20*l.* devote their entire time to their farms. There is very little demand for labour, except to carry out the improvements carried on by the proprietor. The works carried on in this district have done much to improve the position of the people. The young men and women are generally in the habit of going to the south and east coast during the summer and autumn as agricultural labourers, and in quest of employment at the different fishing stations, returning home for the winter and spring months. Those who have the advantage of an ordinary education find permanent situations in the south, and a number of them are sailors in foreign-going ships.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

Inverness-shire.

Mr. Campion.

KILMALLIE.

Population, 4272.

192. LETTER from *Donald Cameron, Esq.*, of Lochiel, M.P.

DEAR CAMPION,

THE demand for labour among the crofters varies of course in different localities, and is dependent upon, 1st, the density of the population,

2ndly, the extent to which arable farming is carried, and 3rdly, the number of resident proprietors in the district. Thus in the islands where the population is very thick indeed, where there are no large arable farms but only a few sheep runs, and where there are no resident proprietors, these conditions are all unfavourable, and consequently, as might be expected, there is absolutely no employment whatever of the usual kind, and were it not for the manufacture of kelp or seaweed (an accidental circumstance) there would be literally no money paid in wages from one end of the Long Island to the other. On the other hand in Strath Spey or Glen Urquhart where there are a good many holdings of 20*l.* to 30*l.*, chiefly arable, but also arable and pasture, there is perhaps as good a demand for labour as in most parts of Scotland. Here also there are resident proprietors who carry on a good many improvements, scattered villages, shooting tenants, and all the elements required to keep the population industrially employed. As far as my experience goes the crofters in my part of the county are not backward in availing themselves of the opportunities which are afforded them, but they are as a rule bad workers at any kind of steady work which is of a tedious or monotonous nature, and they all prefer the life of a shepherd or keeper, and if not obliged to work to support their families, many of them would not work at all. I mean by this that with the exception of those who have been in the south and acquired the habits of thrift and perseverance, which are not naturally engrained in them, few of them look to bettering their position, except in order to obtain a croft if they happen not to have one of their own already, and this is the "summum bonum" of their ambition. There are, however, some notable exceptions, and these men are quite aware of the value of their own labour and demand a price for it accordingly. Thus I have frequently seen, in fact it is very rare that I do not see, in a gang of men working on a road, or trenching, or dragging wood, or engaged in any of the ordinary work on my property, some of the labourers engaged at 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and others equally strong-looking, of equal age, and apparently equal in every respect contentedly taking 2*s.*, and my bailiff assures me that the high-priced labour is the cheapest in every case.

I don't know that the people in my district are better off than in other parts of the Highlands. If they are, I attribute it to the money which I and other proprietors have spent on our properties of late years. I should think that improved communication with the south had rather in the first instance an injurious effect on them than otherwise, for these poor people subsist entirely on the produce of their holdings with trifling exceptions, such as seed potatoes or extra meal where there is a large family, and require to make very few purchases in the south, while on the other hand this improved communication has improved all the best, the most active, pushing, ambitious people off the face of the land. They are brought so much more into contact with wealth and a higher civilization, that they long to share it, while the horror of leaving their homes is much lessened by the increased facilities for returning to them.

In regard to your question whether it would be desirable for the State to lend money for the improvement of waste lands in the Highlands, I should say, decidedly no. In the first place it would bring us down to the level of a pauper proprietary which is both a demoralising aspect and one which does not convey quite a true view of the position of landlords here; and in the next place, there is a much simpler

and sounder way for the State to interfere and help in the reclaiming of land. At present you are aware there are companies who advance money (under Acts of Parliament), for purposes of improvement. The action of these companies is in many respects most unsatisfactory. In the first place they lend money at 4½ per cent., and the capital has to be paid off in 25 years, to which must be added the Company's Commission and the expense of inspection by the Inclosure Commissioners; in all it is tantamount to paying 8 per cent. on improvements, and this does not include what I must call waste, in the shape of expenditure in carrying out the strict inelastic laws of the Commissioners; thus, in building they have one fixed law for the Highlands and Lowlands, although the conditions of the two portions of Scotland are essentially different, and what is a necessity in the one place becomes a useless luxury in the other.

This applies in a lesser degree to draining, road making, and other improvements, but it principally affects buildings.

This "waste" certainly adds one per cent. to the total amount of interest, making the whole equal to nine per cent.; now it must be remembered that this is spread over 25 years, and that the average life ownership is 30 years, and as few proprietors are in a position to begin improvements during the first five years of their succeeding, it follows that in the case of an entail the proprietor reaps little or no benefit himself from these Acts of Parliament, but that on the contrary he is making a present of the whole of the improvements to his successor. If this had been the case with the last generation, or if succeeding generations were equally bound with the present one, no one could complain, but in the one case our fathers did not possess these powers under the Acts referred to, and in the other, our successors get their estates in fee simple by the "Rutherford Act," as it is called, of 1848, so that the whole burden falls on this generation without any mitigation or alleviation.

What I contend, therefore, is either that proprietors of entailed estates should be permitted to burden or sell to the extent of one-third of the free value, as proposed in the Lord Advocate's Bill of this year, or that they should be permitted by a simple and cheap process to borrow what money they require for proper and "bonâ fide" improvements at the usual rate of landed security, and charge their estates permanently with the debt instead of paying off the capital in 25 years. Of course improvements of this nature would increase the producing power of the country, give more employment to the people, and augment the wealth of the whole district by employing the money which now goes towards paying for the wintering of sheep and cattle in the Lowlands in growing hay and turnips at home.

I think I gave you my views as to leases before, but I really forget. I am decidedly opposed to leases for small holdings. A year to year tenancy is the only hold a landlord has over the small crofters where they may be quarrelsome, drunken, careless of sending their children to school, too prone to increase the population by illegitimate means, or in any way undesirable tenants. A good landlord would always give any particular tenant who promises to improve land a 19 years' lease if he asks for it. I am sorry to say a demand has never been made to me by a small holder.

The question of education is rather too large a subject to go into in the space and time which I have at command.

Suffice it therefore to say that in my district there exists great carelessness about sending children to school, and, much as I dislike both ideas, I am inclined to think that either a system of rating (which will have the effect of compulsion to the canny Scot, who if he pays for a thing likes to get it) will become necessary, or else compulsory attendance in some form or another of a more direct character.

Lastly, you ask me about the work afforded in my immediate district by the canal. Those employed in that way are for the most part permanent officials. Of casual work there is very little, some towing of course, a good deal of money spent in the tourist season in connection with the steamers (which hardly comes under the scope of your question), and a few labourers engaged twice a year for a week in repairs of the bed and banks of the canal. The lock keepers, however, no doubt spend money in the district which would be by that amount the poorer, if they did not exist. Fishing boats and merchant vessels add nothing to the wealth of the district.

Ever yours sincerely,
DONALD CAMERON.

193. *Mr. Miller*, Inspector of Poor for the parish of Kilmallie.—"The means of education in the parish are abundant, there being no less than 15 schools for a population of 4,272. In the mountain districts there is no population with the exception of a few shepherds, who sometimes hire a lad to teach, and sometimes when the children are a little further advanced send them to board in Fort William, in order to attend the schools there. There is a little arable land in the strath along the river Lochy, and by the side of Loch Linnhè, but, comparatively speaking, very little, and there is no large arable farm in the parish. Along the shore of the Loch, and on the river side there are a good many crofters, occupying holdings which vary from 3 to 10 acres in extent, and generally have some hill grazing attached to them. A good many of the crofters take some part in the herring fishing on the coast close by, but none of them go away to the Stornoway or Caithness fishing. They depend a great deal upon the herring fishing, and when it is bad numbers of them are very poorly off. There is no regular employment in the parish for the crofting population, either in farm work or otherwise, but they get jobs occasionally, and during the harvest months can easily obtain work. As inspector of poor I have to see that the pauper children are educated, and I find great difficulty in inducing the parents to keep them regularly at school, although all the expenses of their education are defrayed by the parochial board. I also find that there is much carelessness upon this point among very many of the labouring classes, especially those who are in poor circumstances. The poorer they are the more indifferent they usually become as to the education of their children."

194. *Mr. McGillivray*, schoolmaster, F. C. Congregational School.—"The children generally begin to come to school at the age of about six or seven, but do not attend regularly, either in winter or summer at any age. In the winter they are often prevented by the weather, and in the summer they are kept at home to herd and to help their parents upon the crofts. The young ones are often employed by neighbours, crofters, who have no children themselves, but never by farmers till they are 15 or 16 years old. I do not think that the parents are generally anxious to educate their children, and I often have to call upon them and press them a great deal in order to induce them to send their children to school. Our fees are very low, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a quarter, and the parents usually pay them regularly. It is chiefly in consequence of the poverty of the parents that the attendance of the children is so irregular; they cannot do without the assistance of the children for a considerable period of the year, and being uneducated themselves they do not appreciate education so much as they ought to do. I should say that 25 out of 40 among my scholars do not get more than four months' schooling in the year, being always absent from April to November inclusive. About six or seven will attend throughout the summer. The result of this long absence is that they forget much of what they have previously acquired. At the age of 12 an average boy or girl can generally read and write fairly, do the simple rules of arithmetic, and know a little geography."

Inverness-shire.

Mr. Campion.

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195. *Mr. Dobie*, occupier.—"I have an arable farm of 110 acres, besides my sheep farm, which is rented for 800 sheep. Upon the arable farm I employ as regular servants two ploughmen, hired by the year, and pay them 18*l.* and 13*l.* 12*s.* respectively in money. The second man is unmarried, and gets his meat in the house. The first, who is married, has also 6½ bolls meal, the keep of a cow, and the planting of 4 barrels of potatoes, and may keep a pig or two if he likes, and as many fowls as he chooses. I have two shepherds, one married and the other single. The first has 20*l.*, the keep of two cows and one follower, and allowances of meal and potatoes the same as the ploughman. The single shepherd has 12*l.* 12*s.*, and his meat in the house. I have also a herd-boy of 16 years old, who gets 3*l.* 5*s.* for the half year, and his meat in the house. The single ploughman, and shepherd, and the herd-boy sleep together in a room attached to the steading. I employ from four to six women from March to November, upon my arable farm, some married and some single, partly belonging to the families of my own ploughman and shepherd, and partly from the crofters near. I pay them 1*s.* a day for 10 hours' work. I often employ young girls, of ages between 10 and 16, in weeding and similar light work, principally those belonging to the families of my ploughman and shepherd, which are both of them large. They are paid 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day, and the work does not keep them from school, excepting in the summer season. When the children are not working for me, their parents use them to clean their own potatoes, and secure peats upon the crofts."

196. *Mr. Cameron*, of Erracht, occupier.—"I have only got about four acres of arable land besides my sheep farm, which carries about 500 sheep. Except one farm next to me (Mr. Dobie's), there is not any arable farm of any size in the parish. I have only one shepherd and one ploughman; the latter is a married man, and has a cottage of his own. I give him 13*l.* a year money, keep of cow, 6½ bolls meal, potato ground equivalent to 4 or 5 bolls, and house and peat-fuel. He has four children, but only one of them is old enough to go to school, a boy of nine, who attends regularly in the winter. I require a boy to herd in the summer, and engaged one the other day from May to Martinmas for 2*l.*; he is about 12 or 13 years old. My shepherd is unmarried, and lives in the house. I get some of the crofters near to help me in harvest time, giving them in return the assistance of my horses in ploughing time, but I do not employ any regularly. I have one extra hand for smearing, and two or three for clipping, but these last are usually neighbours who help me, and then I help them in return."

197. *Mr. Chisholm*, factor to Mr. Cameron, of Lochiel, M.P.—"The crofters on Lochiel's estate lie along the banks of the Caledonian canal and the shores of Loch Linnhè and Loch Eil. They average about 5*l.* rental, and their holdings range from three acres to six acres in size, with right to pasture three cows and four followers on the hill attached to the croft. Besides the arable land actually under cultivation which they hold, they are allowed to improve as much as they like of the moor and moss adjacent, without paying any extra rent. Those amongst them who have been industrious have in this manner extended the size of their crofts to as much as six or seven acres. The crofters get a good deal of work in the summer time in Lochiel's woods, and on the works connected with the canal, and a good many of them get employment as gillies at the shooting lodges in the neighbourhood. In the winter they are usually idle, and I do not think that they do as much as they might in the way of improving their crofts. There are two kinds of cottages upon the crofts; one kind very bad and, in fact, unfit to be inhabited, and the other kind very comfortable, generally containing five rooms. A good many of these latter kind have been built lately. Lochiel always assists tenants wishing to rebuild their cottages by giving them the wood, and they find stone, lime, and labour themselves. The crofters all hold from year to year, but there is always an understanding that the lease is to be perpetually renewed except in case of misbehaviour. The parents are very careless about sending their children to school, and appear altogether indifferent upon the subject of education. The children are occasionally employed in assisting at home, but for a very short period of the year, and it is not either by work of this kind or by employment in any capacity on farms that they are kept away from school. Very few of them are herds, most of the herding of crofters' cattle is done by a man, whom a number of them club together to hire; if farmers employ herds, they generally want grown-up lads to do their work. Lochiel has a large sheep farm in his own hands, and employs 22 shepherds upon it, who live up in the hills. There is a small school house at the head of Loch Arkaig, maintained by the shepherds themselves, where some of their children are educated, and some of them come down to the school at Achnacarry.

Generally speaking the shepherds are anxious to get education for their children, and some of the children come fully six miles to attend the school at Achnacarry."

KILMONIVAIG.

198. LETTER to the Assistant Commissioner from Mr. Malcolm, factor to Edward Ellice, Esq., M.P., Invergarry.

1. Size of crofts and average rental per acre.

Few of the crofts here exceed six or eight acres, but their occupants generally share in common the pasture of the hill, at the base of which their allotments are situated. In each cluster of crofts each tenant is allowed to graze so many sheep, so many cattle, and usually one horse, on the common pasture. We have some 30 crofters, nearly the whole of the estate, which is almost entirely pastoral, being let under 15 years' leases in extensive farms, some of them holding as many as 6,000 sheep. The crofters are tenants at will, that is, they hold from year to year, and their average rental is about 20*s.* per acre (arable). The estate, I may mention, stretches from the sources of the Spey to the sea at the head of Loch Hourn continuously about 36 miles in length, by an average of about five in breadth.

2. Have the people any other employment besides what is furnished them by the cultivation of their crofts?

As mentioned above, each crofter is possessed of a horse. These animals, which are of a kind peculiar to the Highlands, generally bred by the crofters themselves, and though small in size, of wonderful strength, endurance, and sagacity, are invaluable to their owners. Besides their use for working the small farms, they are here in constant request for estate work. They are regularly employed every year for several months in conveying timber (larch for estate use, and natural grown birch sent to Glasgow and Paisley for bobbins,) from the different woods on the estate to the point of shipment on the Caledonian canal, and owing to extensive improvements of the nature of buildings, trenching, draining, fencing, planting, river embanking, &c. which have been conducted on the estate during the past six years, these horses may be said to have been during that time in constant employment. The same remarks apply to those who do not possess crofts or horses. Practically there is ample employment on the estate for all who are able-bodied and willing to work. Those who are not able-bodied are provided for by the rates and by private benefactions, and we take care that no idle or vicious people are allowed a lodgment on the property. We try that all works which they are fitted for shall be done by our own residents, and not by strangers, and the results are that the people in Glengarry live in comparative comfort. Practically there are no arrears of rent, and as another consequence of employment being plentiful, pauperism is being reduced considerably; within the past six years the rates have fallen from 1*s.* 5*d.* to 11*d.* per £, that is 5½*d.*

on proprietor and 5½*d.* on tenant, a reduction of about 35 per cent. I consider that there are few highland parishes so well managed as Kilmonivaig. Great care is used in dealing with new application for relief, and in every doubtful case the poor-house test is applied, with excellent effect, for although there have been many offers of a poor-house ticket within the past few years, I believe we have at present only two paupers in the poor house. The native population are as a rule very provident in their habits, and I know of many, both old and young, who have sums in bank. A private savings bank was recently established in the glen, three per cent. per annum being given on all deposits, which are received as low as 1*s.* at a time, and principal and interest being guaranteed by the proprietor of the estate, Mr. Ellice, M.P. The bank is managed by the clergyman and schoolmaster, but is not extensively patronised, I have no doubt from the feeling inherent in the Highland character, which loves secrecy, especially from the knowledge of those immediately about and above them. The carters, labourers, &c. are all overlooked by the departmental servants of the estate, such as the gardener, forester, carpenter, &c., and are paid regularly every month. The upper servants submit their monthly labour bills to me, and draw the money necessary for the payment of their hands. Carters receive 4*s.* 6*d.* per day, and labourers' wages range from 10*s.* to 16*s.* weekly according to efficiency. The whole business and operations of the estate are of course superintended by me, and I go round the different works daily. The people nearly all wear what is known as "home spun" for clothing, and I believe they are able to clothe themselves very cheaply, as most of them not only grow their own wool, but put the wool themselves through all the processes of cleaning, carding, spinning, dyeing, &c., up to the point when it is ready to enter the loom. A ragged person is unknown. The glen is supplied with a shop, three shoemakers, a weaver (who is also precentor), a blacksmith, and several masons and carpenters, besides those attached to the estate. There is also a policeman. There is no baker or butcher, but bread and meat can be had at the shop, and are brought to the glen twice a week. Oatcakes are to a great extent eaten by the poorer people, made from corn grown on the crofts, and all who can afford it go shares about November in what is called a "mart" that is, in a fat cow or other cattle beast which is killed and salted for winter food. They have beef in this way generally at from 5*d.* to 7*d.* per lb. Necessarily there are a great many shepherds upon the estate. Their wages average about 33*l.* per annum, and free house, made up of money 16*l.* to 18*l.*; 6½ bolls oatmeal, at say 18*s.*, 5*l.* 17*s.*; two cows' keep, and their followers till one year old, say 10*l.* There are also a large number of gamekeepers, whose wages, here at all events, are rather better than those of shepherds, say 40*l.* per annum, including allowances. There are also a number who receive temporary employment as gillies in connexion with the shootings, for whom when they have a horse the allowance is 5*s.* per day, and when they have no horse 2*s.* 6*d.* per day. Of course the head gamekeepers and the sheep managers have somewhat better wages than those above quoted. There are only two public houses on the estate; they are inns rather, which cannot be dispensed with. They are 10½ miles apart, and there is no other public house within 8 miles of the one and 12 miles of the other. Smuggling whisky, which at one time prevailed extensively in Glengarry, is now extinct. The people are generally sober, being too penurious, if there were no better reason, to spend much in drink. Drinking is, however, discouraged by those in authority as much as possible, and employment is given to no one who is an habitual drunkard. The houses generally are of a comfortable kind, many of them are excellent, being of the most substantial character, stone and lime, and slated. It is the aim of the proprietor ultimately to have all the houses of the latter class, and to clear the estate of all the poorer thatched and ill-built dwellings which at one time were universal in the Highlands. A good substantial cottage, standing by itself, with kitchen, room, and sleeping closet on ground floor, and two attics overhead, which is the extent of accommodation we have generally supplied in all new cottages, costs here from 100*l.* to 120*l.*; but when the cottages are built in blocks of two or three they can be erected somewhat cheaper. Care is taken that these houses are well kept, and prizes ranging from 2*l.* downwards are annually awarded by the proprietor for the best kept dwellings. The clergyman, one of the principal tenants, and myself are the judges of the houses. Prizes are also given for the encouragement of gardening, and for garden products (of which latter there is an annual exhibition), the estate gardener being the judge of these.

3. Is there any regular employment of children under 13 years of age?

No children under this age are employed unless it be for a day or two occasionally of boys as beaters for game, and of boys and girls assisting in planting young trees. These latter hold the plants for the men who put them into the ground, and receive about 1*s.* a day for their labour. The game beaters usually get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

4. What is the state of education among the adult population, and what is their feeling with respect to the education of their children?

Some of the older Gaelic people are unable to read or write, which I attribute to the want of a good school or perhaps of any school in the Glen when they were of age for attending school, as all who are in this category seem to feel keenly their want of education. The parish school (Kilmonivaig) is, I may remark, at Lochaber, 16 miles distant from Invergarry. There is, however, an universal and strong feeling with all the parents to have their children as well as possible educated, and they don't grudge the masters' fees, which are not excessive. It so happens that there is at present in the Glen an unusual proportion of children too young to attend school, but I am not aware that a single child on the estate, who is of age, is being allowed to grow up without schooling, and I am personally in the habit of urging the parents to keep their children regularly at school. There are two schools on the estate. One at Invergarry which is of an excellent character, and well taught. It has been recently erected, is very commodious, and has master's house attached. It was put up by the proprietor, and is chiefly supported by him although the teacher's income is supplemented by Government grant, school fees, &c. His total income, I believe, approaches to 90*l.* In this school, besides the usual English branches, Latin, French, and mathematics are taught, of course only to an elementary extent, and instruction in sewing and knitting is given to the girls by the master's wife in a separate class-room. The other school is what is termed a side school, supported by fees and voluntary subscriptions. It is of a wholly elementary character, and is intended for the children of shepherds, gamekeepers, and others who live too far from Invergarry to attend the principal school. Many of the children attending both schools walk four or five miles in the morning to school, and the same distance to their homes in the evening. In these schools there is always a proportion of Roman Catholic children, and it has always been so here. The religious difficulty seems to be easily got over. The Catholic children simply do not stand up while the Bible lesson is being given and the catechism taught. About one-half of the whole population of the estate it may be mentioned, profess the Roman Catholic religion. The school fees are paid regularly; any pauper children's fees being paid out of the parish rates.

"5. Do you find the young people, when growing up, usually stay at home and take up the same line of life as their parents, or do they often go away to

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seek situations at a distance and improve their position in life?"

Generally one son remains at home and succeeds to his father's farm or croft. The other sons generally, but not in every case, learn some trade or enter into some pursuit which necessitates their leaving home. The girls go into service until they marry, but there is usually one at home. Many young men who have left the Glen now hold honourable positions in the Customs, Excise, railways, &c. Necessarily in a place like this the number of marriages is limited. Those who have the accommodation take in lodgers, but only such as are employed on the estate. The bothy system is prohibited but could never be much used here at any rate, as the arable land is so limited. Sometimes I have known a "barrack" to be erected in an inaccessible place where work was going on, but it was always a necessity in these cases, and the barracks were occupied by men only.

199. LETTER from *Rev. D. Forbes*, R. C., Bunroy.

SIR, IN compliance with your request I send you the following answers to the questions you put to me in your letter of the 24th instant.

1st. With regard to the condition of the crofting population of my district, I must say that a third of them are very poor and the rest in rather better circumstances. As to the state of their cottages it can be said that it is in general good. The accommodation to be found in almost all, is three apartments, namely, two bedrooms and a kitchen; their cottages with few exceptions are kept clean and tidy.

2nd. Since I came to this country, which is forty-four years ago, there has been no improvement in their circumstances with the exception of a few who have of late years enlarged their houses and made them more commodious.

3rd. The education of the adults in my district is, I am sorry to say, very backward; this state of thing may be attributed to several causes.

1st. To their aversion of sending their children to a Protestant school.

2nd. To the poverty of some.

3rd. To the long distance from the district school, and this is a great drawback for them in the winter season; in consequence I opened some time ago, a small Catholic school for the young members of families in a distant village, named Bohuntine in Glen Roy, and I am happy to say that the children are making great progress, and that girls of nineteen and twenty years of age, who had never been in school before, eagerly embraced the opportunity of their having a Catholic schoolmaster, and now they can read and write.

4th. As a general thing the children on coming of age would like to follow the same calling in life as their parents, but they cannot do so because their parents' holding or croft is not sufficient to support them, and they cannot get new crofts. In consequence of this one or two of the children remain with the parents in order to work the croft with them, the rest either go to service or, as frequently happens, emigrate to foreign climes.

I remain,
Your respectful servant,
DONALD FORBES,
R. C.

200. *Rev. Mr. Macdougal*, E. C.—"The cottages of the crofters in this parish are in the old style, with a "but" and a "ben," and sometimes with a closet in the middle. The bulk of the population in Glen Roy are Roman Catholics, but there has been no Roman Catholic school till quite lately, and many of the children of Roman Catholic parents still continue to attend the General Assembly School near Roy Bridge. There is no sectarian teaching in this school; the instruction is entirely secular. When Dr. McIntyre, the Established Church minister, first got the grant to establish the school about 30 or 40 years ago, he experienced great difficulty in inducing the parents to send their children, but by degrees the feeling upon the subject of education improved, and seeing that the instruction given was entirely secular, they sent their children more willingly. The Roman Catholics have now got a school up the Glen, but it is a very small one. The people subsist entirely upon their crofts, and during two or three months of the year have very little to do. There is no great demand for labour in the parish, as there are no arable farms of any size, and consequently there is little demand for labour in connexion with the arable land. There is occasional demand for labour upon the sheep farms at the time of clipping and smearing, but this is all. There are altogether eight schools in the parish, and this number is almost sufficient to bring education within the reach of all the children. Some of them come as far as four or five miles to school, but these are the children of shepherds. There is hardly any employment of children by farmers except occasionally as herds in the summer-time; they are often kept at home to assist their parents upon the croft, especially in spring and harvest-time, and this is quite a matter of necessity. The peat-cutting, which is going on now (May 24th), is not heavy work, and the children are of great use for it. This, however, only lasts two or three days for each family, but they help each other in turn to a great extent, which renders the whole time so occupied a good deal longer. I should say that the average attendance of children at school does not last for more than four months in the year."

201. *Rev. Mr. Sutherland*, F. C., Gairlochy.—"I have been minister here for upwards of six years. With few exceptions I find that all the parents in the neighbourhood are desirous of educating their children. Sometimes they are careless from inability to appreciate the value of education, and I should say that this is more particularly the case with the Roman Catholic population. I do not think that there are any cases of children being kept away from school by the inability of their parents to supply them with sufficiently good clothing; there may be a few such cases, but they are rare. It is, however, very generally the case that the children are taken away from school too soon, and before they have had time to acquire a thorough knowledge of the elementary branches. In some cases parents cannot afford to pay for school attendance for their children during the whole year when the family is large, and in other cases they require their assistance upon the crofts and in herding. There are no children under 11 or 12 employed by farmers, and usually 14 or 15 is the earliest age at which they are employed at all in regular farm work. The state of education among the adult population in my district is rather low, especially among the Roman Catholics; indeed I should think that among the Protestant portion it is fully up to the average. The young people upon growing up many of them leave their homes to look for employment and situations in other parts of the country and in the towns. I should say that the majority of them do this, especially the young women, and it is always the best educated who are readiest to leave home. I do not think that any restriction upon the age at which children are employed in agriculture would be of any use in securing for them a larger amount of school attendance.

As far as moral character is concerned, there is less drunkenness and less illegitimacy in this district than in many others, and this I account for by the sparseness of the population and the scarcity of public-houses. They are also very regular in the discharge of their religious duties. I have some members of my congregation who come 20 miles to church, and a considerable number have to come 10 or 12 miles; some of them will be in church almost every Sunday in the year."

202. *Donald Cameron*, schoolmaster, Glen Spean.—"I have been here only one year as schoolmaster, but have been for six years in the parish altogether. The children usually begin to attend at school at about six

years of age, but do not attend regularly in the summer at any age. Those under 12 years get upon an average five months schooling in the year. Those over 12 do not come for more than three and a half months. Some of the shepherds' children have to come a distance of four miles. As a rule, those of this class attend regularly both in summer and winter. My fees range from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a quarter, but I have great difficulty in getting anything at all from the children of the crofters. The parents of this class in the neighbourhood are for the most part uneducated themselves, and do not appreciate the value of education for their children, who are often kept at home without any employment whatever for them. There are some cases too of children not being sent to school at all.

I do not think that it is by agricultural employment of any kind, excepting on the crofts, that children are kept away from school. The only thing of the kind which exists here is "herding," and that is only upon the crofts. A few of the children are kept away in the winter by the poverty of their parents, and inability to provide them with proper clothing, and I think that much of their absence in the summer time arises from the same cause. I had eight or nine grown-up pupils last winter, lads of between 14 and 20, and one as old as 27."

203. *Mr. James Miller*, schoolmaster, Invergarry.—"The children attending this school are partly the children of crofters in the glen and by the canal side, and partly shepherds and gamekeepers and others employed upon Mr. Ellice's estate. Some of them come as far as three miles, and some who live a long way off are boarded in the neighbourhood of the school; these last are the children of shepherds or gamekeepers. They all attend pretty regularly during six months in the year, but for the rest of the time are often absent, especially those who live at a distance from the school. Those who live within three miles of the school attend upon the whole very well. Sometimes the children are unavoidably kept away in the winter by bad weather, but I think that they are generally pretty well clothed, and I do not know of any cases in which children have been kept away by inability on the part of their parents to supply them with proper clothing. My fees vary from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, and are regularly paid by all the parents. The children also buy their own books, and I have generally no difficulty with them upon that score. I think that the parents here are generally very anxious to have their children educated, and they are most of them in the receipt of good wages from Mr. Ellice for employment of some kind upon the estate, so that they are able to pay the school fees, and provide good clothing for their children. Those at a distance are perhaps not so well able to sustain the extra expense of boarding their children in the neighbourhood of the school, and could perhaps hardly afford to do so for the whole year round. I have two or three scholars who are learning French.

I have only been here for nine months."

Boleskin and Abertarff.

Population, 813.

204. *Rev. Mr. Macdonald*, R.C., Fort Augustus.—"We have a Catholic school here, attended by the children of crofters and shepherds in the neighbourhood. Some of them come fully three miles. In the winter they attend regularly, but during the summer months, *i.e.* from April to November inclusive, they do not come much. During that period those of 12 years of age and older often take engagements as herds with farmers in the neighbourhood. Many of them are kept at home from poverty for want of shoes and clothing, especially in the winter months. I think that the parents are generally most anxious to get their children educated, and will often make sacrifices to attain that object, but they are a very poor class, and cannot dispense with the earnings which the children can sometimes get in the summer. I think that the majority of the young people leave the country upon growing up, and look for situations elsewhere. There is no opening whatever for them here. We have only had a Catholic school here for two years, and those who attend it are only young children, who come, I should think, as much as eight or nine months in the year. Before the Catholic school was established the children of Catholic parents used to attend the parish school."

205. *James Stoddart*, crofter, has three acres arable, and his son-in-law, who lives with him and helps, has four acres arable. The rent for the whole is 19*l.*—"I have also some pasture, nearly 20 acres, upon the moss, but it is not worth much. I keep four cows and two horses upon it. I have nine children altogether, but only one lass at home. Four are in Australia, other two lads are married and living in the village; one is a post-runner and the other a day-labourer. My son-in-law has four children, three of whom are at school. I never sell anything off my croft, but I am always buying something. Sometimes I'll buy eight or nine bolls of meal in the year. I can read a little, and I can write my name, but that is all."

This man was a post-runner, and has a pension of 18*l.* a year from Government; he says he would be badly off without it. His son-in-law works as a mole-catcher besides cultivating the croft.

206. *John Mac Bean.*—"My croft is about one and a half acres arable, and there'll be about four acres of pasture, and I pay a rent of 2*l.* 10*s.* a year for it. I have no cows at all or horses. I delved this, I didn't plough it. I have got four children: the eldest is about 17, a girl, and she lives at home; the second is a boy of 15, and he has just got a situation as herd, but I do not know whether he'll stop or no after the six months is over; the two younger children are at school—they are there just now (May 26th), and will stay there all the summer. They attend all the winter, except it'll be a coarse day, or the like of that. I can read and write myself."

This man is also a post-runner.

Glen Morrison.

Population, 617.

207. *Rev. Mr. Gare*, E. C.—"I have been minister here for 14 or 15 years. There are none of the smaller kind of crofters in this glen. There are a good many holding cultivated land sufficient to support two cows and one horse, and pasture upon the hills for about 40 sheep. They are tenants from year to year, and do not seem to thrive upon the land; they never do anything to improve it, and I think that the reason is because they have not leases. There are also a good many cottars living in the glen without any land attached to their cottages, and subsisting upon the proceeds of any work which they can get in the glen. At this season of the year they are employed a great deal in cutting the woods. There are about 20 families of the former class, and perhaps about 25 of the latter. There is very little demand for labour in the glen, as there is, comparatively speaking, very little arable land. The parents of all classes are very anxious to get education for their children, and upon the whole the attendance of the children at school is pretty regular till they are about 10 years of age, after which they begin to be taken away for herding and other work, and are only three months in the year at school. They often come for a month or two until they are as old as 16 or 17. The young people are very unwilling to leave the glen and its neighbourhood, and very few of them go to look for better situations at a distance. There is no doubt that the children are often prevented from coming to school from want of shoes and clothes, indeed this is the principal hindrance. The fees are from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, and those who cannot pay them are assisted by private charity. I do not think that any kind of compulsion is necessary to make parents send their children to school here. Even the Roman Catholics are ready and willing to send their children to the parish school."

GLEN URQUHART.

Population, 2294.

208. *Rev. Mr. Cameron*, E. C. — "Children are employed by their parents upon the crofts as young as 9 or 10 years of age, and as early as 10 or 11 they begin to take engagements as herds with farmers on the arable land in the glen, and these engagements last for at least six months, and in the case of older children, sometimes for eight months in the year. These would generally be the children of farm servants and day labourers, of whom there are a great many living in cottages without any land attached to them, which they rent either from the proprietor or farmer, or from the feuar. Women are a good deal employed upon the arable farms, but are not engaged regularly as field-workers by the half-year or year. They are taken by the day and paid 9*d.* for the 10 hours, so that their occupation in that manner is rather desultory. The women employed are almost always unmarried. Girls of about 13 are employed in herding cattle in the same way as the boys. The parents of all classes are certainly very anxious to have their children educated. This is a very populous glen, and marriages are earlier than is generally the case in the Highlands. It is very rare to find a man of 30 unmarried. There is plenty of employment in the glen and its neighbourhood for all who require it, and the people are as a rule well off. The attendance of the children at school does not last for more than five months in the year, after they are 10 or 11 years old, viz., from December to April inclusive. During that time they are regular, but for the remaining part of the year their parents require their services either on the crofts or to earn wages as herds. Children under 10 come in the summer months regularly, but are often kept away in the winter, by bad weather and other causes. Those between 12 and 15 also get a good deal of work upon arable farms in weeding, and stone-picking, &c., but this does not last for more than a short period; they are also employed a good deal in harvest-work. They are paid by the day like the women and get from 6*d.* to 9*d.* for 10 hours. I do not think that cases ever occur here of children being kept away from school by want of proper shoes and clothing; if they ever do occur they are very rare. The school fees are from 2*s.* to 4*s.* a quarter, and are always punctually paid by all the parents. They are always paid in advance. We find that the children of paupers are the most irregular in their attendance, although their fees are paid for them by the parochial board. I do not think that any system of compulsion would work well here, as the parents are ready to do as much for their children in respect of education as they can possibly afford. We are very well supplied with schools, and all that we require is assistance to increase the salaries of the teachers.

Many of the young people in the glen emigrate to the colonies, and many become tradesmen, or leave for other parts of the country."

209. *Mr. Craig*, factor to the Earl of Seafield.—Crofters or small farmers, whose sons become ministers, are either in comparatively good circumstances or their sons are enabled to get a college education with the assistance of presentation bursaries. A few have managed to educate themselves for the church without assistance, by acting as tutors and possibly gaining a competition bursary by superior ability. The majority are at first schoolmasters, but these are usually many years in qualifying themselves for the church.

My impression is that crofters or small farmers, in assisting their sons to become ministers, in the majority of instances, are rather ambitious to see them occupying that position than actuated by any higher motives. I have no doubt, however, there are cases where the profession is chosen by either the father or son, with the best intentions. In most cases the fathers are elders in the church. No doubt one cause of many young men becoming ministers is, the facility afforded by the Free Church (pecuniary and otherwise) to qualify as Gaelic preachers. I think I am right in saying that comparatively few, if any, children of farm servants are educated for the Church from this district. I know none, but I am unable to say whether this arises from the absence of ambition, or a want of means or influence.

A considerable number of both sexes have emigrated from this district within the last 15 years. Every year a few go abroad, but the annual number forms a very small per-centage of the population; the greater number are comparatively young and able-bodied, but there are a few cases of old people joining their children in the colonies, where, as far as I can learn, the most of them are doing well. Those who do emigrate have generally been employed out of this district at railway works, or in towns as tradesmen, where they doubtless acquire the idea of going abroad. I have observed that when such men return to their native place with the view of being employed in it, after an absence, they become dissatisfied and soon after emigrate.

The cottages in this district are for the most part built of dry stone pointed outside and in with lime, and roofed with turf or heather; others are built with clay, pointed with lime, and now a considerable number are built of stone and lime properly roofed, and either thatched with heather or straw or covered with slates. The majority consist of two apartments with a closet off one of them, and are generally comfortable. The better class of cottages have the same accommodation as the others have below, and attic rooms above. There are a few cottages with only one apartment, but these are usually occupied by solitary paupers.

Here, crofters get the wood necessary for the erection of their houses gratis, and execute the whole other work themselves; but where the crofter proposes to build a better class of cottage, he gets more assistance, either in money advanced to him on interest at 5 per cent., or thereby, or in manufactured wood and slates free, or may be, a certain share of the work executed, according to the individual circumstances of the case.

Our crofters have leases which I think in the great majority of cases are productive of benefit to both proprietor and tenant, arising principally from the security afforded to each,—to the proprietor of a tenant; the carrying out of any stipulated improvements undertaken by the tenant; adherence to the general regulations of the estate, and a certain rent. To the tenant,—of his croft or farm, and a house; the benefit of any improvements executed at his expense; and the power to compel the proprietor to implement any obligation under the lease. Leases are specially desirable where improvements, such as the reclamation of waste land, are contemplated.

The habits of the people are much influenced by the crofting system. The majority of crofters are naturally lazy and necessarily half idle. Leases to a certain extent counteract this by the inducement they afford to cultivate the ground more highly and the encouragement they give to improve; but with no improvements to occupy his time, the system, in my opinion, is a bad one, as from the constantly recurring requirements of a croft, however small, he cannot undertake other work, particularly if the croft is unfenced, as they too generally are. He is thus in a manner tied to the place, and frequently is in the poorest circumstances. The mere possession of a croft seems to me to instill the idea that, with the least possible amount of labour, it should support him and his family, often a large and partly grown up one. Very few have any sense of the value of time or notion of working systematically as hired labourers are obliged to do. The loss of a sixpence to a crofter is a most serious matter; the loss of a day nothing, and nothing is too trifling to form an excuse for squandering valuable time. Notwithstanding this, when crofts are moderately rented and judiciously managed, as a class, crofters are contented, happy, and independent.

A married farm servant here is unquestionably in better circumstances at the present day than any crofter with less than 20 acres of arable land, and besides being in better circumstances, farm servants have little care, few responsibilities (with the exception of family ones), and, as a class, are most independent as long as they are able to work.

The Post Office Savings Bank is not much made use of here. Out of about 30 who have deposits in it, there are no crofters, only two or three farm servants, and the remainder are tradesmen. I have no means of knowing to what extent crofters may have deposits elsewhere. A number are reputed to have a little money, but they keep such matters as secret as possible from everyone.

210. *Mr. Stewart*, manager on Lord Seafield's home-farm.—"There are five arable farms in the Glen over 100 acres, and nine or 10 between 50 and 100. The crofts are of all sizes, from three acres upwards, and all of the tenants have leases of 19 years. Lord Seafield's own farm, of which I am manager, contains 142 acres under the plough, and about 13 acres of cultivated pasture. We employ upon it three ploughmen, one herd boy, aged 15, and a dairymaid. One of the ploughmen is married and the other two live in a bothy. The married ploughman is paid 20*l.* a year money, 6½ bolls meal, 1 pint of milk a day, 6 bolls of potatoes, house, and fuel.

The unmarried men have 18*l.* a year apiece, the same allowance of meal and milk, 2 bolls potatoes, and fuel. The farmers in the glen generally pay their ploughmen at this rate. We get our extra hands from the crofters and squatters in the glen. The squatters have no land attached to their cottages, and are tenants from year to year, some of them paying a merely nominal rent. There is plenty of labour to be had, and we employ both men and women, paying the men 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, according to the work, and the women from 1*s.* to 8*d.* The women hoe turnips, assist in spreading manure, and work at hay and harvest time.

We employ boys from 12 to 15 years of age, at the same rate of wages as the women, and at the same work. There has been very great improvement in the condition of the cottages during the last 15 years; they usually contain two rooms and a closet. There are a great number of small farmers in the glen, and the consequence of this is that there is a great demand for herds in the summer time."

211. *Wife of John Macintosh.*—Her husband holds a croft of five acres, for which he pays a rent of 6*l.* 6*s.*; they have two children, and her mother-in-law lives with them, and also another child, a grandchild of the mother-in-law. The last-named child is a girl of 11 years old, and is now herding on the croft, but she goes to school every day and is a good scholar. The other children are quite young. Her husband also works as a mason.

There were three rooms in this cottage, all, comparatively speaking, tidy and well kept.

212. *Duncan Chisholm.*—"My farm is 13½ acres arable, and I have also about 20 acres of pasture in the woods. My brother and I cultivate it between us. I have a family of six children, the eldest 14 years of age, and I do not require any help upon the land at any time. I sell a few potatoes and a few beasts, but I have to buy nearly as much as I sell. Four of my children are at school, and they attend regularly for 10 months in the year. I am not a very good scholar myself. I am also a carpenter by trade."

213. *Hugh Chisholm*, cottar, brother of the above. "I rent my cottage from my brother without any land attached to it. I have eight children, the eldest 26 and the youngest 8. Three of them are away, one as a mason, another as a joiner, and the third, a daughter, is a domestic servant. There is also a girl of 19 at a sewing school in Inverness. The others are all at home and go to school; they attend for 10 months in the year (*i.e.*, the whole of the year except vacation time); none of them are out as herds."

[The two sons in trade are, as I understand, helping him to educate their younger brothers and sisters, having experienced the benefit of education themselves.—C. W. C.]

"I work as a common labourer at anything which I can get. I am not in work now, but I get work almost all the year at the rate of 2*s.* a day, except in the dead of winter."

His cottage contained three rooms, the sitting room, as usual in this kind of cottage being in the middle; the cottage was not a good one but tolerably orderly.

214. *John Macrae*, farm servant.—"I am paid 15*l.* a year in money, and get also six bolls meal, keep of a cow, eight bolls potatoes, and house and peat-fuel. I have seven children, the eldest 19 and the youngest two years old.

All are at home except the eldest, a girl, who is in service as a domestic servant. The next, a girl of 17, assists at home. The two next are at school, and the three younger ones are not yet old enough to go. The two who go to school are there just now, and will stay all through the summer, except in vacation time. I have to buy about eight bolls meal in the year, and a few potatoes, and I spend perhaps 4*l.* in grocery in the course of the year. I cannot read or write myself, but my wife can do both a little. I would give anything now to have been at school, but I am from Kintail, on the west coast of Ross, and the school was not convenient there."

His cottage contained two rooms, one of them used as a sitting room, and the whole family sleeping in two beds in the other!

215. *Wife of J. Macintosh.*—"My husband's croft is 2½ acres, besides a little garden, and he pays 2*l.* 10*s.* rent for the whole. He is just a labourer and gets work at anything he can. Just now he is carting wood for the forester with his own horse and cart. He always gets plenty of work to do, principally for Lord Seafield. When he has the horse working he gets 4*s.* 6*d.*, and when by himself 2*s.* a day. I have three children, but none old enough to go to school. My husband can read and write and I can read a little. I hope we'll be able to make the children good scholars."

Moy.

Population, 1018. - Acreage, unknown.
Cultivation, mixed.

216. *Alexander Fraser*, Corrybrough.—Children, both boys and girls, between the ages of 11 and 14, are generally employed during the summer and autumn months in tending cattle; they are seldom employed in the winter. Women are generally engaged for a term of six months, and partly employed in dairy and domestic service and partly in agriculture; they go in some cases from one to two miles to their work. Both sexes work 10 hours a day; in some cases the day is divided into two parts, and in others into three. I have never heard any complaint of the young or females being subject to any ill-treatment or injury in their work. I do not see that any restriction upon employment is required, the district being thinly populated. The mode of compulsory attendance at school prescribed by the "Printworks Act" is the only practicable one in this parish, and decidedly considered to be the best mode. There are, one parish school, one Free Church school, and two subscription schools in the parish, and the children attend some one of them, generally coming from November to April or May. There is no other cause besides early labour to which I attribute their non-attendance. The cottages are pretty comfortable, and there are no evil results from overcrowding. The bothy system can hardly be said to exist here, nor is there, to my knowledge, any other mode of boarding farm servants which acts injuriously on education or morals. The largest portion of the cottages have gardens. Farm servants have no cow; in some cases potato ground is allowed in addition to

Inverness-shire.

r. Campion.

V.

small gardens. There is no immediate prospect of any change in cottage accommodation. I am not aware of any children in the parish who do not attend school. There is no evening school to my knowledge. Farm servants are hired and paid half-yearly, always in money. Labourers who live in cottages are paid either monthly or half-yearly. An ordinary able-bodied labourer earns from 26*l.* to 30*l.* in the year.

217. *Mr. M'Gillivray.*—Girls from 11 to 14 are employed during summer and harvest-time, but more rarely than boys. Young and middle-aged women are generally engaged for a term of six months, and employed partly in dairy and domestic service and partly in agriculture. Children rarely work. The hours of work are differently divided, as follows :

1. 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
   10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
   3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
   or,
2. 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.
   1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Both systems prevail, the hours of work being uniformly the same, viz., 10 hours a day.

In this district the farms are not so large as to require many women to work together nor for a length of time. Large gangs of both sexes employed continuously in agriculture I believe to have a demoralizing influence. This district is but thinly populated, and so far as I can see there is no abuse which could be removed or regulated by legislation. The mode of enforcing school attendance prescribed by the "Printworks Act" is decidedly the best of the three, indeed the only practicable one in this parish. As a rule the children of the labouring classes attend school during winter and spring, and are engaged in herding during summer and harvest Employment can rarely be had during the winter months.

Strath-Spey.

Cromdale.

Population, 3943. - Acreage, about 7000 acres arable and 62,042 acres wood and pasture.

Cultivation, mixed.

218. *Mr. John Smith*, occupier, and factor for Strath-Spey.—A few boys and girls aged from 9 to 13 are employed at herding cattle during the summer half year only. About one-third of the women are employed in agriculture. There are no children employed, and neither the young nor females are subject to any ill-treatment or physical injury in their work. The effect upon the morals of females is not more injurious than in any other employment. To continue at agricultural work unfits females for properly performing domestic duties. I should not recommend any restriction to be placed upon the employment of females, but children should not be employed. None of the modes proposed by the Commissioners for enforcing school attendance are suitable to this district. The parish and elementary school are well attended. The cottages are primitive but upon the whole suitable, and conveniently situated to the farms. No cases of immorality occur from overcrowding. The bothy system is adopted in some cases, and when it is properly organized and attended to, I highly approve of the system. As a rule the cottages have gardens or allotments of land. There are few or none of the children of the agricultural labouring class neither at school nor at work. The interest charged by the Inclosure Commissioners is too high.

219. *Mr. Ross*, inspector of poor for the parishes of Cromdale and Duthill.—"The country in Strath-Spey is chiefly arable. Some years ago when the price of sheep rose, some of it was begun to be laid down in grass, but now much of what was so laid down is being ploughed up again. No wheat is grown, and the cultivation is divided chiefly between oats and turnips. The farms are none of them very large, and there is great variety of tenure from the small crofts upwards. There are a good many crofters, and also a good many farm servants. There appears to me to be an unusually high proportion of females to males in this district, and consequently the women often complain of want of labour. I have had in the course of the year upon my roll of poor 168 females and only 51 males. A great proportion of the women are field workers. The parish used to send a great number of females to the low countries for harvest work, but now, owing to the introduction of reaping machines that source of industry is almost entirely dried up The crofting class are generally in very good circumstances, and seldom give me any trouble. Most of them have some trade, such as a mason's, weaver's, carpenter's, &c., and the majority of them do occasional work upon the farms. I find that as a class they are decidedly better off than the farm servants, and they are all very anxious to educate their children, and I think that perhaps they have a stronger feeling upon that subject than the farm servants. The farm servants are not well educated themselves, and appear to have no taste for learning. Whenever in the cottage of crofters I always observe a good supply of books. The employment of children has decreased and is continuing to do so, owing to the introduction of wire fencing, which dispenses with the necessity of employing herds. The cottages are often very bad, but there has been a good deal of improvement during the last few years. I think that it would be a great boon to the crofting class if Government was to advance them money, at a low rate of interest, for the improvement of their cottages. The people here live a good deal upon oatmeal, potatoes, and milk, but wheaten bread is also much used, indeed I hardly ever go into a cottage without seeing it, and butcher's meat has also become not uncommon. I do not think that the people are so frugal in their habits as they used to be, and they have grown more expensive in their tastes, owing, perhaps, to the number of new labourers from the south, brought in by the railway. Clothing has also changed from the old home-spun to manufactured materials, imported from the south. The people spend most of their earnings upon dress especially the girls, and I do not think they often deposit any portion of them in savings banks. A considerable proportion of the young move south for other employment upon growing up, and their places are taken here by a less educated class from other parts of the Highlands. There are also a good many who emigrate to the colonies. I do not think that any kind of compulsion is required here to induce parents to educate their children."

220. *Mr. J. G. Thompson*, manager of woods for the Earl of Seafield.—"We employ in the woods a large number of men, women, and boys, and spend 2,000*l.* a year there in wages. In this district, out of 40 paid last month, there was only one who could not sign his name, and he was an oldish man. I should think that other districts would stand this test equally well."

Duthill.

221. *Rev. Mr. Grant*, E. C.—"It is the strong desire of every parent in this district to have their children educated, with very few exceptions. The generality of farm servants can read, write, and count pretty well, and during the winter months lads of from 15 to 21 will often attend school. We have never tried night schools, and I do not think that they would answer in this agricultural district in the summer months, but they might answer in the winter. In the summer they work till 6 and 7 o'clock, and are then too tired to attend a school. I do not think that the average attendance of the children of farm servants extends over more than four months in the year, deducting absent days. They are usually away from school altogether from May to Martinmas, and even after that time they waste some time in getting shoes and clothing, and hang about home for longer than they need do. As a rule they are employed during

the summer as herds, and begin to be so employed as young as 8 years old. The children of crofters attend better, and I should think that they get on an average nearly six months at school in the course of the year. The crofting class are perhaps better off than the farm servants, and there is a spirit of independence about them which they struggle very hard to keep up.

I should say that the extremes both of poverty and well-being are to be found among the crofters, the farm servants occupying a middle place. The parents pay the school fees, but not very regularly at all the schools. Children are sometimes kept away by want of shoes and clothing, at any rate that is the excuse which the parents give, and it is in many instance a true one. I have heard complaints of women becoming demoralized by field-work, but I do not think that this evil is very prevalent in Strath-Spey. The ploughmen who are employed in arable farms are generally unmarried excepting the grieve, but there are only three bothies in the parish. There is a good deal of emigration every now and then, and many of the young people also move south from time to time. There may be a few among the farm servants who deposit some portion of their earnings in savings banks, but as a general rule they spend their savings at the end of the year, chiefly in dress."

INVERALLAN.

222. *Mr. M'Dougall.* Farms 80 acres arable.—"I employ two ploughmen; one of them, who is my grieve, is married, and the other single. I have two women regularly hired by the half-year, one of them being a field worker, while the other acts as housekeeper. They live in the same house as the single ploughman, but occupy separate rooms. My farm is only distant one mile from Grant-town, and I have no difficulty in getting extra hands. I never employ any children with the exception of a boy about 12 years for herding. Generally I have one of 15, but the present one is only 12."

ABERNETHY.

223. *Mr. Walker.* Farms 226 acres arable.—"I employ three ploughmen and a cattleman as regular farm servants; they are all single men and live in a bothy." [They have their meals in a room in a cottage which is called the bothy, and sleep in a loft over the stables. —C. W. C.] "I pay them from 9*l.* to 11*l.* for the half year, and also allow them six bolls meal, and 30*s.* for milk-money and fuel. I employ hired women occasionally at 1*d.* an hour, and get them from the crofters in the neighbourhood. I have also one woman who lives in the house, employed regularly as a field worker. In harvest time I need three extra women, and as many extra men, but that is my fullest time."

224. *Mr. Grant*, occupier. Farms 100 acres arable, and some pasture.—"I employ three ploughmen regularly, one of them being the grieve, who is married. The others are single and board in the farm kitchen. I pay them from 7*l.* to 10*l.* in the half-year, and give them their victuals. I employ three women all the year round, who also board in the farmhouse. The women sleep in the house, and the men in a loft above the stables, as is the universal custom in the neighbourhood. I pay the women 6*l.* in the year. When I require extra hands I get them in the neighbourhood, and board them also in the kitchen, and they sleep with the other men. We have great difficulty in getting extra hands as day labourers, as there are very few cottages about and most of the people now live in the villages. In my father's time it used to be much easier to get extra labour, especially of women than it is now. I employ a herd boy in the summer, aged from 14 and upwards, but I do not like to have them younger than that. The boy is paid at about the same rate as the women. Most of the arable farms in Strath-Spey are under 100 acres, and I should think that mine is rather above the average size. The women in my employ hoe turnips, spread manure, plant potatoes, and are employed in harvest work."

LAGGAN.

Population, 986.

225. *Rev. Mr. Shaw*, F. C., minister.—"I have been minister here for 22 years. The parents of all classes are most anxious to get education for their children, and they insist upon the children attending regularly, especially during the winter and spring. There is a good deal of occupation of children as herds in the summer, from May to Martinmas. Those who are not engaged as herds in the summer get 10 months' schooling in the course of the year, but these would generally be children of a superior class. Parents of the small crofter class are in the habit of saying that education is the chief legacy which a man leaves to his children. The son of a cottar at one of the schools in this parish took a bursary the other day of 20*l.* at the F. C. Normal School in Edinburgh, and in the second examination he passed the best in Latin of all the candidates.

There is plenty of employment for the people in this parish, and as a rule they are in tolerably good circumstances. If children are kept away from school more than they ought to be, I do not think that agricultural employment is in any way responsible for their absence, and I do not think that any application of the principle of the Factory Acts would be beneficial here."

226. *Mr. Macdonald*, F. C. schoolmaster.—"Parents are generally anxious to educate their children, but it is rather a drawback the way in which children of over 12 years of age are employed during summer at herding, working at peats, &c. This, however, is not much the case with the children under 12 or 13 years of age. The parents are very good at keeping their children regularly at school until they are able to work and earn something, and even after that they continue to send them regularly in the winter season. I should say that most children under 12 years old here are at school all the year round, with the exception of two months' vacation time. Those who are near at hand begin to attend as young as four or five years old. I do not think that cases often occur of children being kept away by the poverty of the parents and inability to provide shoes and clothing. The people are very industrious, and they keep their children well clothed. When there are many scholars in a family I teach some of them gratis, but as a general rule the fees are punctually paid. I do not think that an application of the principle of the Factory Act would have any effect here, except perhaps in a very limited number of cases. A great many of the young people leave the county upon growing up, and go to look for employment in other parts of the kingdom, and in the colonies. Some of them become teachers, others commercial travellers, and clerks in banks, and some have become doctors. I have been here as teacher nearly 22 years."

227. *Angus Macpherson*, crofter.—Pays 16*l.* a year rent; has some arable land and some pasture. Keeps two horses and four cows, and has a share in 500 sheep; these sheep belong to a number of crofters in common, who hire a shepherd between them, and when the sheep are sold the proceeds of the sale are divided among the owners in proportion to the size of their respective crofts. His share may amount to about 50 sheep. He sells nothing off his arable land. Is also a carrier.

228. *Malcolm Macpherson*, grieve to Cluny Macpherson.—"The farm consists of 130 acres arable, and 300 of natural grass in the strath. We employ four ploughmen, one married and the other three single. The single men get their meals in a kitchen attached to the steading, and sleep in a room above it. We do not call this the "bothy system," because the men are found in victuals, whereas in the regular bothy system they have allowances of meal, milk, &c., and are not otherwise supplied with victuals. Most of the ploughmen employed upon farms in this neighbourhood are

nverness-shire.

. Campion.

single men, and sometimes they are boarded in the same way as here, and sometimes in the regular bothy system.

We pay our single men from 7*l.* to 9*l.* in the half year. The married man gets 18*l.* 18*s.* in the year, six bolls of meal, three bolls of potatoes, milk, house, and fuel. We also employ three women in the steading, viz., two dairy maids and a kitchen maid to attend to the farm servants, and these take their meals with the ploughmen, and sleep in a room of their own in my house. We require a few extra women in the summer, and get them from the small crofters about 1½ miles off. We also have two or three girls, about 13 or 14 years old, employed at weeding in the summer, and three herd boys, two of whom are employed all the winter. These two are 15 or 16 years old."

229. At Kingussie an attempt was made last year to do away with the feeing market. At a large meeting, fully attended by proprietors and farmers, it was resolved not to engage farm servants at the next market, and a register office was opened at the post office. The result, however, was not satisfactory, for the post-master did not have a single name upon his list, and all the farm servants attended the market as usual.

ANALYTICAL INDEX

TO THE

FOUR REPORTS.

*** In this Index "Rep. I., II., III., IV." refers to the several Reports of the Commissioners respectively. The capital letters from A. to V. refer to the Reports of the Assistant Commissioners.

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ANALYTICAL INDEX.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

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In average case ¼ of an acre.
For steady man with a family, ½ an acre *ib.* s. 190.
Net profit on allotment - - - *ib.* s. 191.
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Allotment has no effect on wages - - *ib.* s. 195.
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Discussion on allotment system by *Central Farmers Club*, 1858 - - - - *ib.* ss. 215–19.
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Could be obtained in connexion with the agricultural returns by the Board of Trade - - *ib.* ss. 233–7.
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Alienation of labourers from the soil during the last 100 years a greater reason for encouraging allotments *ib.* s. 240.
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The manner in which the waste lands of the country have been dealt with since the first Inclosure Act in 1710 - - - - - - *ib.* ss. 263–4.

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Effect of the large amount of inclosure on the condition of the agricultural labourer - - Rep. I. s. 265.
Opportunities or means of bettering his condition lost, and in very many cases his pecuniary condition low *ib.* s. 271.
He cannot therefore be deprived of the earnings of his children, unless his condition is improved - *ib.* s. 272.
One mode of improving his condition is to replace the opportunities he has lost by good cottage garden or allotment - - - - - - *ib.* s. 273.
Reports of Select Committees of House of Commons on Waste Lands (1795); on Emigration (1827); on Allotments (1843); and Reports of Inclosure Commissioners since 1845 enforce that view - *ib.* s. 274.
Also Committee of House of Lords (1800) - *ib.* s. 273.
Act of 1801 to give effect to those principles *ib.* s. 278.
Recommendations of Select Committee of 1843 *ib.* ss. 279–85.
Embodied in General Inclosure Act of 1845 *ib.* ss. 286–91.
Reports of Inclosure Commissioners show how this Act has operated - - - - *ib.* ss. 292–5.
Small number of acres assigned as public allotments since 1845 - - - - *ib.* s. 296.
Greater reason for cottage gardens or field allotments *ib.* ss. 297–8.
Annual returns desirable - - - *ib.* s. 299.
Opinions expressed in Parliament show the spirit in which it was intended that the Inclosure Act should be carried out - - - *ib.* ss. 300–16.
Further reason for annual return - *ib.* ss. 317–18.
Reference to 1st Report on the subject of allotments Rep. II., p. xxix., ss. 148–54.
The Annual Inclosure Bill referred to a Select Committee of the House of Commons *ib.*, p. xxxi., s. 155.
Points submitted to the Committee by Mr. Tremenheere, and embodied in their recommendations *ib.*, p. xxxi., ss. 156–8.
Importance of a good garden to a labouring man A., s. 134.
Supplies him with vegetables and fruit in Gloucestershire often almost to pay his rent - *ib.*
Half keeps the pig - - - - *ib.*
Moral advantages to children and parents - *ib.*
Best size for - - - - - A., s. 135.
Gardens *versus* allotments - - - A., s. 136.
Superior advantages of garden - - *ib.*
Too large allotments are unfavourable to education *ib.*
And not liked by farmers - - - *ib.*
Allotments generally much prized - - *ib.*
Careful supervision over them necessary - *ib.*
Not yet common in the *North of Lincolnshire* C., s. 28.
To a great extent objected to by employers - *ib.*
South of Lincoln, most towns have them - - *ib.*
Formed out of part of glebe given up by clergymen *ib.*
In *Nottinghamshire* very common, and cheaply let C., s. 32.
When free not much sought after - - *ib.*
In *Leicestershire* almost universal - - C., s. 188.
In certain villages absence of gardens - - *ib.*
In *Yorkshire* in default of gardens fields divided into D., s. 115.
Best size for - - - - D., s. 116.
Garden *versus* allotment - - - - *ib.*
Superior advantages of garden - - *ib.*
Admitted to be of great use and sought after eagerly *ib.*
In *Northamptonshire* generally adopted - E., s. 60.
In many parishes quantity of land let in, is large *ib.*
Gardens as well as allotments - - - *ib.*
Distance of allotments from village - - E., s. 61.
Size of allotment varies considerably - E., s. 62.
Rent of allotment varies considerably - E., s. 63.
Mode of cultivation - - - - E., s. 64.
Time devoted to cultivation of allotment - E., s. 65.
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Amount of produce - - - - *ib.*
General opinion on allotments - - E., s. 67.

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Allotments used as incentive to good behaviour *ib.*
Liable to be lost by labourers for drunkenness or some similar misconduct - - - - *ib.*
Opinions regarding the size of allotments - E., s. 68.
Proper distance from cottage - - E., s. 69.
Inconvenience very great if distance more than half a mile from cottage - - - - *ib.*
Opinions as to mode of cultivation - - E., s. 70.
Net profit on ¼ of an acre allotment - - *ib.*
Opinions as to growing corn on allotments - E., s. 71.
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Allotment systems - - - - F., s. 80.
Size of, a mooted point - - - - *ib.*
Desire to have allotments - - - *ib.*
Forfeiture of, on conviction before a bench of magistrates - - - - - - *ib.*
Value of, pecuniarily and morally - - F., s. 81.
Keeps labourer out of beershop - - *ib.*
System in *Woburn* Union - - - F., s. 82.
Garden *versus* allotment - - - F., s. 83.
Extract from Journal of the *London Central Farmer's Club*, 39, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, November 1858 - - - - - - p. 139.
In *Dorsetshire* the cause of boys leaving school at an early age - - - - - G., s. 7.
Without allotments wages hardly sufficient to support life - - - - G., s. 16.
Not always cheaply let - - - - *ib.*
Not a favour to the peasant - - - *ib.*
In the *Union of Bridport* the *average* rent as high as six guineas - - - - - - *ib.*
Some landowners have been careful to avoid this *ib.*
On *Lord Shaftesbury's* estate the common rent amounts to a rate of 24*s.* per acre - - - *ib.*
On *Lord Shaftesbury's* estate there are 396 allotment gardens, and no less than 165 of them are ½ an acre *ib.*
In *Kent* are found in a fair proportion of villages G., s. 30.
In South-western part of *Cheshire* almost unknown G., s. 57.
In *Shropshire* (South-western corner) almost unknown G., s. 63.
In *Staffordshire* not uncommon - - G., s. 67.
In *Rutlandshire* are large and common - G., s. 71.
Allowed to fall into the hands of small tradesmen *ib.*
Boys taken away from school to cultivate them G., s. 113.
The allotment system prevails to a very great extent in *Dorsetshire* and *Rutland* - - - G., s. 175.
In *Staffordshire* and *Kent* on some estates only - *ib.*
In *Cheshire* and *Shropshire* very rare - - *ib.*
Advantage to a labourer admitted - - G., s. 176.
Value depends on many circumstances - - *ib.*
Must be near to cottage and rent low - - *ib.*
Best size for - - - - - *ib.*
Too large allotments causes increased employment for young children and a tendency among the labouring population to depend too much on the potato crop *ib.*
In the *Western Counties* and in *Rutland* are let for keeping a cow - - - - G., s. 177.
In *Cheshire* modification found in the "ley" or run for a cow - - - - - - *ib.*
Opinions in favour of and against - G., ss. 177–9.
In *Hants* well supplied - - - H., s. 113.
In *Devon* are found on some estates - H., s. 114.
Potato ground a privilege of the *Devonshire* labourer H., s. 169.
In *Wiltshire*, *Warwickshire*, and *Worcestershire* the allotment system more in operation than in *Surrey* and *Herefordshire* where almost all the cottages have gardens - - - - - - I., s. 127.
General opinion in favour of ¼ acre - - *ib.*
At *Burbage* are from 2 or 3 to 20 and 30 acres - *ib.*
At *Bowood* Lord Lansdowne has 580 acres let out to 832 labourers - - - - - *ib.*
In *Oxfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* small allotments are provided by a great majority of landowners J., s. 88.
In some parishes in *Oxfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* the poor are ill supplied with either gardens or allotment ground - - - - - - *ib.*
A garden attached to a cottage better than an allotment *ib.*
In *Wantage Union*, *Berkshire*, on the estate of *Mr. Wroughton*, every cottage (upwards of 200) has a garden attached to it - - - - *ib.*

ALLOTMENTS—*cont.*

On the estates of the *Duke of Marlborough* in *Oxfordshire*, there are 914 allotments - J., s. 88.
Opinions as to size - - - - *ib.*
Allotment awards - - - J., s. 89.
The *O'Connor* allotments in *Oxfordshire* J., s. 90.
Cause of failure - - - - - *ib.*
Summary of evidence on allotment system J., s. 91.
Cow and cottage allotments, *Darley*, *Derbyshire* J 2., s. 65.
Cow allotment system in *Derbyshire* J 2., ss. 67–75.
Cow allotment system *versus* small farms J 2., ss. 76–8.
In *Derbyshire* all cottages belonging to landowners have either gardens attached to them or small allotments of garden ground - - - - J 2., s. 117.
In *Derbyshire* allotments of land are provided near many of the towns and mining villages and are greatly prized by the miners and mechanics - - *ib.*
Allotments of land for garden cultivation of more importance to colliers and men engaged in indoor work than to farm labourers - - - - *ib.*
In *Hertfordshire* allotments becoming very general in the county - - - - - *ib.*
In *Hertfordshire* allotments not so much appreciated or so well done as in *Bedfordshire* - - *ib.*
Gardens, suggestion for, to cottages in *Somersetshire* K., s. 39.
To enable the labourer to pay a higher rent for his cottage - - - - - - - *ib.*
Reason against - - - - *ib.*
In *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* the allotment system but little applicable - - - L., s. 85.
Allotments offered but declined - - L., s. 86.
High rate of wages, the cause of their being declined *ib.*
In *Lancashire* procurable when desired; small allotments preferred - - - - L 2., s. 22.
Valued more as a place of recreation than of toil *ib.*
In *Glamorganshire* there are potato grounds with house rent free, which come under the name of *privileges* M., s. 7.
In *Breconshire*, at *Haye* potato ground - M., s. 23.
Gardens not cared for in the *Hundred of Builth* M., s. 52.
In *North Wales* cottages always provided with gardens N., s. 36.
„ potato grounds let by farmers on systems similar to those in *England* - - *ib.*
In the counties of *Carmarthen* and *Pembroke* same evidence as found in *Derbyshire* that where an allotment of five or six acres enables a labourer to keep one or two cows, the charge of the little dairy is the best work for his wife - - - - O., s. 70.
In the counties of *Carmarthen* and *Pembroke* almost every cottage has a fair sized garden - - O., s. 71.
In the counties of *Carmarthen* and *Pembroke* large majority of labourers have potato land in addition to garden - - - - - - *ib.*
Cultivated allotments as distinguished from gardens little known - - - - - - - *ib.*
The custom of giving potato ground on which the labour is performed by the farmer, an excellent one O., s. 72.
In *Cardiganshire* few gardens - - P., s. 28.
„ allotment system entirely unknown P., s. 29.
In *Monmouthshire* nearly every cottage has an excellent garden - - - - - Q., s. 44

ARTIZANS AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS ACT:

Should be extended to rural districts Rep. II., p. xxxix., ss. 199–201.

BENEFIT SOCIETIES: Rep. II., p. xlii.

Bearing of benefit societies on the habits of providence of labourers in agriculture - - *ib.* s. 238.
Summary of facts and opinions brought together by Assistant Commissioners - *ib.* p. xliii., ss. 239–42.
What a trustworthy system is - *ib.* p. xliii., s. 242.
State of untrustworthiness of nearly the whole of the enrolled benefit societies - - - *ib.*
And of all the unenrolled societies - - *ib.*
Suggestions for the formation of benefit societies on a sound basis - - - *ib.* p. xliii., s. 243.
Admirable constitution of the *Hampshire Benefit* Society *ib.*

BENEFIT SOCIETIES—*cont.*

Wiltshire Benefit Society Rep. H., p. xliii., s. 243.
Surrey „ - - - *ib.*
Western Provident Association - - *ib.*
North Warwick Friendly Society - - *ib.*
Northamptonshire „ - - *ib.*
Worcestershire „ - - *ib.*
Herefordshire „ - - *ib.*
Kent „ - - *ib.*
Dorset „ - - *ib.*
Shropshire „ - - *ib.*
Rutland „ - - *ib.*
Difficulties in the way of forming sound benefit clubs with agricultural districts - *ib.* p. xliv., s. 244.
Further inquiry necessary - - - *ib.* s. 246.
Mr. Tidd Pratt's view of the objects which benefit societies should have in view, and the proper manner of attaining them - - - - *ib.* s. 247.
Probable effects of further inquiry - *ib.* ss. 248–9.
Benefit society at *Wooler* - - - B., s. 41.
„ in *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire* D., s. 136.
„ in *Bedfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* F., s. 84.
Rottenness of "benefit societies" - G., ss. 201–2.
Necessity for encouraging them - - G., s. 203.
Difficulties of sound clubs - - G., ss. 205–6.
Necessity of further inquiry - - G., s. 207.
Benefit societies in *Hants*, *Devon*, and *Cornwall* H., ss. 139–40.
Advantages of a deposit system - - - *ib.*
Hampshire Friendly Society - - H., ss. 142–3.
Western Provident Association - - H., ss. 144–5.
Opinions as to societies - - - H., ss. 148–51.
Friendly societies - - - - I., s. 133.
The *Wiltshire* Friendly Society - - - *ib.*
The *North Warwickshire* Friendly Society - I., s. 134.
Becher clubs - - - - - *ib.*
The effect of registration often misunderstood I., s. 135.
Proposals for improving friendly societies - *ib.*
The Poor Law diminishes the inducement to belong to clubs - - - - - I., s. 136.
Difficulties in the way of labourers anxious to form benefit societies on a safe basis, with suggestions as to how the difficulty might be overcome - J., s. 92.
How Government could help the cause of benefit societies - - - - - *ib.*
Partially used by farm servants in *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* - - - - L., s. 53.
Returns of, from servants subscribing to - L., s. 54.
Lancashire benefit societies - - L 2., s. 27.

CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF:

Table showing extent of the employment of children in 93 parishes in the counties of *Norfolk*, *Essex*, *Sussex*, and *Gloucester* - - - - A., s. 41.
Figures not absolutely to be depended on - A., s. 42.
Difficulty in procuring exact returns - - *ib.*
Cycle of children's work on the land, see note - *ib.*
Difference of opinion as to the age at which a boy should begin work upon a farm - - A., s. 44.
It need not be so early as it has been put by some A., s. 45.
The first employments of children require no skill *ib.*
The wits of the ordinary farm boy admitted to require sharpening, see note - - - - *ib.*
Restriction proposed on the hours of labour of boys under a certain age - - - A., ss. 46–7.
Restriction required in the case of employment on Sunday - - - - - A., s. 48.
In *Northumberland* children's earnings bring a good deal into the family - - - B., s. 12.
In the *Glendale Union*, *Northumberland*, children seldom go to work before 11 or 12 years of age - B., s. 32.
Their employment and hours of labour, &c. B., ss. 32-6.
Any restriction or interference in the present system would be detrimental to the social condition of the district, &c. - - - - B., ss. 37–8.
Employment of, in *Durham* - - B. ss. 64–8.
Are not sent to work at too early an age - B., s. 69.
General concurrence of feeling among employers and workers that no child should begin labour before 10 years of age - - - - B., s. 89.
Returns in *South Northumberland* do not show any children at work under 10 years of age - B., s. 90.
No legislative interference or restriction required B., ss. 90–4.

CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF—*cont.*

Sorts of employment of children in *Lincolnshire*, *Nottinghamshire*, and *Leicestershire* - - C., ss. 41–69.
Wages of, in ditto - - - C., ss. 24, 32, 36.
The age at which boys should be allowed to work C., ss. 70–4.
The age at which girls should be allowed to work C., ss. 75–84.
The hours of work of children - - C., ss. 85–90.
Meal times - - - - C., ss. 91–2.
The distances to which children go to work C., ss. 93–103.
Unhealthy and unsuitable employments for children C., ss. 109–13.
In *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire* the number of children employed not to be accurately obtained - D., s. 7.
Wages of, in *Cambridgeshire* - - D., s. 12.
„ in *Yorkshire* - - - D., s. 13.
It may be stated generally that whenever work is to be done on the farm which children are capable of performing, they are employed - - D., s. 27.
Children considerably employed in pea pulling because their labour is cheaper than men's - - D., s. 28.
Hours of work in *Cambridgeshire* - - - *ib.*
„ „ *Yorkshire* - - - D., s. 29.
Distance to go to work, the advisability of placing some restriction on - - - - D., ss. 30–1.
The employment of young girls in the fields almost universally condemned - - - D., s. 34.
Where wages are low, their earnings are no doubt of very great importance - - - D., s. 36–7.
In *Northamptonshire* all the boys in the agricultural villages may be said to be employed in the fields, E., s. 10.
Begin to work about the age of 8, a few as young as 7, and almost all of them have been to work before they are 10 - - - - - - *ib.*
Up to the age of 10, their work does not generally occupy them all the year round, but after 10 or 11 they are usually employed continuously throughout the whole year - - - - - *ib.*
The number employed in 19 parishes with a population of 8,975, 621 males below the age of 18 - *ib.*
How hired - - - - - E., s. 11.
Their earnings - - - - - *ib.*
Work performed by children - - E., ss. 12–13.
Their wages - - - - E., s. 14.
Hours of work, meal hours - - - E., s. 16.
Work done on Sundays - - - E., s. 17.
Effect of labour on their health - - E., ss. 18–19.
„ on morals - - - - E., s. 20.
No ill-treatment, but scaring with gun specially injurious E., s. 21.
Restriction upon children's labour may be advocated upon two grounds; 1st, on the ground of health; 2ndly, for the purpose of education - E., s. 23.
Up to what age their labour could be dispensed with E., s. 31.
Up to what age can the parents dispense with their earnings - - - - - *ib.*
Not usually insufficiently fed when at work; opinion of the Assistant Commissioner - - E., s. 32.
Labour returns showing average number of children employed on 1,000 acres in *Bedfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* - - - - - F., s. 28.
Very little employed in from labour under 10 years of age F., s. 29.
Plough boys - - - - - F., s. 30.
Hours of work of boys - - - F., s. 31.
Effect of employment on their health - F., s. 32.
Legislative restrictions not required on this account *ib.*
In lace making and straw plaiting - F., ss. 85–90.
Difficulty in estimating their earnings - F., s. 102.
In *Dorsetshire* boys employed excessively - G., s. 6.
„ boy's labour has partly displaced that of men, and on this ground alone some restriction as to the age of continuous employment would be of great value - - - - - - *ib.*
In *Kent*, employment of boys - - G., ss. 26–7.
Opinion of Assistant Commissioner on children's labour; its value - - - - - G., s. 83.
its nature - - - - G., ss. 84–5.
Employment of young girls - - G., ss. 86–9.
„ boys - - - G., ss. 90–2.
„ „ with guns - - G., s. 93.
„ „ „ horses - - G., ss. 94–6.
General recommendations by Assistant Commissioner G., ss. 97–100.
Earnings of, in *Hampshire* - H., ss. 10, 14, 17, 19.
„ „ *Devonshire* - - H., ss. 24–6.
„ „ *Cornwall* - - H., ss. 36–7.

CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF—*cont.*

In *Hampshire* children under 10 years of age not much employed - - - - - H., s. 39.
Field work not thought good for girls - H., ss. 41–2.
Effect on health - - - - H., s. 54.
„ morals - - - - H., ss. 46–8.
Hours of work and distance to - - H., ss. 49–50.
Age at which children should be employed, application of Factory Acts to agriculture - - H., ss. 52–3.
Opinions in *Hants* - - - - H., s. 54.
„ *Devon* - - - H., ss. 55–7.
„ at *Plymouth* - - - H., s. 58.
„ in *Cornwall* - - - H., ss. 59–60.
Rule in unions - - - - H., s. 61.
Opinion of farmers as to effect of such limit H., ss. 62–3.
Work for boys under 10, and wages - - H., s. 64.
Will the loss of earnings of children under 10 years be felt by the labourer? - - - H., ss. 65–6.
Age at which boys are first employed in the counties of *Surrey, Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire,* and *Wiltshire* - - - - I., s. 31.
Employment of girls - - - I., s. 32.
Age at which farmers require boys - - I., s. 33.
Work in which children are employed - I., ss. 34–5.
Boys anxious for work - - - I., s. 36.
„ earnings of - - - - I., s. 38.
Health of children - - - - I., s. 39.
Work done on Sundays - - - I., s. 40.
Shepherd boys - - - - I., s. 41.
Earnings of boys in *Oxfordshire* and *Berkshire* J., ss. 33–5.
Proportion of youthful labour to acreage - J., s. 51.
Boys' work - - - - - J., s. 52.
Earnings of boys in *Derbyshire* - - J 2., s. 28.
„ *Herts* - - J 2., ss. 39–41.
Employment of boys in farm labour in *North Derbyshire* J 2., ss. 52–3.
„ „ in *South Derbyshire* - J 2., s. 54.
„ „ in *Herts* - - J 2., ss. 58–60.
„ girls „ - - J 2. s. 62.
Legislative interference to protect children from physical injury not necessary - - - J 2., s. 63.
In *Somersetshire* low wages necessitate the employment of boys - - - - - K., s. 4.
Their employment - - - K., ss. 5–11.
Employment of little boys and girls mixed - K., s. 12.
„ children in market gardens - K., s. 13.
Career of a girl in agricultural districts - K., s. 14.
Employment of girls in gloving - K., ss. 45–55.
„ children in brickfields - K., s. 56.
Interference much wanted - - - *ib.*
„ button holing - - K., s. 57.
In *Westmorland* there is little scope for the employment on a large scale of children in agriculture - L., s. 15.
In parts of *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* boys and girls work in gangs - - - - - L., ss. 23–4.
Their earnings - - - - - L., s. 25.
Value of children's labour to the small statesmen and tenant farmers - - - - L., s. 103.
Their hours of labour not objectionable - L., s. 105.
In *Lancashire* children engaged very young as farm servants - - - - L 2., s. 14.
Great abuse of children's labour in gathering shell-fish on the sands in *Morecambe Bay* - L 2., ss. 28–32.
Testimonies to the greatness of this evil - L 2., s. 33.
Wages of, in the Vale of *Glamorgan* - - M., s. 7.
„ „ *Neath* - - M., s. 11.
„ „ *Breconshire* - M., ss. 23–4.
Their employment - - - M., ss. 31–2.
Suggestions as to limit of age - - M., s. 33.
Girls less employed in the counties of *Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh,* and *Flint,* than in England N., s. 19.
Employment of boys - - - N., ss. 22–3.
„ „ in farm labour in *Pembrokeshire* and *Carmarthenshire* - - - - O., s. 27.
Evidence shows that no physical injury is done to children by the manner in which they are employed in agriculture - - - - O., s. 28.
Wages of boys - - - - O., s. 29.
„ girls - - - - O., s. 30.
In *Cardiganshire* children not hired out by the day P., s. 13.
„ „ hired as farm servants very young - - - - P., ss. 14–15.
In *Montgomeryshire* very little employed for hire in husbandry until they leave home and enter farm service at ages varying from 9 to 13 - - P., s. 32.

CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF—*cont.*

In *Merionethshire* boys hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age - - - - P., s. 43.
In *Merionethshire* early age at which girls enter farm service - - - - - P., s. 44.
English and Welsh farming compared as concerns their employment in agriculture - - Q., s. 10.
Employment of girls - - - - Q., s. 17.
„ of children in agriculture - Q., ss. 21–2.
„ little girls - - - Q., s. 23.
Considerations on the employment of children on Welsh farms in *Radnorshire* and *Monmouthshire* Q., ss. 25–30.
Employment of children in hill districts - Q., s. 31.

COTTAGES:

STATE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' DWELLING:

Question of, in relation to moral improvement of the class of agricultural labourers - Rep. I., s. 319.
Large sums spent by landowners in the last 30 years in improving old and providing new cottages *ib.* s. 320.
Large proportion of agricultural labourers still badly housed - - - - - *ib.* s. 321.
Bad moral and economical effect of - - *ib.*
Bad state of labourers' cottages attracted notice at latter end of last century - - - *ib.* s. 322.
Prize offered by Board of Agriculture (1800) for improvement in cottages - - - - *ib.* s. 323.
Abuses in cottage building arising from paying rents out of poor-rates continued up to 1834 *ib.* ss. 324–7.
Great efforts made since 1834 to supply good cottages *ib.* s. 327.
The great expense the obstacle to more rapid progress *ib.* s. 328.
Prospects held out of re-draining; cost by Mr. B. Nicoll's mode of construction - - *ib.* ss. 334–46.
Other endeavours to construct cottages at a cheaper rate than is now common - - - *ib.* ss. 347–54.
Summary of reports of Assistant Commissioners on the state of - - - - Rep. II., p. xxxii.
Agricultural labourers' cottages - - *ib.* ss. 161–87.
Legislative action invoked to cause improvement *ib.* p. xxxv. ss. 188–94.
Different classes of estates on which bad cottages are found - - - - *ib.* p. xxxvii. s. 195.
Scope of Act giving power to charge settled estates should be enlarged - - - *ib.* p. xxxviii. s. 198.
Question of extending principle of Artizans and Labourers Dwellings Act to rural districts - *ib.* p. xxxix. s. 199.
A return as to houses similar to that of the *Scotch Census* desirable for *England* and *Wales* *ib.* ss. 235–7.
Condition of, in the counties of *Norfolk, Essex, Sussex,* and *Gloucester* - - - - A., s. 113.
Described as "*miserable,*" "*deplorable,*" "*detestable,*" "a disgrace to a Christian community" *ib.*
When adequate in quality, inadequate in quantity (*See* also Note ‡, p. 7.) *ib.*
Donnington, in *Sussex,* and *Down Amney,* in *Gloucestershire,* the only two parishes out of 300 where cottage provision is admirable in quality and sufficient in quantity - - - - - - *ib.*
Majority of, in rural parishes, deficient in almost every requisite to a home for a Christian family in a civilized community - - - - - A., s. 114.
Deficient in bedrooms, drainage, and sanitary arrangements - - - - - - *ib.*
Imperfectly supplied with water - - - *ib.*
Conveniences situated so as to become nuisances *ib.*
Dilapidated and out of repair - - - *ib.*
Natural history of ruinous cottages - - A., s. 115.
Some of the worst are parish cottages, which there are no funds to repair - - - - - *ib.*
Some run up by squatters on the waste, &c., &c. *ib.*
Some put up by speculative builders of the flimsiest materials - - - - - - *ib.*
Some belong to small indigent proprietors - *ib.*
Some to absentee or embarrassed landowners - *ib.*
Deplorable consequences - - - A., s. 116.
Impossible to exaggerate the ill effects - - *ib.*
Generate any amount of disease - - - *ib.*
Deprive the farmer of a large proportion of his effective labour power - - - - - *ib.*
The moral consequences fearful to contemplate - *ib.*
Evidence as to the above - - - - *ib.*
Affects the condition of the school - - A., s. 11.

COTTAGES—*cont.*
The farmers keenly alive to this evil, and also to that of close parishes - - - - A., s. 118.
Every cottage ought to have three bedrooms - *ib.*
Suggestion for something in the shape of a building Act *ib.*
Suggestion for inspection of cottages - - *ib.*
The motive which led to the creation of close parishes *ib.*
The consequences of close parishes - - *ib.*
Proportion of cottages to the hundred acres A., s. 119.
Depends on the nature of soil, &c. &c. - - *ib.*
Three cottages to 100 acres in an average district adequate *ib.*
A superabundance of cottages nearly as great an evil as a defective supply - - - - *ib.*
All that can be demanded of landowners is to stock their estates with a sufficient supply - A., s. 120.
Question as to the best tenure of cottages - *ib.*
Lord Leicester's the best way - - - *ib.*
Cottage tenures in respect of time - - A., s. 121.
Tenure by the year the fairest to all parties - *ib.*
Leases never known - - - - *ib.*
Violent, harsh, sudden evictions are very rare - *ib.*
Difficulty in sorting families - - A., s. 122.
The principle of "sorting," that is, moving families, freely applied by *Sir Edward Kerrison* in *Suffolk*, and by *Earl St. Germains* at Down Amney - *ib.*
If applied with due consideration ought not to be regarded by anybody as a hardship - - *ib.*
True view of cottages as property - - A., s. 123.
Archdeacon Hopper's opinion - - - *ib.*
Rev. J. Fraser, the Assistant Commissioner's opinion *ib.*
Rev. J. Fraser's view not generally recognized A., s. 124.
Cannot cottages be built to pay? - - A., s. 125.
Cost of cottages when local materials are utilized not enormous - - - - A., s. 126.
A double tenement with three chambers to each dwelling, or with five chambers between the two, can be built for a sum seldom more than 200*l.* - - *ib.*
Improvements already going on - - A., s. 127.
The *Marquis of Cholmondeley* and the *Earl of Leicester* in *Norfolk;* the *Duke of Grafton* and *Sir Edward Kerrison* in *Suffolk;* the *Duke of Richmond, Lord Leconfield*, and the *Hon. Mrs. Vernon Harcourt* in *Sussex;* the *Earls of Ducie* and *St. Germains* in *Gloucestershire*, are setting a noble example of their consciousness of responsibility in respect of the dwellings of labourers, &c. - - - - *ib.*
Hopes that in 25 years' time the villages of England will present a more pleasing picture to the eye of the traveller - - - - - *ib.*
Cottages held by small proprietors - - A., s. 128.
Cottages in the hands of small and needy proprietors one great difficulty in the way of any large plans of improvement - - - - - *ib.*
Estimated that the proprietorship of less than half the cottages in *Norfolk* is in the owners of the soil *ib.*
Cottage property the only source of income of the small proprietor - - - - - *ib.*
Small proprietor frequently only so in name - *ib.*
Small proprietor feels himself under no moral responsibility, such as a landowner by his position would be forced to recognize - - - - *ib.*
If good cottages were built by the landowners in sufficient numbers the bad ones would soon become tenantless - - - - - *ib.*
How to improve bad cottages - - - *ib.*
Rev. E. B. Everard's, of *Burnham Thorpe*, suggestion *ib.*
Construction and arrangement - - A., s. 129.
Rooms should not be too small - - A., s. 130.
In many of the new cottages rooms are sadly too small *ib.*
Sir Willoughby Jones' suggestion - - *ib.*
Fittings up should be simple - - A., s. 131.
Advantages of dispersion and concentration A., s. 132.
Proper size of a block of cottages - - A., s. 133.
The *double cottage system* the best in opinion of *Rev. J. Fraser*, Assistant Commissioner - - *ib.*
In *Glendale, Northumberland*, cottages built upon the farms and held by the tenants with the other buildings B., s. 145.
Two cottages required for every 100 acres of tillage *ib.*
Cottages let as part payment of wages - B., s. 146.
Generally sufficient in number - - B., s. 147.

COTTAGES—*cont.*
Some of the best and some of the worst in England in *Glendale* - - - - - B., s. 147.
Pamphlet of *Dr. Gilley* - - - B., s. 148.
Formation of the Northumberland Cottage Improvement Society - - - - - - - *ib.*
The old cottages built of rough stone, thatched roofs, no ceilings, bare rafters, and earthen floors, one room about 18 feet square, with a space opposite the door for a cow - - - - B., ss. 150–1.
The earth floor, according to *Erasmus*, one of the causes of epidemic sickness among the cotters 300 years ago B., s. 152.
Cottages of this description still existing - B., s. 153.
Dr. Walker's account of one during a visitation from typhoid fever - - - - B., s. 154.
The Assistant Commissioner, *Mr. Henley*, can testify to the crowding and wretchedness of - B., s. 155.
New ones in course of erection - - - *ib.*
Farms, at the expiration of their present leases, will not let without suitable cottage accommodation B., s. 156.
Cottages as essential as stabling for horses - *ib.*
Mr. Charles Rea's remarks - - - B., s. 157.
Landlords quite alive to their defects and to the duties they owe to their labourers - - B., s. 158.
The labourers of the North take a pride in the arrangements of their houses - - - B., s. 159.
Their interior a great contrast to the exterior - *ib.*
In justification of landlords it must be said that on this subject public opinion has made a rapid change *ib.*
Record of the Cottage Improvement Society B., s. 160.
Cottages mentioned as models in 1847 would now be considered totally insufficient - - - *ib.*
One-roomed cottages, 20 years ago considered perfect, will become one of the great difficulties in the way of improvement - - - - - - *ib.*
On the large estates of *Earl Grey* and *Mr. Cresswell Cresswell* attention is particularly attracted by the excellence of the cottages - - B., s. 161.
The *Dukes of Northumberland* have built and improved 931 dwellings for labourers during the last 20 years *ib.*
The work of improvement is rapidly progressing *ib.*
The ground-floor cottages, commonly called "two ends," are the most popular - - - B., ss. 162–4.
Good reasons why so - - - - *ib.*
Some cottages constructed by *Mr. Snowball* on *Mr. Fawcett's* property at *Branton*, with two upstair rooms over a large sitting room, a back kitchen and dairy much approved of by occupier, tenant, and relieving officer at *Alnwick* - - - B., ss. 165–6.
Mortification of proprietor when he finds upper rooms of cottages made into store rooms for corn and lumber B., s. 167.
Improved condition tends to cure a great evil, viz., the yearly change of service - - - *ib.*
Dr. Cahill draws attention to some oversights in cottage building, *and to box beds* - - B., s. 168.
Mr. Hunt, surgeon at *Belford*, ditto - B., s. 169.
Mr. Brown, surgeon, *Berwick*, ditto - B., s. 170.
Box beds like berths in a ship - - B., s. 171.
Mr. Brown's, surgeon, *Wooler*, evidence - B., s. 172.
Mr. Watson, relieving officer, *Morpeth*, ditto B., s. 173.
Pressure for cottage accommodation not so great in the south as in the north of *Northumberland* B., ss. 174–81.
In all *Mr. Cresswell's* cottages a course of common slate is laid in cement the width of the wall about three inches from the ground, which effectually prevents the damp from rising - - - B., s. 182.
Sir M. W. Ridley, M.P., uses Caithness flagstones *ib.*
Adds materially to the comfort of the inmates *ib.*
Names of a few of the beautiful villages in the district of *Glendale* - - - - B., ss. 183–4.
Evidence as to whether the Union Chargeability Act 28 & 29 Vict. c. 79., March 1866, is having any effect in causing an increase of cottage accommodation B., s. 185.
Money borrowed under powers of the various Acts of Parliament through the Inclosure Commissioners has not been used to any great extent for cottages B., s. 186.
Reasons alleged for this - - B., ss. 187–203.
Distribution of, in the counties of *Lincoln, Nottingham*, and *Leicester* - C., ss. 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17, 20, 28, 29, 33, 183.
Importance attached to this subject (especially in *Lincolnshire*) - - - - C., ss. 183–6.

COTTAGES—*cont.*
Many landlords have at once admitted the necessity of the case - - - - - C., s. 186.
The late *Lord Yarborough* and the late *Mr. Heneage* were almost the only two who anticipated it by building cottages on their estates - - - *ib.*
Within the last few years the number of cottages built on many estates has been very large - - *ib.*
On some few of the large properties visited by the Assistant Commissioner hardly any improvement has taken place - - - - - *ib.*
The effect of the change has been to replace bad cottages by good ones - - - - C., s. 187.
The old style of cots in *Lincolnshire* was built of "mud and stud" - - - - - *ib.*
They were mostly in two stories, the upper one open to the roof, and sometimes without any window - *ib.*
Two, or more generally one bedroom sufficed - *ib.*
Some instances of this may still be seen in most open villages - - - - - *ib.*
In the parishes belonging to large landowners they have generally disappeared - - - - *ib.*
Table showing the state of one or two such parishes *ib.*
In the *East of Notts* some few villages are still full of bad cots - - - - - C., s. 189.
"Mud and stud" has for the most part disappeared, and been replaced by brick houses of a more or less substantial description - - - - *ib.*
Most of these have two bedrooms only, although the more modern ones, such as those built by the *Speaker* of the *House of Commons*, have three, and contain every accommodation - - - - *ib.*
In *Leicestershire* the cottages must be described as generally bad - - - - - *ib.*
Their average state far below those of *Lincolnshire ib.*
In the villages occupied by stockingers they are almost universally wretched and overcrowded - - *ib.*
Perhaps the main cause of this has been the building upon the waste which has taken place to a very large extent - - - - - - *ib.*
Great additional crowding is produced in the hunting season by the number of grooms and helpers who have to be lodged in the villages - - - *ib.*
Some landowners have very much improved their cots *ib.*
All *Lord Howe's* villages are most agreeable to the eye, contain excellent cottages, and (what is far more rare) almost enough of them - - - *ib.*
Lord *Berner's* estate ditto - - - *ib.*
The existence of the old "parish" cottages another cause which has tended to crowding - C., s. 190.
At *Gayton* there are 9 such one bedroom cottages containing 36 persons - - - - *ib.*
Much of the overcrowding is due to the families themselves - - - - - C., s. 191.
Some better system of inspection is necessary C., s. 192.
In *Lincolnshire* strong feeling that Government should give assistance in providing cottages for the labouring class, and especially on entailed estates - C., s. 193.
The feeling expressed at meetings of Boards of Guardians and others, in *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire*, shows that there is great need for improvement in cottage accommodation - - - D., s. 88.
Extracts from the evidence of competent persons D., ss. 89–114.
In most parts of *Yorkshire* much comfort in the cottages D., s. 115.
Vastly superior to the average of dwellings in the southern counties - - - - - *ib.*
Absenteeism the cause of bad cottages - D., s. 117.
Encumbered estates ditto - - - D., s. 118.
The evils of the old "close parishes" not yet removed D., s. 119.
The evil is a great one and much in want of a cure, and it behoves owners of cottage property to bestir themselves - - - - - D., s. 120.
Landlord's question - - - D., s. 121.
The crowded and neglected state of the dwellings of the poor said to be the principal cause of immorality and degredation among the working class - - *ib.*
Small owners of cottages often demand a rent in excess of that which a field labourer can pay - D., s. 123.
The consequence is that he takes in lodgers and crowds his family - - - - - - *ib.*
The construction of cottages varies as much as the cost D., s. 124.
Owner's care necessary to prevent overcrowding and the evils arising from want of decency - D., s. 125.
Examples of rent of cottages in *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire* - - - - - D., s. 126.

COTTAGES—*cont.*
Opinions on the necessity of amending the Lands Improvement Acts - - - - D., s. 127.
Opinion with regard to extending to rural districts labouring classes Dwelling Houses Acts - D., s. 128.
Barrack for young men said to have been tried with success on *Mr. Sotheron Estcourt's* estate - D., s. 129.
Number of cottages per 100 acres - - D., s. 130.
Two, as a rule, may be taken to be sufficient - *ib.*
In *Northamptonshire* the condition of the cottage accommodation varies much in different parishes E., s. 39.
Two main classes of cottages - - E., s. 40.
First. Those in close parishes - - *ib.*
Second. Those in open parishes - - *ib.*
In close parishes a great number of new cottages are being or have recently been built. These are excellent E., s. 41.
In open parishes cottages of every description may be found; but rarely, if ever, is the accommodation sufficient to provide for the health, comfort, and morals of the inhabitants, &c., &c. - - E., ss. 42, 3, 4.
Cottages built on the waste - - - E., s. 45.
Usually, but not always, of the worst description *ib.*
Overcrowding - - - - E., s. 46.
Case of a cottage measuring 16 feet by 18, inhabited by a grandfather aged 84, father, mother, and 11 children, 14 in all; and at the time the cottage was visited the mother of the family was washing clothes in the only living room - - - - - *ib.*
Deficiency in number of cottages in close parishes E., s. 47.
In close parishes the cottages sufficient in point of internal accommodation, but in point of numbers generally insufficient - - - - *ib.*
The number of labourers necessary for the cultivation of the land far more than can be accommodated in the village - - - - - - *ib.*
The result is that many labourers have to go two or three miles to work - - - - - *ib.*
The superior convenience experienced by the labourers who have only to walk a short distance to work, enables the owners of the close parishes to obtain all the best and most respectable labourers as tenants of their cottages, the remainder being thrust away into the open parishes - - - - *ib.*
This deficiency, however, in the number of cottages, is now being remedied - - - *ib.*
First, by building in close parishes - *ib.*
Second, by the increased use of machinery in towns - - - - - *ib.*
Should cottages be built on the farm or in the village? E., s. 48.
Farmer's view - - - - *ib.*
Labourer's view - - - - *ib.*
Necessity for good cottages - - - E., s. 49.
All parties appear to be agreed upon the absolute necessity of this - - - - *ib.*
Best arrangement between landlord and farmer as to letting cottages - - - - E., s. 50.
Difficult to adopt any fixed rule - - E., s. 51.
Particular plans for cottages - - - E., s. 52.
Faults usually found in the plans of cottages E., s. 53.
Suggestions as to how cottages may be built on self-supporting terms - - - - E., s. 54.
Number of cottages necessary per 100 acres - E., s. 55.
Power to borrow money for building - - E., s. 56.
As to removal of nuisances - - E., ss. 57–8.
The cottage difficulty would be solved at once if labourers were able and willing to pay an amount of rent which would render the building of good cottages a paying investment - - - E., s. 59.
As things stand we must look to the large landowners for improved cottage accommodation - - *ib.*
They have already done a great deal and are likely to do more - - - - *ib.*
In *Bedfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* cottages are not generally attached to farms - - F., s. 14.
The cottage accommodation bad and reason for it F., s. 15.
Remarks on chances of improvement of cottages F., s. 16.
Number of cottages required for cultivation of land F., s. 20.
Evidence on state of cottage accommodation in 134 parishes - - - - - F., s. 70.
Number of cottages generally sufficient - F., s. 71.
Misfortune that more cottages do not belong to landowners F., s. 72.
Villages with good cottages - - - F., s. 73.
Twenty-one cottages in which villages are bad F., s. 74.

COTTAGES—*cont.*
In the neighbourhood of *Slough* farmers would be willing to pay an additional rent equal to a fair percentage on the outlay if landowners would build a few cottages attached to the farm steadings and let them with the farms - - - - F., s. 75.
Advantage of cottages attached to farm steading F., s. 76.
Manner of letting them on three large estates, viz.,—
On *Duke of Bedford's* - - - F., s. 77.
On *Lady Cowper's* - - - *ib.*
On *Sir Harry Verney's* - - - *ib.*
Inducement to landowners to build such cottages F., s. 78.
Cottages on self-supporting terms - - F., s. 79.
In *Dorsetshire* the system of letting cottages with the farms is common - - - - G., s. 3.
On a large tract of heath south of the chalk hills the labourers have had permission to build cottages (on life leases), a large number of which are miserable and never repaired - - - - - *ib.*
Cottage rents are usually below the average of other counties - - - - - G., s. 15.
The greatest improvement has taken place in the condition of the cottages which were for some years a bye-word and reproach - - - G., s. 17.
In spite of these changes the cottages of this county are more ruinous and contain worse accommodation than those in any other county visited by the Assistant Commissioner, except *Shropshire* - - G., s. 18.
One special difficulty in the way of improvement in this county is the number of cottages let on lease for lives *ib.*
Sanitary state of - - - - G., s. 19.
Cottages in *Kent* - - - G., ss. 30–42.
„ *Cheshire* - - - - G., s. 57.
„ *Shropshire* - - - G., s. 60.
„ *Staffordshire* - - - G., s. 67.
„ *Rutlandshire* - - - G., s. 71.
State of the cottages in the above counties - G., s. 156.
Efforts of landowners - - - - G., s. 157.
Remedies suggested - - - G., ss. 158–9.
Government loans for cottage building - G., ss. 160–1.
Requirement that all cottages should be built in conformity with certain rules - - G., s. 162.
Working of sanitary Acts - - G., ss. 163–5.
Situation of cottages - - - G., s. 166.
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„ „ *Devonshire* - - H., s. 114.
„ „ *Cornwall* - - H., s. 115.
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Inspection of cottages - - - H., s. 127.
General state of - - - H., ss. 128–31.
Difficulties in dealing with cottage question H., ss. 132–3.
Alteration in provisions of Land Improvement Act needed - - - - H., ss. 134–5.
Enlarged powers to holders of life estates - H., s. 136.
Desirable form of legislation - - H., ss. 137–8.
In the counties of *Surrey, Wilts, Warwick, Worcester,* and *Hereford,* there are three classes of cottages I., s. 120.
First, those belonging to landowners - I., s. 121.
Second, those built by speculators - I., s. 122.
Third, those built by labourers - - I., s. 123.
Rent - - - - - - - I., s. 124.
Conveniently situated, but not large enough - *ib.*
Opinion of doctors as to cottages - - I., s. 125.
Better drainage much needed - - I., s. 126.
Cottages let to farmers - - - I., s. 128.
Only those sufficient for the principal servants should be so let - - - - - *ib.*
Terms for which cottages are let - - I., s. 129.
Small Tenements Rating Act might be extended I., s. 130.
Power to borrow money on leases - - *ib.*
And to improve old cottages - - *ib.*
Cannot be built on self-supporting terms - I., s. 131.
Labourers do not value good cottages - - *ib.*
Many think that no direct return should be expected from cottages - - - - I., s. 132.
If so, none but wealthy landlords can have good cottages - - - - - - *ib.*
It is a mistake to charge low rents - - *ib.*
Money would be better spent in raising character of labourer - - - - - - *ib.*
Evidence on state of cottages in *Oxfordshire* and *Berkshire* - - - - J., s. 6.
General description of their condition - J., ss. 76–9.

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Good cottages not altogether a question of wages or rent J., s. 81.
How far landowners are answerable for the manner in which labourers are generally housed - J., s. 82.
Corporate landowners - - - J., s. 83.
Power of borrowing money under sanction of Inclosure Commissioners for cottage improvement in virtue of Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114., very little used - J., s. 84.
Showing why the powers of the Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114. are not used, and suggestions for meeting the difficulty J., s. 85.
By extending duration of rentcharge - - *ib.*
By allowing life tenant to borrow as owner in fee for cottage building - - - - *ib.*
Suggestions for inspection of cottages by various witnesses - - - - - J., s. 86.
Difficulty where bad cottages already exist not belonging to the landowner - - - J., s. 87.
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Lord Taunton's cottages - - - - *ib.*
Sir Thomas Acland's cottages - - - *ib.*
Converted cottages - - - - *ib.*
The people scarcely appreciate the new model cottages *ib.*
Lodgers - - - - - - - *ib.*
Suggestions for making model cottages pay.—*Mr. Porteous* - - - - - - K., s. 39.
Sir A. Elton's cottages - - - - *ib.*
Pulling down cottages is going out - - K., s. 40.
Ownership of cottages - - - - *ib.*
Deficient cottage accommodation - - K., s. 41.
Supposed to lead to immorality - - - *ib.*
Morals worse in gloving districts than in agricultural *ib.*
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The question of cottage accommodation not so important in these counties as in some others - L., s. 79.
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Cottage improvement the question of the day L., s. 81.
Instances of cottage improvement - - L., s. 82.
In *Lancashire* the cottages good - - L 2., s. 23.
Great improvement of cottages in the *Fylde* L 2., s. 24.
Condition of cottages in the counties of *Glamorgan* and *Brecon* - - - - - - M., s. 49.
As a rule they are fairly good - - - *ib.*
At *Peterston* there is reason to complain - - *ib.*
Cause stated to be the absence of care on the part of the owner of property. "No Irish property can present "more wretched consequences of absenteeism than "this" - - - - - - *ib.*
Want of bedroom accommodation - - M., s. 50.
Rent of - - - - - - M., s. 51.
Cottages attached to farms - - - M., s. 53.
Condition of cottages in *North Wales* - N., s. 33.
Number of - - - - - - N., s. 34.
Accommodation generally insufficient - N., s. 35.
Description of cottages - - - - *ib.*
Rent of - - - - - - N., s. 36.
Ownership - - - - - - N., s. 37.
Model cottages - - - - N., s. 38.
General description of cottage accommodation in the counties of *Pembroke* and *Carmarthen* - O., s. 57.
Examples of evidence on state of cottages - O., s. 58.
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Cottages in *Pembroke* and *Carmarthen* compared with those in *Beds* and *Bucks* - - - O., s. 62.
Domestic habits of the *Welsh* and *Southern English* O., s. 63.
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The *Earl of Cawdor's* "cottage plans" - O., s. 65.
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Condition of, in *Cardiganshire* - - P., s. 24.
Cause of the inferior accommodation - - P., s. 25.
Inability of landed proprietors to improve - P., s. 26.
Good accommodation more appreciated by the labouring classes than formerly - - - P., s. 27.
Condition of, in *Montgomeryshire* - - P., s. 37.
Squatters on the waste - - - P., s. 38.

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Instances of landlord's care as to cottages - P., s. 39.
Bad state of, in *Merionethshire* - - P., s. 48.
Paucity of cottages in *Monmouthshire* - Q., s. 43.
Cot-rents - - - - - - *ib.*
Extinction of small freeholds - - - *ib.*
Condition of cots - - - - Q., s. 44.
Cotters very poor - - - - Q., s. 45.
Cottages in county towns - - - Q., s. 46.
Rents high - - - - - *ib.*
Farmers in want of cottages - - - *ib.*
Little overcrowding - - - - *ib.*
Radnorshire cottages - - - Q., s. 47.
Mr. Phillip's cottages - - - - *ib.*
St. Harmon's cottages - - - - *ib.*
Cwmdauddwr cottages - - - - *ib.*

DIET OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS:
Great difference of their food in *North* and *South Northumberland* - - - - B., s. 56.
In *North Northumberland* they follow the habits of the *Scotch*, and principally live on porridge, crowdy, (i.e. scalded oatmeal), barley, and pea flour made into cakes, bread of whole meal and fine flour, milk, cheese, and butter, home fed and cured bacon; they rarely touch butcher's meat - - - - *ib.*
In *South Northumberland* "they eat a vast of meat." Meal and milk are not used; the children lose by this as the bread and tea are poor substitutes - B., s. 57.
Opinion of *Mr. Lumsden* that they are not so strong as formerly in consequence of changing their food, giving up meal, milk, &c. - - - B., s. 58.
Concurrence of medical evidence against the excessive use of coffee and tea in which the working women of Northumberland appear even to surpass those of a higher station - - - - B., s. 59.
Mr. John Paxton, medical officer of the Berwick unions on ditto - - - - - *ib.*
Dr. Dodd, of *Rothbury*, ditto - - - *ib.*
Mr. Brown, surgeon, *Berwick-on-Tweed*, ditto - *ib.*
Dr. Turnbull, of *Coldstream*, ditto - - *ib.*
Mr. Patrick Baker, overseer at *Jowick*, ditto - *ib.*
Great advantage of cheap fuel to cook with - B., s. 60.
In the counties of *Lincoln*, *Nottingham*, and *Leicester*, a change is gradually taking place involving important consequences to their condition, viz., in former times the young lads or waggoners were lodged in the farmers' houses, dined at the same table with them, and were regarded as part of the household; the superior food tended to make the lads stout and robust men. Now all this is changed, the lads are either lodged in the house of the foreman where they are less cared for, or where there is no foreman are not lodged or boarded at all but sent home at night, &c. C., ss. 37–8.
In the greater part of the counties of *Dorset*, *Kent*, *Chester*, *Salop*, *Stafford*, and *Rutland* they are sadly underfed - - - - G., s. 188.
If not allowed to keep a pig, and unless their earnings very far exceed the usual average, those men who are most regularly employed have to be content with bread, potatoes, and cheese - - - *ib.*
Increased comfort afforded by cheapness of fuel G., s. 189.
Milk, which cannot be got, is most missed, and is a great loss to young children - - - *ib.*
Food of hop-pickers - - - - I., s. 47.
Example of the effect of better food and good example on inferior labourers - - - J., s. 97.
Evidence of *Mr. E. M. Wrench*, a surgeon in practice in *Bakewell union*, in *Derbyshire*, that their food has much improved since the introduction of railways by the substitution of wheaten bread for oat cake J 2., s. 64.
Milk, in the summer or cheese season, is very scarce, but at other times is pretty plentiful and easily procurable, with great advantage to the women and children - - - - - *ib.*
The Rev. D. Vawdrey's evidence - - *ib.*
"Impossible to over-estimate the value of such a "provision of milk as is within the reach of the "families of most of the Derbyshire labourers," the belief of the Assistant Commissioner J 2., s. 67.
How they can obtain milk - - J 2., ss. 68–75.
Food of a *Somersetshire* labourer - - K., s. 19.
In *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* the labourers who reside in the farm houses are abundantly fed L., s. 36.
The improvement which has taken place within little more than half a century in their diet is most remarkable - - - - - *ib.*

DIET OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS—*cont.*
Their ordinary diet is: for breakfast, porridge made with milk, at 10 a.m.; a meal consisting of bread and cheese with, in some districts, beer or milk, which is taken out to the men; dinner, consisting of fruit puddings, according to the season, or, if plain, with treacle sauce, and meat, either mutton or beef, baked, boiled, or made into pies, &c., or a light meal, consisting of bread and cheese, or tea and bread and butter, or sometimes gooseberry or apple cake. The supper is usually porridge, as before, or milk, bread, and cheese without stint. The bread is composed of two-thirds of the best wheaten flour and one-third rye. Beer is rarely given except at harvest; tea is but little used - - - - - L.,s. 36.
Sustained by this ample and generous diet they are in the highest physical condition, &c. - - L., s. 37.
In *Lancashire* the diet of farm servants is ample and good - - - L 2., s. 16.
„ oatcake seems to be in more general use than wheaten bread, and is said to be preferred by the labouring classes *ib.*
Food of the Welsh in *Anglesea*, *North Wales* N., s. 17.
„ „ in *Pembrokeshire* and *Carmarthenshire* - - O., ss. 14–19.
Diet in farm houses in *Cardiganshire* - P., s. 17.
„ „ „ is inferior - *ib.*
„ of small farmers and agricultural labourers P., s. 18.
„ of farm servants in *Montgomeryshire* - P., s. 36.
„ „ in *Merionethshire* - P., ss. 45–6.
„ of agricultural labourers - - - P., s. 47.
„ „ „ in *Monmouthshire* Q., s. 11.

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Mr. Tremenheere's separate Report, 2nd Report, page viii. See Contents, 2nd Report, page iii.
Mr. Tufnell's separate Report, 2nd Report, page xlv. See Contents, 2nd Report, page v.
The education of agricultural children - A., s. 54.
Its three necessary conditions:
(1.) Efficient schools must be provided;
(2.) Regular attendance enforced;
(3.) Early withdrawals prevented - - *ib.*
The efficient schools are not producing their full fruit *ib.*
Poverty of schools - - - - A., s. 55.
The clergy the only class at present really working in the cause of education - - - - *ib.*
Their efforts have not always been appreciated at their true worth - - - - - A., s. 56.
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The principle of a rate has, as yet, few supporters in my district - - - - - A., s. 58.
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The *Prussian* system of compulsion - - *ib.*
Compulsory attendance pre-supposes efficient schools *ib.*
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Circumstances affecting school attendance - A., s. 63.
Amount of school accommodation probably sufficient, if better distributed - - - - A., s. 64.
Other obstacles more serious than the distance of the school - - - - - - *ib.*
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Their poverty - - - - A., ss. 66–78.
Irregular attendance more serious evil than early withdrawal - - - - - A., s. 79.
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Difference between manufacturing and agricultural operations - - - - - - A., s. 81.
Opinion of the Education Commissioners of 1861 as to the effect of the Factory Acts - - A., s. 82.
The question must be discussed, not with reference to past success or failure, but on its own merits A., s. 83.
Question proposed - - - - A., s. 84.
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The half-time system has been tried successfully A., s. 87.
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And into the school - - - - A., s. 89.
The alternate whole-day system only practicable when relays of children can be procured - - A., s. 90.
The principle of the Printwork's Act most applicable to agriculture, but proved in its own sphere to be ineffective - - - - - A., ss. 91–2.
Advantages of one general simple law - A., s. 93.
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General opinion of the best mode of dealing with children employed in agriculture - - - *ib.*
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„ as to the amount of education that ought to be attained - - - - - A., s. 95.
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Accompanied too with a dispensing power - *ib.*
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The Committee of Council have never done much to encourage evening schools - - A., s. 102.
The *Duke of Marlborough's* Bill - - A., s. 103.
Possibiiity of evening schools in the summer A., s. 104.
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„ (2) of the farmers - - - *ib.*
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Great need of attention of regulations as to grants in aid H., ss. 81–6.
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Compulsory education - - - H., s. 88.
Preference for voluntary system - - - *ib.*
Support of compulsion - - - H., ss. 89–91.
Half time or alternate days - - - H., s. 92.
Continuous education above 10 years - H., s. 93.
Night schools - - - - H., ss. 94–5.
Return of attendance of agricultural servants at school or workshop - - - - H., s. 96.
Suggestion of *Mr. Potter,* schoolmaster, at *Stratton,* that boys earning wages should attend school from October to March - - - - - *ib.*
Certificates, opinions on - - H., ss. 98–102.
Duty of State to interfere for moral welfare of children H., ss. 103–4.
State of education among small farmers H., ss. 105–10.
Industrial schools - - - H., ss. 111–12.
General remarks and conclusion of the Assistant Commissioner - - - - - H., ss. 171–83.
Result of the inquiries of the Assistant Commissioner in the counties of *Hereford, Surrey, Warwick, Wilts,* and *Worcester,* on the subject of education, and opinion what amount can be considered satisfactory I., ss. 58–60.
Actual state of, in *Herefordshire* - - I., s. 62.
„ „ *Surrey* - - - I., s. 63.
„ „ *Warwickshire* - - - I., s. 64.
„ „ *Wiltshire* - - - I., s. 65.
„ „ *Worcestershire* - - - I., s. 66.
Many parishes where education is satisfactory - I., s. 67.
To what causes defect is due - - - I., s. 68.
Supply of schools generally sufficient - I., ss. 69–71.
Boys older where certificated masters are employed I., s. 72.
But not the sons of agricultural labourers - I., s. 73.
Some think that the education given is bad in kind I., s. 74.
Fees not too high - - - - I., s. 75.
But parents unwilling to forego children's earnings I., s. 76.
Indifference of labourers - - - I., s. 78.
„ farmers - - - I., s. 79.
„ landowners - - - I., s. 80.
Remedies - - - - - - I., s. 82.
The building of schools should be encouraged - I., s. 83.

EDUCATION—*cont.*
Opinions as to rates - - - - I., s. 84.
Where schools should be placed - - I., ss. 85–6.
Itinerant masters - - - - I., s. 87.
Supply of teachers - - - - I., s. 88.
Very few certificated teachers in country schools - *ib.*
Remedy suggested by registered teachers - I., s. 89.
Low fees should not be charged - - I., s. 90.
Some think that present advance in education is sufficiently rapid - - - - I., s. 91.
But the main obstacles are not being removed I., s. 92.
Suggestions for securing regular attendance - I., s. 93.
Various forms of past-time - - - *ib.*
Night schools - - - - - I., s. 94.
No system of partial attendance likely to be successful I., s. 95.
Half-time requires inspection, which is impossible in agriculture - - - - - *ib.*
If enforced farmers would not employ boys to whom it applied - - - - I., s. 96.
Only feasible plan would be to make permission to work depend on proficiency of child - - I., s. 97.
Practical mode of enforcing this suggestion I., s. 98.
Amount of education to be required - - *ib.*
Should there be a minimum of age? - - *ib.*
Where, and by whom, should certificate be granted? I., s. 99.
Up to what age age certificate should be required I., s. 100.
Those mentally deficient should be exempted I., s. 101.
On whom penalty should fall - - I., s. 102.
Informers should have half the penalty - I., s. 103.
Should law apply to those who are directly employed by farmers? - - - - - I., s. 104.
This plan would encourage early and regular attendance I., s. 105.
Would encourage children to work by themselves *ib.*
Objections to this plan; said that it would reduce all to one level - - - - - I., s. 106.
Would be unfair to those who lived at a distance from a school - - - - - I., s. 107.
Harvest and hop-picking should be excepted I., s. 108.
This scheme is generally supported, but has some opponents - - - - I., s. 109.
Would not cause serious inconvenience to either farmers or parents - - - - - I., s. 110.
Grant should be higher for the upper than for the lower standards - - - - - I., s. 111.
Industrial and other schools - - I., ss. 112–17.
Pauper children should be boarded out - I., s. 118.
Two Acts now optional should be made compulsory I., s. 119.
The effect of private gangs in *Oxfordshire* and *Berkshire* on education - - - - J., s. 45.
School returns in *Oxfordshire* - - J., ss. 56–9.
„ „ *Berkshire* - - J., ss. 60–1.
Peculiar shape of parishes affect school attendance J., s. 62.
Evidence of the extent to which farm labour interferes with education, as obtained from school returns J., s. 63.
Corroborated by other evidence - - J., s. 64.
Night schools and Sunday schools as supplementary to day schools - - - - J., s. 65.
Yearly hiring of ploughboys from 10 years of age the great educational difficulty - - J., ss. 66–7.
About two-thirds of the parishes which have day-schools have also night schools - - - J., s. 67.
Success of night schools indicate increasing desire for education - - - - - J., s. 68.
Indifference of parents - - - - *ib.*
Cases of schools and necessity for rate, &c. - J., s. 69.
Boards of Guardians and the Factory Act - J., s. 70.
Opinions of individual witnesses on application of Factory Act principles - - - - J., s. 71.
Suggestions as to coupling educational with age test, by *Mr. G. C. Chevry, Rev. W. J. Dry,* and the *Bishop of Oxford* - - - - - J., s. 72.
Suggestions on educational schemes by *Sir H. Dashwood, Bart., Mr. Jas. Howard, M.P., Capt. Dashwood,* and *Rev. C. E. Ruck Keene* - - J., s. 73.
Summary of evidence on the subject of education J., s. 74.
Educational rate, where required, should be levied on the *owners* of property - - - J., s. 75.
Industrial schools - - - - J., s. 96.
School returns in *Hertfordshire* and *Derbyshire* J., s. 1.

EDUCATION—*cont.*

Quality of schools varies in proportion to the resources of the clergyman and presence of resident gentry - J 2., ss. 79–81.
School returns confirm general evidence as to effect of farm labour on school attendance - J 2., ss. 82–3.
Indifference and negligence of parents as affecting school attendance - - - - J 2., ss. 84–7.
Schools and school attendance in *Hertfordshire* J 2., ss. 88–90.
Summary of evidence derived from school returns J 2., ss. 91–3.
Resolution of *Board of Guardians* in *Derbyshire* as to restrictions on agricultural employment for the sake of education - - - - J 2., ss. 94–6.
Opinion of majority of witnesses - - J 2., s. 97.
Restrictions, if any, best suited to *Derbyshire* J 2., s. 98.
Ditto, to *Herts* - - - - *ib.*
Resolutions of *Boards of Guardians* in *Herts* J 2., ss. 99–102.
Suggestions as to an educational scheme by the *Rev. D. Vawdrey* - - - - J 2., s. 103.
Influence of education on the quality of labour and character of the labourer - - J 2., s. 104.
Somersetshire, difficulty of restricting boys' labour to any fixed age - - - - K., ss. 26–7.
Antagonism of farmer and clergyman on subject of education - - - - - K., s. 28.
Middle-class schools - - - - K., s. 29.
Comparative advantage of education and employment in parents' eyes - - - - K., s. 30.
Forgetfulness - - - - K., s. 31.
The earliest age at which a boy can leave school, having gained any advantage from it - - K., s. 31*a*.
Night schools - - - - K., s. 32.
Difficulty of combining night schools for boys and girls - - - - - - *ib.*
Arrangements of a night school - - K., s. 33.
Question of how far Factory Acts applicable to agriculture - - - - - K., s. 34.
Causes of insufficient education - - K., s. 35.
Effects of gloving on education - - K., s. 46.
High position of *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* in respect to education - - - L., s. 87.
Large proportion of educated adults - - L., s. 88.
Ample means of education - - - L., s. 89.
Education generally appreciated - - L., s. 90.
Endowed schools very numerous - - L., s. 91.
Parents often indifferent to the education of their children - - - - - L., s. 92.
Farmers favourable to education - - L., s. 93.
Opinions favourable to restriction of early labour without a certificate of education - - L., s. 94.
Indifference of parents the great evil - - L., s. 95.
Effect of irregular attendances on the finances of schools L., s. 96.
Endowed grammar schools very numerous - L., s. 97.
Not adapted to the present wants of the population L., s. 98.
Grouping of the small endowed schools - L., s. 99.
Reforms required - - - - L., s. 100.
Industrial schools desirable - - - *ib.*
Mr. Curwen's industrial school at *Workington* L., s. 101.
Schools on this principle best adapted for the rural districts - - - - - L., s. 102.
Value of children's labour to the small statesmen and tenant farmers - - - - L., s. 103.
Proportion of school life to be devoted to labour L., s. 104.
Hours of labour in the case of children not objectionable in *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* - - L., s. 105.
Long average attendance at school - - L., s. 106.
Non-attendance at school the fault of parents L., s. 107.
Farmers' suggestions with regard to future education L., s. 108.
Early labour not the cause of neglected education L., s. 109.
Night schools and association for mutual improvement L., s. 110.
Remarkable exemption from crime - - L., s. 111.
Education of labouring classes in *Lancashire* not satisfactory - - - - - L2., s. 17.
Night schools not general - - - L., s. 18.
Moral standard comparatively high - - L., s. 19.
State of elementary education - - L., s. 25.
Schools sufficient and good - - - *ib.*
Attendance of children good, excepting those of small farmers - - - - - L., s. 26.

EDUCATION—*cont.*

Great abuse of children's labour in gathering shell-fish on the sands of *Morecambe* bay - - L., s. 28.
Testimonies to the greatness of the evil - L., s. 33.
State of education in *Glamorganshire* and *Breconshire* M., ss. 34–5.
Irregular attendance at school, causes of - M., s. 36.
Llanbeder school - - - - M., s. 37.
Application of principles of Factory Acts and other remedial measures - - - - M., ss. 39–43.
Success of certificates in coal pits - M., ss. 44–6.
Difficulties of organising system of certificates M., s. 47.
Committee of Council Regulations as to grants in aid, need of revision - - - - M., s. 48.
General desire in *Wales* among parents to have their children taught English - - - N., s. 18.
Difficulty of comparing education in *Wales* and *England* N., s. 25.
Age of leaving school and proficiency - N., s. 26.
School accommodation sometimes insufficient N., s. 27.
Certificates of proficiency - - - N., s. 28.
If this system applied to *Wales*, age should be over 14 *ib.*
Early labour no obstacle to education - M., ss. 29–30.
Large number of dissenters in *Wales* - N., s. 31.
Children of dissenters sent to national schools - *ib.*
Opinion of „ as to „ - *ib.*
Sunday schools, night ditto - - N., s. 32.
School returns from *Narberth Union*, *Pembrokeshire*, and *Carmarthen* - - - - O., s. 40.
Proportion of children attending schools - O., s. 41.
School attendance in *Woburn Union*, *Beds*, *Woodstock Union*, *Oxon*, *Wantage Union*, *Berks*, and *Narberth Union* compared - - - - O., s. 42.
Causes of irregularity of attendance in *Narberth Union* O., ss. 43–5.
Distribution of schools - - - O., ss. 46–7.
Church and dissenting schools - - O., s. 48.
The religious difficulty - - - O., s. 49.
Educational difficulty arising from want of funds O., s. 50.
School houses - - - - - O., ss. 51–2.
Educational rate - - - - O., s. 53.
Desire to educate their children is rapidly spreading amongst the labouring class, and renders Government interference unnecessary except in providing schools - - - - - O., s. 54.
Education in *English* and *Welsh* districts of *South Wales* O., s. 55.
Cause of the increased desire amongst the *Welsh* labourers to educate their children - O., s. 36.
Desire for education general in *Cardiganshire*, *Montgomeryshire*, and *Merionethshire* - - P., s. 50.
Size of parishes an impediment to schools - P., s. 51.
Sunday schools to some extent do the work of elementary schools - - - - P., s. 52.
Educational deficiencies - - - P., s. 53.
Welsh ignored in the Government schools - P., s. 54.
Farmers favourable to education - - P., s. 55.
Why the *English* language does not make progress among the rural population - - P., s. 56.
Poverty the chief cause of neglect of education P., s. 57.
Neglected education of the children of small farmers P., s. 58.
The *Pen-y-parke* school - - - P., s. 59.
Many large parishes without any school - P., ss. 60–1.
Improved feeling between dissenters and churchmen P., s. 62.
General result of the inquiry - - P., ss. 63–6.
Education in *Monmouthshire* and *Radnorshire* schools newly built in hill districts - - Q., s. 32.
Extent of parishes interferes with school attendance Q., s. 33.
Cwmdauddwr schools - - - Q., s. 34.
Abbeycwmhir „ - - - Q., s. 35.
Newbridge „ - - - Q., s. 36.
Nantmel „ - - - Q., s. 37.
School attendance better in winter than in summer Q., s. 38.
Schools in *Chepstow* and *Monmouth* unions Q., s. 39.
Other causes besides early labour interfering with school attendance, poverty, distance - - Q., s. 40.
Night schools - - - - Q., s. 41.
At what age do farmers require boys' labour? Q., s. 42.

HIRING:

Modes of hiring farm servants - - A., s. 138.
Yearly hirings - - - - A., s. 139.
Their bad effects - - - - A., s. 140.

HIRING—*cont.*

The security supposed to be given by the yearly hiring illusory - - - - - A., s. 141.
Monthly hiring recommended in its place - *ib.*
Terms of service in *Northumberland* - - B., s. 5.
Bondage system - - - - B., s. 15.
Objections to - - - - B., ss. 17–20.
Hiring fairs - - - - B., ss. 205–9.
Statutes in *Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire,* and *Leicestershire* - - - - - C., s. 39.
Statutes in *Yorkshire* - - - D., ss. 63–6.
How boys are hired in *Northamptonshire* - E., s. 11.
Hiring in *Bedfordshire* - - - F., s. 13.
Hiring by year and week in *Buckinghamshire* - F., s. 21.
"Statute" or "Mop fairs" in the counties of *Dorset, Chester, Salop, Stafford,* and *Rutland* - G., ss. 193–5.
Yearly hiring - - - - G., ss. 196–9.
Mode of hiring boys in *Herefordshire* and *Wiltshire* I., s. 37.
Statute fairs or mops in *Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire,* and in the north of *Wiltshire* I., s. 137.
Hiring in *Oxfordshire* - - - J., s. 10.
„ in *Berkshire* - - - J., ss. 15–17.
„ in *Derbyshire* - - - - J 2., s. 8.
Statute or hiring fairs in *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* L., s. 41.
Hiring fairs not attended with the same abuses as formerly - - - - - L., s. 42.
Hiring fairs in *Glamorganshire* and *Breconshire* M., s. 56.
Mode and period of hiring in the counties of *Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh,* and *Flint* - - N., s. 13.
Children not hired out by the day in *Cardiganshire* P., s. 13.
Children hired as farm servants very young - P., s. 14.
Another mode of hiring children - - P., s. 15.
Boys hired as farm servants from 13 to 14 years of age in *Merionethshire* - - - - P., s. 43.
Early age at which girls enter farm service - P., s. 44.
Hiring fairs in *Monmouthshire* - - Q., s. 27.

PECUNIARY RESOURCES OF LABOURER:

Interest of employer to improve them - Rep. I., s. 147.
Improvement in, would tend to greater amount of school attendance - - - - - *ib.*
General effects of - - - - *ib.*
Improvement from better wages or better systems must be left to private adjustment - - *ib.* s. 149.
Improvement of pecuniary resources from cottage gardens or field allotments - - - *ib.* s. 151.
Legislature might give a stimulus to this practice *ib.* s. 152.
(*See* Cottage Gardens and Allotments.)

PERIODS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN:

In summer and winter:
In the counties of *Norfolk, Essex, Sussex,* and *Gloucester* - - - A., see note, s. 42.
In summer and winter:
In *Northumberland* - - - B., ss. 32–6.
In autumn:
In *Durham* - - - - B., s. 64.
In winter:
In the *Wolds of Lincolnshire* - C., ss. 13, 14, 49.
In summer:
In the *Fens of Lincolnshire* - - C., s. 19.
In summer and winter:
In *Nottinghamshire* - - - C., s. 30.
In spring, summer, and winter:
In *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire* - D., ss. 18, 27–8.
In spring, summer, autumn, and winter:
In *Northamptonshire* - - E., ss. 12–13.
In summer and winter:
In *Bedfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* F., ss. 26, 30, 85.
In *Dorsetshire* - - - G., ss. 6–7.
In *Kent* - - - - G., ss. 26–7.
In *Hampshire* - - - H., ss. 39–40.
In *Devon* and *Cornwall* - - - H., s. 41.
In *Surrey, Wiltshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire,* and *Herefordshire* - - I., ss. 34–7, 41–4.
In *Oxfordshire* and *Berkshire* J., ss. 10, 15, 45, 52.
In *Hertfordshire* - - J 2., ss. 40–1, 44.
In spring, summer, and autumn:
In *North Derbyshire* - - J 2., ss. 52–3.
In *South* do. - - - J 2., s. 54.
In *Somersetshire* - - - K., ss. 6–13.
In *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* - L., ss. 23–5.
In *Lancashire* - - - L 2., ss. 28–32.
In *Glamorganshire* and *Brecon* - M., ss. 31–2.

PERIODS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN—*cont.*

In the counties of *Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh,* and *Flint* - - - - N., ss. 22–4.
In *Pembrokeshire* and *Carmarthen* - O., ss. 27–8.
In *Cardiganshire* - - - P., ss. 13–15.
In *Montgomeryshire* - - - P., s. 32.
In *Merionethshire* - - - P., ss. 43–4.
In *Monmouthshire* and *Radnor* - Q., ss. 21–3, 31.

PRIVATE GANGS:

In the counties of *Norfolk, Essex, Sussex,* and *Gloucester* there is no foundation for the impression that "the "aggregate number of children, young persons, and "women occasionally employed in the private gangs "is greatly in excess of those employed in the public "gangs," &c. - - - - - A., s. 34.
Are rare in the above district, and not ill-conducted A., s. 35.
Not much scope for them - - - A., s. 36.
The gang system, under proper regulations, merely the organization of labour - - - - *ib.*
The Gangs Regulation Act generally approved A., s. 37.
Suggestions about private gangs - - A., s. 38.
The present Act should be pushed further, and should embrace private as well as public gangs A., ss. 39–40.
Need of special restrictions in the case of gangs see note page 12.
The Public Gangs Act is leading to the creation of private gangs - - - - - - *ib.*
In *Northumberland* "private gangs" exist, but under circumstances entirely different from those which appear to characterise them in the eastern counties B., s. 4.
Private gangs in *Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire,* and *Leicestershire* - - - C., ss. 50–3.
Opinion of the clergy and others against C., ss. 54–5.
Potato gangs - - - - C., ss. 56–8.
Pea-pulling gangs - - - - C., s. 59.
No cruelty exists - - - - C., ss. 60–1.
Distinction between different sorts of gangs C., ss. 62–9.
In *Cambridgeshire* and *Yorkshire* - - D., s. 18.
Ill-usage, not much if any, health not affected by D., s. 19.
Agricultural Gangs Act applied to private gangs D., s. 20.
Licenses for private gang-master - - D., s. 21.
Effects on morals of young females - D., ss. 22–3.
Appreciation of Gang Act - - D., ss. 24–6.
Private gangs almost unknown in *Northamptonshire* E., s. 6.
System not objected to - - - - *ib.*
Objections to public, not applicable to private, gangs *ib.*
No necessity for legislative regulation - E., s. 7.
In *Bedfordshire* and *Buckinghamshire* private gangs exist only to a very limited extent - - F., s. 26.
Not injurious as practised in these counties - *ib.*
"Onion peeling" - - - - F., s. 27.
In *Rutlandshire* two or three organised "private gangs" exist - - - - - G., s. 70.
No gang systems exist in the counties of *Hants, Devon,* and *Cornwall* - - - - H., s. 1.
Private gangs not employed in the counties of *Surrey, Wilts, Warwick, Worcester,* and *Hereford* - I., s. 20.
Private gangs in *Oxfordshire* - - - J., s. 45.
Their effect on education - - - *ib.*
No evidence of their existence in *Derbyshire* J 2., s. 44.
Exist here and there in *Hertfordshire* - - *ib.*
No reason for legislative interference other than would be caused by educational restrictions - - *ib.*
In *Somersetshire* there is some approach to the gang system in the employment of boys and girls working among the turnips - - - K., s. 12.
In use in some parts of *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* L., ss. 24–5.
Require to be placed under regulations - L., s. 26.
Entirely unknown in *Lancashire* - - L., s. 13.
Exist in one or two instances in *Anglesea* - N., s. 24.
Entirely unknown in *Cardiganshire* - - P., s. 12
„ „ *Montgomeryshire* - P., s. 32.

SETTLED ESTATES:

Power to charge, for improvemnt and building of cottages, should be enlarged - Rep. II., p. xxxix., s. 198.
"Strict settlements," origin of - *ib.* p. xxxix., s. 204.
Course of legislation in regard to entailed and encumbered estates - - *ib.* p. xxxix., ss. 204–22.
The Landed Estates Court (Ireland) *ib.* p. xli., ss. 223–31.

Settled Estates—*cont.*

Probable effect of Landed Estates Court for England in reference to the improvement of the condition of the agricultural labourer - Rep. II., p. xlii., ss. 232–4.

SAVINGS:

School savings' bank at *Tortworth* - - A., s. 108.
Number of depositors in Post Office Savings' Bank at *Wooler* - - - - - B., s. 42.
Number of depositors in *Alnwick* Savings' Bank B., s. 43.
Merits of savings' banks - - - D., s. 136.
Savings of agricultural labourers - - D., s. 137.
Milton Abbot Penny Bank, number of depositors in H., s. 146.
Mr. Richard Foster's Lostwithiel Penny Bank H., s. 147.
Savings by labourers - - - H., ss. 152–61.
„ of farm servants - - - L., s. 50.
Return of the *Carlisle* Savings' Bank - L., s. 51.
Other modes of investing savings - - L., s. 52.
Savings' banks in *Lancashire* - - L 2., s. 27.
„ „ *Glamorganshire* and *Breconshire* M., s. 54.
Sobriety is a savings' bank to a *Welsh* labourer O., s. 38.
Savings' banks in *Cardiganshire* - - P., s. 16.
Savings of farm servants in *Monmouthshire* - Q., s. 28.

SMALL FARMS:

In *Durham* the land is much subdivided, that is, broken up into small farms - - - B., s. 65.
The small farmers are always spoken of as an honest, industrious race, but in their hard struggle to live their children fail to obtain sufficient school instruction B., s. 66.
Position of the "cottagers" or small freeholders in the *Fens of Lincolnshire* - - - C., ss. 26–7.
Their children are worked earlier, and have less schooling than those of hired labourers - *ib.*
Size of, in *Yorkshire* - - - D., s. 10.
In the vale of *Blackmoor, Dorsetshire*, they are cultivated by the occupiers with the help of their families, and require little (if any) hired labour G., s. 3.
State of education among small farmers in *Devonshire* and *Hampshire* - - - - H. s. 105.
Opinions expressed that the children of small farmers are in a worse position in the matter of education than those of the labourers, &c. - - - *ib.*
Evidence of *Mr. Parsons*, a guardian of *Holsworthy*, who says, "The children in the union are better educated "that many farmers' sons. The will for education is "not wanting among the farmers, but they have no "capital, and are obliged to keep their lads at home "to work on the farm" - - - *ib.*
Evidence of *Mr. Sanders*, a farmer, at *Payworthy* H., s. 106.
„ *Mr. Mills*, schoolmaster, at *North Lew* H., s. 107.
„ *Mr. Mark White*, a farmer, at *Heckfield, in Hants* - - - - - H., s. 108.
Cumberland and *Westmorland* are counties of small estates and small farms - - - L., s. 3.
The average size of small farms in *Cumberland* is less than in any other of the northern counties, with the exception of *Westmorland*, and perhaps a part of *Lancashire* - - - - - L., s. 10.
Small farms in *Westmorland* are even more numerous than in *Cumberland* - - - L., s. 11.
Predominance of small farms - - - L., s. 63.
Dairy and sheep farms generally best adapted for small capitalists - - - - - L., s. 64.
Number of small farms diminishing - - L., s. 65.
Successful conversion of small into large on *Sir James Graham's* estate - - - L., s. 66.
Hard life of small farmers and their bad husbandry L., s. 67.
Alleged advantages of small farms - - L., s. 68.
Small farm system gradually diminishing - L., s. 69.
In the *Hill Country, North Lancashire* - L 2., s. 3.
Where small farms prevail the education of children is materially interrupted - - - L 2., s. 26.
In the *Vale of Glamorgan* - - M., ss. 3, 4, 5.
In *Gower, Glamorganshire* - - - M., s. 9.
In *Vale of Neath* - - - - M., s. 10.
In *Breconshire* - - - - M., ss. 12–16.
Evidence of *Rev. R. L. Venables* and others that the line of demarcation between the farmer and labourer

Small Farms—*cont.*

can hardly be discovered, and the cause of education must of necessity suffer as long as there is urgent need of the work of all the members of the family on the farm, &c. - - - - - M., s. 28.
In *Anglesea, Carnarvonshire, Denbighshire*, and *Flintshire* N., s. 12.
No clear line of separation between farmers and labourers N., s. 15.
Condition of the small farmers - - N., s. 16.
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Mr. Holland, M.P., accounts for it by the extent to which the English peasant is still, as it were, *adscriptus glebæ* - - - *ib.*
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In the counties of *Norfolk, Essex, Sussex*, and *Gloucester* A., ss, 20–32.
Employment of females upon the labours of the farm admitted to be demoralizing - - A., s. 49.
Causes of the evil hard to reach and difficult to remove - - - - - - - *ib.*
Large farms cultivated without female labour (*see note*) *ib.*
The case of young girls - - - A., s. 50.
Restrictions suggested (various) - - A., s. 51.
„ proposed in respect of age - A., s. 52.
„ of hours and kind of work unnecessary and unavoidable - - - - A., s. 53.
In *Northumberland* - - - - B., s. 21.
Their labour not injurious - - B., ss. 22–7.
„ has no degrading effect - B., s. 28.
Great proportion employed are unmarried in *North Northumberland*, but not in *South Northumberland* B., ss. 29–30.
Dress of women in *Northumberland* admirably adapted for their work - - - - B., s. 31.
In the turnip crop - - - - B., s. 34.
Distance to work not great - - - B., s. 35.
Hours of labour - - - - B., s. 36.
Any restriction or interference would be detrimental to the social condition of the district, the opinion of the Assistant Commissioner - - B., ss. 37–8.
Difference between the systems as regards female labour in the north and south of *Northumberland* B., s. 52.
In *Durham*, work of - - - - B., s. 70.
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Effect on morals, evidence conflicting - B., ss. 73–4.
Training for domestic duties, evidence not unfavourable B., ss. 75–6.
The cause of bastardy - - - B., ss. 78–88.
In the counties of *Lincoln, Nottingham*, and *Leicester*, work of - - - - C., ss. 41–4.
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Unhealthy and unsuitable employments for women C., ss. 104–13.

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Wages of, in *Cambridgeshire* - - D., s. 12.
„ in *Yorkshire* - - - D., s. 13.
It may be stated generally that whenever work is to be done on the farm which women are capable of performing they are employed - - D., s. 27.
Their labour cheaper than men's - - D., s. 28.
Effect of field work on their homes - - D., s. 32.
„ „ „ health - C., ss. 32–3.
No women over 16 years of age, unless married, should be allowed to work in a gang - - D., s. 34.
In *Northamptonshire* some few females in every village work in the fields, but in 19 parishes, with a total population of 8,975, only 190 are employed in field work - - - - - E., ss. 8–9.
The work performed by them - - E., s. 12.
Their wages - - - - - - E., s. 14.
Their labour not injurious - - E., ss. 18–19.
Effect on morals - - - - - E., s. 20.
In *Bedfordshire*, not employed in field work, but in lace-making and straw-plaiting - - - F., s. 12.
In *Buckinghamshire*, ditto - - - F., s. 22.
Largely employed in the fields in *Dorsetshire* - G., s. 5.
Their wages are very low - - - - *ib.*
In *Kent* - - - - - - G., ss. 23–5.
In *Cheshire*, excluding *Irish* women and the labour in potato culture in the peninsula of Wirral, very little employed on the land - - - G., s. 52.
Much employed in cheese-making and other dairy work G., s. 53.
Their morals low - - - - C., ss. 54–5.
In *Shropshire* very little employed in out-door work G., s. 59.
In *Staffordshire* their labour is thought valuable, though not very regularly employed - - G., s. 66.
Increasing disinclination to undertake any but light and occasional out-door labour - - G., s. 73.
Objections to field work - - - G., ss. 75–6.
General opinion on the subject - - G., ss. 77–8.
Work on dairy farms - - - G., s. 79.
„ with farm machinery - - - G., s. 80.
„ with ladders in *Kent* - - - G., s. 81.
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Their wages in *Hampshire* - - H., ss. 10, 14, 16.
„ in *Devonshire* - - H., ss. 20–32.
„ in *Cornwall* - - - H., ss. 33–8.
In *Hampshire* their employment is universal - H., s. 39.
In *Devonshire* and *Cornwall* not so much as formerly H., s. 41.
Opinions as to the effect of field work on their homes H., ss. 43–4.
Effect on their health - - - H., s. 45.
„ on morals - - - - H., ss. 46–8.
In market gardens - - - - H., s. 51.
In the counties of *Surrey*, *Wilts*, *Warwick*, *Worcester*, and *Hereford* - - - - I., ss. 21–3.
They are less disposed to work than formerly I., s. 24.
They are less wanted on account of machinery I., s. 25.
In-door work preferred - - - - *ib.*
Hours of work, meal times - - - I., s. 26.
Their wages - - - - - I., s. 27.
Their health generally good, but turnip cleaning and washing carrots objectionable - - I., s. 28.
Restrictions proposed, not necessary in the opinion of Assistant Commissioner - - I., ss. 29–30.

WOMEN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF—*cont.*
Wages in *Oxfordshire* and *Berkshire* - J., ss. 36–9.
Effect of, in farm labour morally and domestically J., s. 53.
„ physically - - - J., s. 54.
Morally, farm labour compares favourably with straw-plaiting, gloving, and lace-making - - J., s. 55.
In *Hertfordshire* - - - - J 2., ss. 42–3.
In *North Derbyshire* machinery has taken the place of female labour - - - - J 2., s. 48.
Confined to *South Derbyshire* - - J 2., s. 55.
In *Hertfordshire*, varies in different parts of the county J 2., s. 61.
In *Somersetshire* how wages necessitate it - K., s. 4.
Out-door work of married women - - K., s. 15.
Do not work out so much as formerly - K., s. 16.
Ought female labour to be restricted? - K., s. 17.
Reasons for the necessity of female labour - K., s. 18.
In *Westmorland* was once common but has diminished L., ss. 16–17.
The high rate of wages the cause of the diminution L., s. 18.
Female farm servants - - - L., s. 19.
In some parts of *Cumberland* very general - L., s. 20.
Opinions against it - - - - L., s. 21.
Farmers opposed to interference - - L., s. 22.
Remedies for abuses best left to the influences of time and education - - - - - *ib.*
Very little in agriculture in *Lancashire* - L 2., s. 12.
In *Glamorganshire* very trifling - - M., ss. 25–6.
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In the counties of *Anglesea*, *Carnarvon*, *Denbigh*, and *Flint* - - - - - N., s. 19.
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In *Pembrokeshire* and *Carmarthen* - O., ss. 33–4.
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Wages of - - - - - - O., ss. 36–7.
In *Cardiganshire* very general - - P., ss. 6–7.
Wages of - - - - - - P., s. 8.
Robust and healthy - - - - P., s. 9.
Has however diminished within the last 25 years P., s. 10.
In agriculture, not the special cause of immorality P., s. 11.
In *Montgomeryshire* very rare - - P., s. 31.
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Female labour in *Kington* union - - Q., s. 13.
„ „ *East Monmouthshire* - Q., s. 14.
Proportion of, working in fields, to non-workers Q., s. 15.
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Is female labour demoralizing? - - Q., ss. 18–20.
On *Welsh* farms in *Radnorshire* and *Monmouthshire* Q., ss. 25–30.

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In the counties of *Forfar*, *Kincardine*, *Aberdeen*, *Banff*, *Moray*, and *Nairn* - - R., ss. 37–9.
„ *South-eastern* district of Scotland, including the counties of *Perth*, *Stirling*, *Clackmannan*, *Kinross*, *Fife*, *Linlithgow*, *Edinburgh*, *Haddington*, *Peebles*, *Berwick*, *Selkirk*, and *Roxburgh* S., ss. 5–43, 112–16.
Not known in the counties of *Dumfries*, *Kirkcudbright*, *Wigton*, and *Ayr* - - - T., s. 107.
In the counties of *Lanark*, *Renfrew*, and *Argyll* U., ss. 4–5.
„ *district* between *Fort George* and *Hemsdale* V., ss. 19–24.
In *Caithness-shire* - - - V., ss. 45–56, 106.
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CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF:
In the counties of *Forfar*, *Kincardine*, *Aberdeen*, *Banff*, *Moray*, and *Nairn* - - - R., ss. 10, 18.
In these counties it is not the practice to employ them in any unhealthy employment - - R., s. 57.
In *East Lothian*, on some farms on the shores of the *Frith of Forth*, children who ought to be at school employed in weeding carrots - - S., s. 33.
Wages of, in the *South-eastern* district of *Scotland* S., s. 64.
Assistant Commissioner not prepared to recommend any legislative restriction - - - S., ss. 66–81.
In *Dumfriesshire* - - - T., ss. 8–10.
„ *Kirkcudbrightshire* very general - T., ss. 50–52.
Difficulties in fixing an age before which they shall not be permitted to work - - - T., s. 53.

CHILDREN, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF—*cont.*

In *Wigtonshire* - - - T., ss. 65, 68–70.
„ *Ayrshire* - - - - T., ss. 84–6.
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In *Lanarkshire, Renfrew,* and *Argyllshire* U., ss. 32–7.
„ the counties of *Inverness, Ross, Sutherland,* and *Caithness* - - - V., ss. 71–3, 94, 107.

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In the counties of *Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray,* and *Nairn* - - R., ss. 24–36.
„ *South-eastern* district of *Scotland,* including the counties of *Perth, Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, Fife, Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Peebles, Berwick, Selkirk,* and *Roxburgh* S., ss. 5–43, 91–110, 124.
In *Dumfriesshire* - - - T., ss. 28–44.
„ *Kirkcudbrightshire* - - - T., ss. 56–9.
„ *Wigtonshire* - - - - T., ss. 71–3.
„ *Ayrshire* - - - - T., ss. 98–106.
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„ *district* between *Fort George* and *Hemsdale* V., ss. 15–18, 25–9.
In *Caithness-shire* - - - V., ss. 44–56.
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In the counties of *Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray,* and *Nairn* - - R., ss. 4–5.
„ *South-eastern* district of *Scotland* - S., ss. 124–5.
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„ *district* between *Fort George* and *Hemsdale* V., ss. 14–18.
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„ *Kirkcudbrightshire* - - - - T., s. 55.
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„ in the *South-eastern* district of *Scotland* S., ss. 72–90.
„ in the counties of *Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigton,* and *Ayr* T., ss. 11, 26, 27, 77. 97, 108–124.
„ in the counties of *Lanark, Renfrew,* and *Argyll* U., ss. 38–54.
„ in the *district* between *Fort George* and in the county of *Caithness* - V., ss. 64–73.
„ in the *Highlands* - - V., ss. 91–107.

HIRING:

Mode of, in the counties of *Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray,* and *Nairn* R., ss. 6–8, 9, 23.
„ in the *South-eastern* district of *Scotland* S., ss. 5–43, 121.

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In the counties of *Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray,* and *Nairn* - - - R., ss. 20–2.
In the *South-eastern* district of *Scotland* S., ss. 122–3.
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SETTLED ESTATES:

Obstacles arising from, to cottage improvement.
Remarks on, by the Assistant Commissioner for the counties of *Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray,* and *Nairn* - - - - - R., s. 36.
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